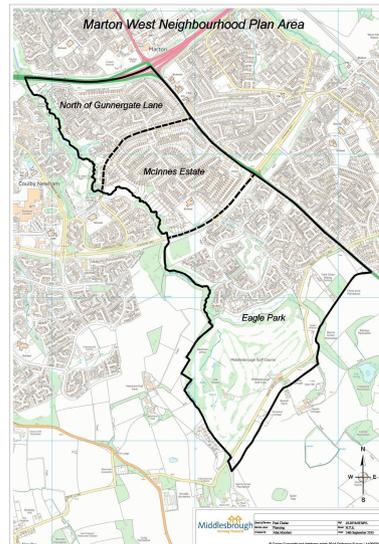


Marton West Neighbourhood Plan Referendum

20 October 2016



Information for Voters

About this booklet

There will be a referendum on a neighbourhood plan for your area. It is to be held on 20 October 2016. In this booklet you can find out about:

- The referendum and how you can take part
- The neighbourhood area
- The neighbourhood plan
- The development plan (of which neighbourhood plans are a part)

Referendum on the Neighbourhood Plan

A referendum asks you to vote yes or no to a question.

For this referendum you will receive a ballot paper with this question:

“Do you want Middlesbrough Borough Council to use the Neighbourhood Plan for Marton West to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area?”

How do I vote in the referendum?

You show your choice by putting a cross (X) in the ‘Yes’ or ‘No’ box on your ballot paper.

Put a cross in only **one** box or your vote will not be counted.

If more people vote ‘yes’ than ‘no’ in this referendum, then Middlesbrough Borough Council will use the Neighbourhood Plan to help it decide planning applications in the Marton West area.

The Neighbourhood Plan will then become part of the adopted Middlesbrough Local Plan.

If more people vote ‘no’ than ‘yes’, then planning applications will be decided without using the Neighbourhood Plan as part of the Development Plan for the local area.

What is Neighbourhood Planning?

Neighbourhood planning aims to help local communities play a direct role in planning the areas in which they live and work.

A community can prepare a neighbourhood plan. This plan can show how the community wants land to be used and developed in its area.

What is a neighbourhood area?

A neighbourhood area can cover single streets or large urban or rural areas. The boundaries of a neighbourhood area are put forward by:

Town or parish councils

A neighbourhood forum (a group of at least 21 people in areas without town or parish councils)

Who can prepare a Neighbourhood Plan?

Neighbourhood plans are prepared by town or parish councils, or neighbourhood forums.

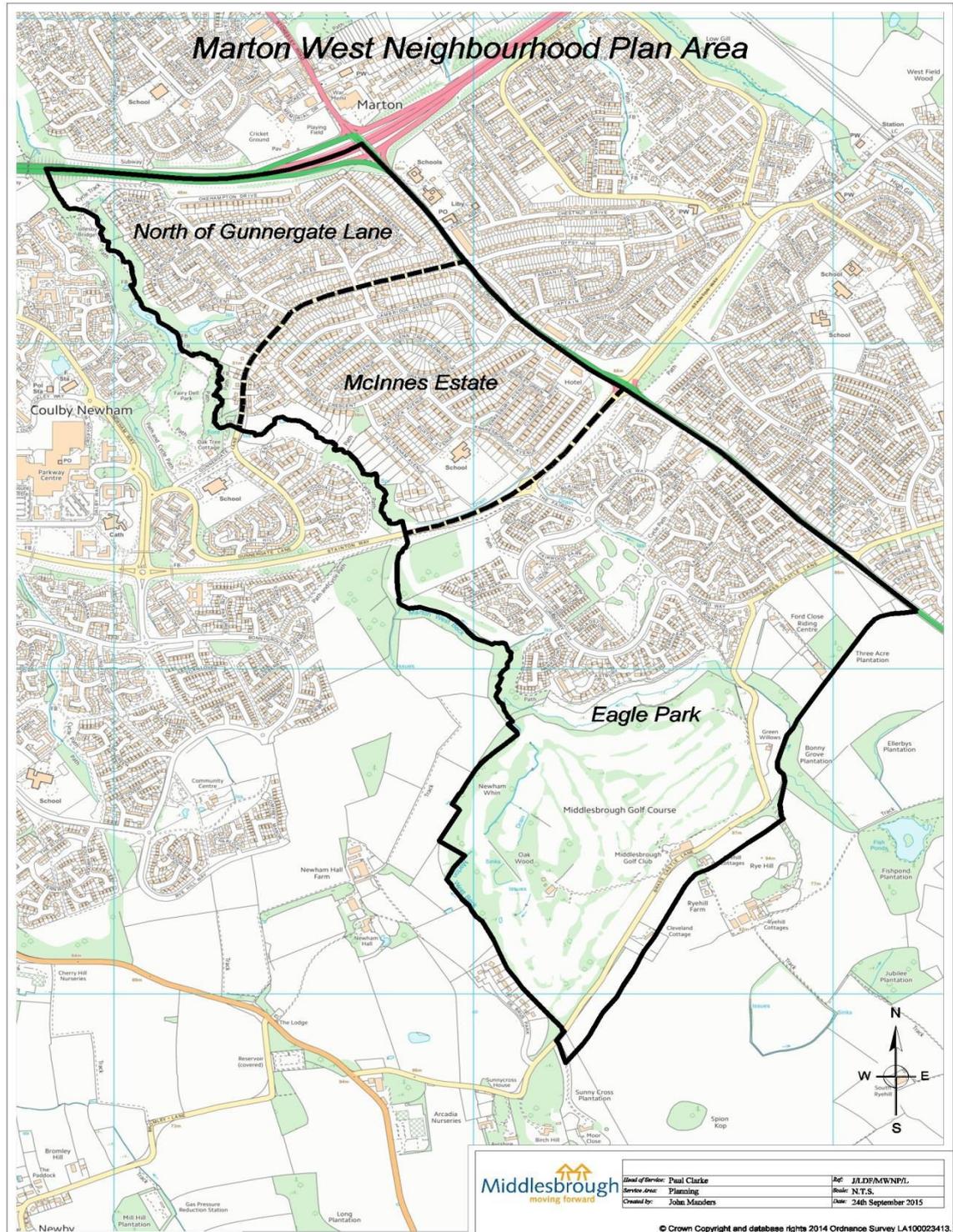
What is a Development Plan?

In England, planning applications are determined by local planning authorities in accordance with the development plan.

A development plan is a set of documents that set out the policies for the development and use of land across the entire local authority area.

Neighbourhood Planning in Marton West

The Referendum area is identified on the map below as the Marton West Neighbourhood Forum area of Middlesbrough.



Referendum expenses

The referendum expenses limit that will apply in relation to the referendum is £2620.89. The number of persons entitled to vote in the Referendum by reference to which the limit has been calculated is 4388.

Specified documents

A copy of the specified documents, that is the documents listed below, may be viewed on the neighbourhood planning page of the council's website at <http://www.middlesbrough.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=7787>

Paper copies of the specified documents are also available to view between 8.30am and 5pm at:
Middlesbrough Council, Planning Office, Civic Centre, Middlesbrough, TS1 9FT;
and at Marton and Rainbow libraries during their normal opening hours.

The specified documents are:

- The Marton East Neighbourhood Development Plan;
- Report of the independent examiner ;
- Summary of the representations submitted to the independent examiner;
- Statement by the local planning authority that the draft plan meets the basic conditions and complies with the relevant legislation;

This information statement

A statement that sets out general information about town and country planning including neighbourhood planning and the referendum.

Can I vote?

You can vote in the referendum if you live in the Neighbourhood Forum Area of Marton West and:

- You are registered to vote in local council elections, and
- You are 18 years of age or over on 20 October 2016

You have to be registered to vote by Tuesday 4 October 2016 to vote in the referendum. You can check if you are registered to vote by calling 01642 729771.

The referendum will be conducted in accordance with procedures which are similar to those used at local government elections.

Ways of voting

There are three ways of voting:

1. **In person on** : 20 October 2016

Most people vote in person at their local polling station. It is easy and a member of staff will always help if you are not sure what to do.

In the Marton West area the polling stations are:

- Normanby Court, Linden Crescent
- Lingfield Primary School, Buxton Avenue
- Mobile Station, Fulford Way

You will receive a poll card to advise you about the polling station.

If you do not receive your poll card, you can contact Electoral Services on 01642 729771

Polling stations are open from 7am to 10pm.

If you have not been given your ballot papers by 10pm you won't be able to vote, so make sure you arrive in plenty of time.

2. By post:

To vote by post, Contact Electoral Services 01642 729771 for an application and return this to: Electoral Services, Town Hall, PO Box 503, Middlesbrough, TS1 9FX to arrive by 5pm on Friday 5th October 2016.

Ballot papers can be sent overseas, but you need to think about whether you will have time to receive and return your ballot papers by Thursday 20th October 2016.

You should receive your postal vote about a week before polling day. If it doesn't arrive in time, you can get a replacement up to 5pm on 20th October 2016.

3. By proxy:

If you can't go to the polling station and don't wish to vote by post, you may be able to vote by proxy. This means allowing somebody you trust to vote on your behalf.

To vote by post, Contact Electoral Services 01642 729771 for an application and return this to: Electoral Services, Town Hall, PO Box 503, Middlesbrough, TS1 9FX to arrive by 5pm on Wednesday 12th October 2016. When you apply for a proxy vote you must say why you cannot vote in person.

Anyone can be your proxy as long as they are eligible to vote and are willing to vote on your behalf. You will have to tell them how you want to vote.

Am I registered to vote?

Most people register to vote using the form that local councils send to each household each year.

If you're not registered, you won't be able to vote

If you are not on the electoral register, you will need to complete a voter registration form and send it to Electoral Services, Town Hall, PO Box 503, Middlesbrough, TS1 9FX to arrive no later than Tuesday 4th October 2016.

Registration forms are available from Electoral Services on 01642 729772 or you can register online at:

<http://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote>

How to find out more

Further general information on neighbourhood planning is available on the following websites www.gov.uk/neighbourhood-planning and

<http://www.middlesbrough.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=7787>

You can find the specified documents and a copy of this information statement and the decision statement, on the council's website at:

<http://www.middlesbrough.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=7787>

For queries relating to the neighbourhood plan please contact planningpolicy@middlesbrough.gov.uk or ring 01642 729065