

**WARBOROUGH AND SHILLINGFORD
NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN REVIEW
REFERENDUM**

THURSDAY 5 FEBRUARY 2026

INFORMATION STATEMENT

&

INFORMATION FOR VOTERS

Information Statement

A Referendum relating to the adoption of the Warborough and Shillingford Neighbourhood Development Plan Review will be held for the Warborough and Shillingford Neighbourhood Area on Thursday 5 February 2026.

This information sheet explains more about the Referendum that will be taking place.

The question asked at the Referendum will be:

Do you want South Oxfordshire District Council to use the Neighbourhood Plan for Warborough and Shillingford to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area?

You vote by putting a cross (X) in the 'Yes' or 'No' box on the ballot paper.

If more people vote 'yes' than 'no' in the Referendum, then South Oxfordshire District Council will use the Warborough and Shillingford Neighbourhood Development Plan Review to help it to decide planning applications within the Warborough and Shillingford Neighbourhood Area.

The Neighbourhood Plan Review, once adopted, will then become part of the Development Plan used by the Local Planning Authority (South Oxfordshire District Council).

If more people vote 'no' than 'yes', in this Referendum or there is a tied vote, then planning applications will continue to be decided without reference to the Neighbourhood Plan Review as part of the Development Plan for the local area.

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

What is Neighbourhood Planning?

Neighbourhood Planning was introduced under the Localism Act 2011 to give local communities more control in the planning of their neighbourhoods. It introduced new rights and powers to allow local communities to shape new development in their local area. It enables communities to develop a shared vision for their neighbourhood and deliver the sustainable development they need through planning policies relating to the development and use of land.

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:

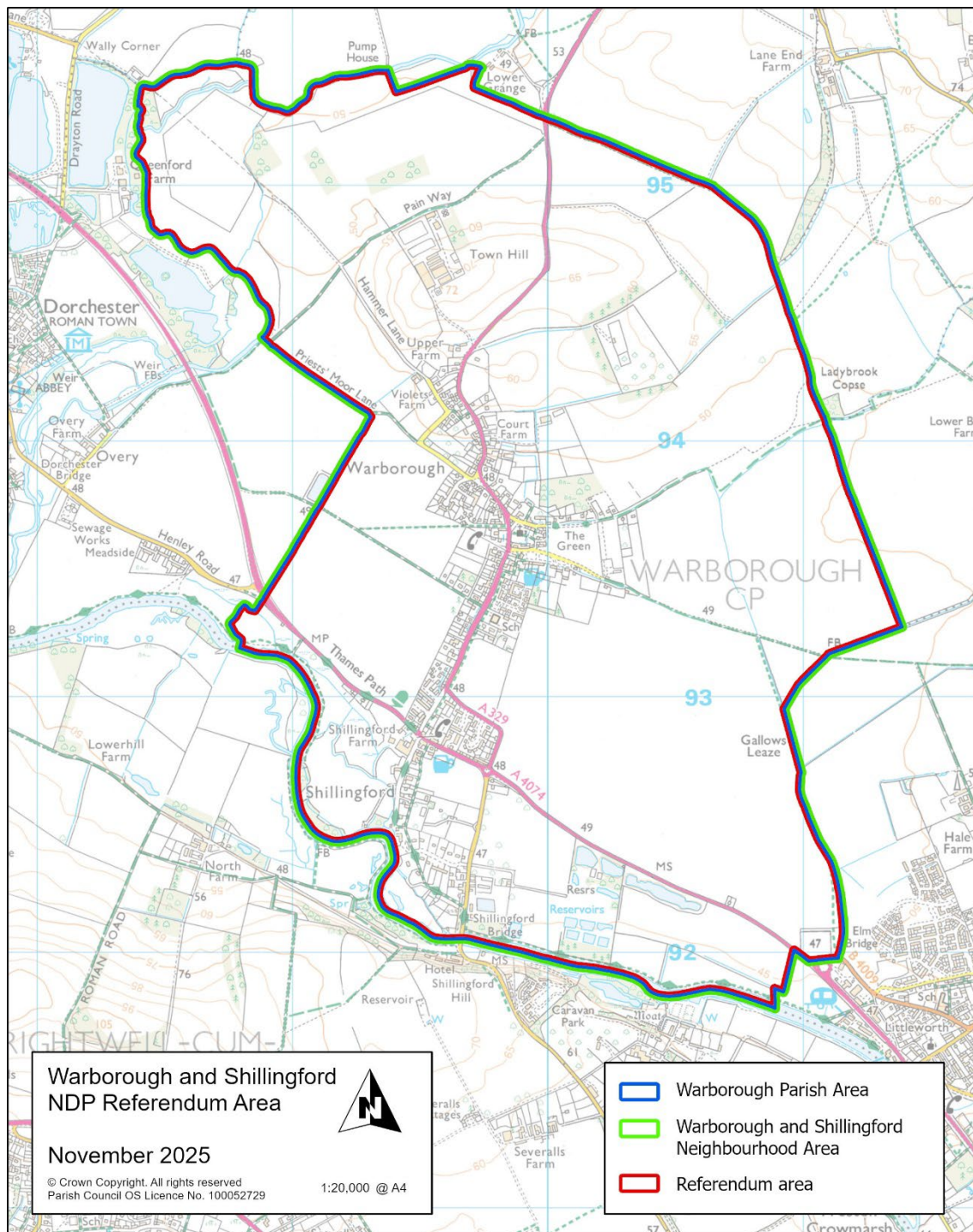
- Town or parish councils
- A neighbourhood forum a group of at least 21 people (in areas without a town or parish council)

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.

Warborough and Shillingford Neighbourhood Area

The Referendum area is identified on the map below as the parish area of Warborough Parish and is the same as the area which has been designated as the Warborough and Shillingford Neighbourhood Plan area.



Referendum campaign costs

An individual or body can incur costs during the period of the Referendum for the purposes of campaigning in association with the Referendum.

The Referendum expenses limit that will apply to the Warborough and Shillingford Neighbourhood Development Plan Review is £2410.85. The number of people entitled to vote in the Referendum by reference to which this limit has been calculated is 828.

Specified documents

The following specified documents can be inspected on the Council's website at www.southoxon.gov.uk/WarboroughAndShillingford-NP and at the following addresses, at the following times:

Reception South Oxfordshire District Council Abbey House Abbey Close, Abingdon OX14 3JE	Mon to Thurs 8.30am to 5.00pm and Fridays 8.30am to 4.00pm Reception will close at Abbey House from 5pm on Wednesday 24 December 2025 and will reopen on Monday 5 January 2026.
---	--

The specified documents are:

- Warborough and Shillingford Neighbourhood Development Plan Review and relevant appendices
- Summary of the representations submitted to the Independent Examiner
- Decision statement to proceed to referendum
- Independent Examiner's Report (appendix 2 of decision statement)
- Information Statement and Information for Voters (this document)

Who can vote?

A person is entitled to vote if at the time of the Referendum, they meet the eligibility criteria to vote in a local election for the area and if they live in the Referendum area. The eligibility criteria are:

- You are registered to vote in local government elections; and
- You are 18 years of age or over on Thursday 5 February 2026.

If you are not registered, you won't be able to vote. You can check if you are registered by calling our helpline on 01235 422422.

If you are not registered to vote, you can go online to www.gov.uk/register-to-vote with your national insurance number by midnight on **Tuesday 20 January 2026**. If you do not have access to the internet, please call our helpline on 01235 422422.

How to vote

There are three ways of voting:

In person at your local polling station

- Your poll card will confirm your polling station for this referendum.
- Polling stations are open from 7am to 10pm.
- You will need to bring photo ID to vote in person. A list of acceptable photo ID is available on the reverse of your poll card, at the polling station, and on the Electoral Commission's website:
<https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/voting-and-elections/voter-id/accepted-forms-photo-id>
- You cannot vote in person if you have been issued with a postal vote for this referendum. However, you can hand your completed postal vote pack in at the polling station if you have not had time to send it back in the post. You will need to complete a postal vote handling form if you do this, which staff at the polling station can provide.

By post

- If you already have a postal vote, you will receive a postal poll card confirming when your postal pack will be sent.
- If you are not already a postal voter and wish to vote by post, please apply online at www.gov.uk/apply-postal-vote before 5pm on Wednesday 21 January 2026.
- Postal votes can be sent overseas but you should think about whether you will have enough time to receive and return your completed postal vote.
- You should receive your postal vote approximately 8 days before polling day. If it doesn't arrive, you can ask for a replacement up to 5pm on 5 February 2026 by contacting our helpline 01235 422528.
- Completed postal vote packs must reach the Electoral Registration Officer by 10pm on polling day.

By proxy (a trusted person voting on your behalf)

- If you already have a proxy vote, you will receive a proxy poll card confirming the details of your nominated proxy. Your proxy will also receive a poll card confirming where they need to go to cast your vote.
- If you do not already have a proxy vote and wish to vote by proxy for this referendum, one-off applications can be made online at www.gov.uk/apply-proxy-vote.
- If you think you may need to apply for a long-term proxy vote due to a disability or being away for work, please visit the Electoral Commission website to download and complete the relevant application form:
<https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/voting-and-elections/ways-vote/apply-vote-proxy>
- Completed applications must reach the Electoral Registration Officer by 5pm on Wednesday 28 January 2026.

How to find out more

- If you are unable to apply online, please call our helpline on 01235 422422.
- Further general information on neighbourhood planning is available at www.southoxon.gov.uk/services-and-advice/planning-and-building/planning-policy/neighbourhood-plans
- For queries about planning issues and neighbourhood planning in general, please contact planning.policy@southoxon.gov.uk
- You can find specific documents on Warborough and Shillingford's Neighbourhood Development Plan Review at: www.southoxon.gov.uk/WarboroughAndShillingford-NP
- For more information about voting and the arrangements for this Referendum, please contact our helpline on 01235 422422 or email: elections@southandvale.gov.uk

Published on: Friday 19 December

Electoral Services

South Oxfordshire District Council

Abbey House, Abbey Close Abingdon OX14 3JE