

Bentley Neighbourhood Plan

Referendum Information Statement



A referendum relating to the Bentley Neighbourhood Plan will be held on Thursday 8 December 2022

The 'Bentley Neighbourhood Plan 2018 – 2037' contains planning policies for the use and development of land within the designated area.

There is a statutory process which must be followed before a neighbourhood plan can be 'made' (adopted). That involves holding a referendum, which is conducted in accordance with procedures similar to those used at local government elections.

Those entitled to vote will be asked to answer 'Yes' or 'No' to the following question:

'Do you want Babergh District Council to use the Neighbourhood Plan for Bentley to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area?'

If more than 50% vote 'yes', then Babergh District Council will be legally obliged to 'make' (adopt) this neighbourhood plan as part of its development plan framework.

A person is entitled to vote in the referendum if;

- He or She is entitled to vote in a local government election in the referendum area; *and*
- He or She has an address at which they are registered to vote within the referendum area and are over the age of 18 years on the date of poll.

The referendum area is identical to that which was originally designated as the Neighbourhood Plan Area and follows the parish boundary. A map can be found within the referendum version of the Plan (see link further below).

Expenses can be incurred by an individual or body during the referendum period for referendum purposes but are subject to a limit calculated to be £2,402.00

The number of persons entitled to vote in the referendum by reference to which that limit has been calculated is 678

Copies of the specified documents (meaning those listed below) can be viewed by following the appropriate links or by going to www.babergh.gov.uk/BentleyNP

- The referendum version of the [Bentley Neighbourhood Plan 2018 - 2037](#)
- The [Independent Examiner's Report](#) on the submission draft version of the Plan
- The Written Representations - [Part 1 \(no's 1 to 13\)](#) & [Part 2 \(no. 14\)](#), and the [Parish Council Response](#) to these, all of which were submitted to the Independent Examiner
- The [Written Representations](#) made at the examination issues consultation stage.
- A [Decision Statement](#) (published on 22 August 2022) which confirms that, subject to modification, the draft Plan meets the basic conditions and other legislative requirements, and that it can proceed to referendum, *and*
- A Statement (this document) setting out general information relating to the referendum.

Printed copies of the Neighbourhood Plan and the other named documents have also been deposited at Bentley Stores (the Village Community Shop), Case Lane, Bentley, IP9 2DW, and can be viewed on request during normal opening hours.