



Lydiate Neighbourhood Plan

Referendum

Information for Voters and General Information on Neighbourhood Plans

About this booklet

On **Tuesday 18 December 2018**, there will be a referendum on a neighbourhood development plan (usually known as the Neighbourhood Plan) for your area. The Neighbourhood Plan has been produced by Lydiate Parish Council as the 'Qualifying Body'. In this booklet you can find out about:

- The referendum and how you can take part;
- Where to find help in making your decision; and
- General information on Neighbourhood Plans and how they fit in to the 'Development Plan' for the whole of Sefton.

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 Sefton Council to use the Neighbourhood Plan for Lydiate to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area?"

How do I vote in the referendum?

You vote 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 Sefton Council will use the Lydiate Neighbourhood Plan to help it decide planning applications in the Parish of Lydiate. The Neighbourhood Plan will then become part of the Development Plan for the Borough (see below).

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.

Can I vote?

You are entitled to vote in the referendum if:

- You are registered to vote in local council elections;
- The address at which you are registered to vote in a local council election, as shown in the register of electors, is in the Referendum Area (see map below) assuming that you are entitled to be registered at this address; and
- You are 18 years of age or over on **Tuesday 18 December 2018**

The last time to register to vote at the referendum is Friday 30 November 2018. You can check if you are registered to vote by telephoning **0345 140 0845**.

The referendum will be conducted based on procedures which are similar to those used at local government elections.

Am I registered to vote?

If you're not registered, you won't be able to vote. You can check if you are registered by calling our Helpline on **0345 140 0845** or emailing electors@sefton.gov.uk

If you are not registered to vote, you can register by going online at www.gov.uk/register-to-vote. The last date you can register for this referendum is **Friday 30 November 2018**. If you are unable to register yourself online, please call the Helpline on **0345 140 0845** and a member of staff will be able to do this for you. You will need to provide your date of birth and national insurance number when you register.

Ways of Voting

There are three ways of voting:

1. In person on Tuesday 18 December 2018:

At your local polling station. It is easy and a member of staff will always help if you are not sure what to do. In the Lydiate neighborhood area, the polling station will be situated at:

- **Lydiate Village Centre, Lambshear Lane, Lydiate, L31 2LA**

You will receive a poll card confirming your polling station for this referendum. If you do not receive your poll card, you can contact our Helpline on **0345 140 0845** or email us on electors@sefton.gov.uk to find out where your polling station is. The Polling Station will be open from **7am to 10pm**.

2. By post:

- If you have a postal vote already, you will receive a pink poll card confirming this
- If you want to vote by post, you will need to complete an application form and send it to the Electoral Registration Officer to arrive by **5pm on Monday 3 December 2018** at this address:

**The Electoral Registration Officer
Sefton Council
Bootle Town Hall
Oriel Road
Bootle
L20 7AE**

- Postal votes can be sent overseas but you need to think about whether you will have time to receive and return your completed postal vote by **10pm on Tuesday 18 December 2018**.
- You should receive your postal vote about a week before polling day. If it doesn't arrive in time, you can ask for a replacement from **Wednesday 12 December 2018 up to 5pm on Tuesday 18 December 2018 by contacting our Helpline on 0345 140 0845**.

3. By proxy:

- If you have a proxy vote already, you will receive a poll card confirming this
- If you can't get to the polling station and don't wish to vote by post, you may be able to vote by proxy. This means allowing somebody that you trust to vote on your behalf

- To vote by proxy, you will need to complete an application form and send it to the Electoral Registration Officer to arrive by **5pm on Monday 10 December 2018** at this address:

**The Electoral Registration Officer
Sefton Council
Bootle Town Hall
Oriol Road
Bootle
L20 7AE**

- 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.
- Postal and proxy vote application forms are available from our Helpline on 0345 140 0845 by emailing electors@sefton.gov.uk or at www.yourvotematters.co.uk

Counting of Votes

The verification and counting of votes will take place following the close of poll on Tuesday 18 December 2018 at 10.00pm at Maghull Town Hall, Hall Lane, Maghull

Declaration of Results

Results of referendum will be available at Maghull Town Hall and Lydiate Village Centre. The results will also be available online at www.sefton.gov.uk/neighbourhoodplanning

Referendum expenses

Expenses can be incurred by an individual or body during the period of the referendum for referendum purposes only.

The Referendum expenses limit that will apply in relation to this Referendum is £2,658.30. The number of persons entitled to vote in the Referendum by reference to which the limit has been calculated is 5,022.

Campaigning groups are encouraged to register with and submit a statement of expenses to the Counting Officer via Electoral Services, Bootle Town Hall, Oriol Road, Bootle L20 7AE. Please contact Electoral Services at electors@sefton.gov.uk

Specified documents

You are reading one of a number of documents (the Regulations call them ‘specified documents’) that will help you make a decision on how to vote. A copy of these specified documents may be inspected at:

- Lydiate Village Centre, Lamshear Lane, Lydiate L31 2LA. Normal opening hours: Monday – Friday 9.00am – 1.00pm. Please phone 0151 527 2662 if you need to view outside these times.
- The Meadows (Maghull) Library, Hall Lane, Maghull L31 7BB. Normal opening hours: Monday – Friday 10.00am to 5.00pm, Saturday 10.00am to 2.00pm.
- Sefton Council Offices at Magdalen House, 30 Trinity Road, Bootle, L30 3NJ. Normal opening hours: Monday – Thursday 9.00am to 5.00pm, Friday 9.00am to 4.00pm.
- On Sefton Council’s website www.sefton.gov.uk/neighbourhoodplanning

The ‘specified documents’ are:

- The Referendum version of the Lydiate Neighbourhood Plan;
- Lydiate Character Assessment;
- Report of the Independent Examiner;
- Summary of Submission Consultation Responses submitted to the Independent Examiner;
- Decision Statement by Sefton Council that the Neighbourhood Plan meets the ‘basic conditions’ (see below). This also lists the all the Examiner’s modifications to the Plan, whether or not the Council agrees with them and why they need to be made; and
- This ‘Information for Voters and General Information on Neighbourhood Plans’ document

The ‘Basic Conditions’

The Neighbourhood Plan must meet all the following conditions if it is to be considered for referendum:

- Has regard to national policy and guidance from the Secretary of State;
- Contributes to the achievement of sustainable development;
- Be in general conformity with the strategic policies of the development plan for the area;
- Be compatible with and not breach European Union (EU) obligations (including the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive 2001/42/EC);
- Meet prescribed conditions and comply with prescribed matters;
- Not likely to have a significant effect on a European site (as defined in the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010)

How to find out more:

- You can find more information about the Lydiate Neighbourhood Plan at www.sefton.gov.uk/neighbourhoodplanning
- For more information about voting and the arrangements for this referendum, please contact our helpline on **0345 140 0845** or email electors@sefton.gov.uk

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.

Neighbourhood plans are prepared by Town or Parish Councils (or Neighbourhood Forums in locations where a Town or Parish Council does not exist) and are known as the 'Qualifying Body'.

The 'Qualifying Body' is responsible for preparing a Neighbourhood Plan and the Plan can show how the community wants land to be used and developed in its area. In this case the Qualifying Body is Lydiate Parish Council.

What is a Neighbourhood area?

A neighbourhood area can cover single streets or large urban or rural areas. The boundary of a neighbourhood area is put forward by the Qualifying Body when applying for the designation of a neighbourhood area. In this instance the neighbourhood area is the same as the Parish area of Lydiate.

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 suite of documents that set out the policies for the development and use of land across the entire Local Authority area. In Sefton, the Development Plan currently consists of the Local Plan (adopted April 2017) and the Merseyside and Halton Waste Local Plan.

All Neighbourhood Plans that pass the referendum are then 'made' (adopted) by Sefton Council and they will then also become part of the Development Plan.

Neighbourhood Planning in Lydiate Parish

The Referendum area is identified on the map below as the Parish area of Lydiate and is identical to the area designated as the neighbourhood area.

For queries about Neighbourhood Planning in general, please contact Alison Jones, Planning Assistant, at alison.jones@sefton.gov.uk or telephone 0151 934 3898.

13 November 2018

