

Haydon News June 2022 Referendum article

Haydon Parish Neighbourhood Plan - Voting for Community Issues

A plan to give the community of Haydon Bridge more control over key issues to the parish, including new housing development, transport, the climate emergency, renewable energy and how we heat our homes now needs your support by voting.

Haydon Parish Council has produced the Neighbourhood Plan in consultation with local residents and organisations. Over two years, the council has worked with local people to address the key priorities that the community has identified for the next ten years.

Residents are now asked to take part in a local referendum to bring the plan into force, which will be held on Thursday 30th June.

What's in the Neighbourhood Plan

The plan includes a range of planning policies which will be used to help the County Council determine housing, development, planning and the built and historic environment.

Alongside this, the climate emergency is at the heart of the plan, with policies that focus on the impact of climate change, energy efficiency and flood prevention, as well as protecting the natural landscape of the area and protection of local green spaces, walks, picnic and play areas. It covers the protection of local facilities and services to ensure the sustainability of the village centre and local economy through supporting business and tourism development, along with agriculture and diversification. Transport and accessibility is another key aspect, through promoting sustainable transport, parking, public transport, cycling and cycling routes and electric vehicles.

The County Council's county level Local Plan required parishes such as Haydon to have a certain level of new housing development up to 2036. The Neighbourhood Plan includes a number of policies (and supporting documents such as a Design Code, which is a part of the plan, and a housing needs assessment) that specifically aim to ensure that new development is sustainable and is of a type and in a location that meets the needs of the parish. There is also a focus on protecting our heritage and the conservation area.

Voting

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 Northumberland County Council and Northumberland National Park Authority to use the Neighbourhood Plan for Haydon Parish Neighbourhood Area to help decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area?"*

You vote by putting a cross (X) in the 'Yes' or 'No' box on your ballot paper. If more people vote 'Yes' than 'No' in this referendum, then Northumberland County Council and

Northumberland National Park Authority will use the Haydon Parish Neighbourhood Plan to help decide planning applications in the Parish of Haydon.

If more people vote 'No' than 'Yes', then planning applications will continue to be decided without using the Haydon Parish Neighbourhood Plan. Instead planning applications would be decided using policies in the Northumberland Local Plan and the Northumberland National Park Local Plan.

Where to view the plan and supporting documents

The Haydon Parish Neighbourhood Plan and supporting documents can be viewed:

- At the Bridge Library on Church Street which will have paper copies to read.
- on the County Council's website at:
www.northumberland.gov.uk/ourplan
- Or by scanning the QR code below with your smartphone or tablet camera