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# Information Statement

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This information statement is about the referendum to be held on the Sutton Poyntz Neighbourhood Plan

## About town and country planning

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In England, planning applications are determined by local planning authorities such as Dorset Council. Planning decisions are made in accordance with the adopted development plan, unless material considerations indicate otherwise. A development plan sets out the planning policies for the development and use of land.

The [adopted Local Plan for West Dorset](#) is therefore the starting point for considering planning applications at the current time. The [national planning policy framework](#) must be taken into account in the preparation of local and neighbourhood plans, and is a material consideration in planning decisions.

Our [Local Development Scheme](#) contains information on development plan documents that are being prepared.

## About neighbourhood planning and the Sutton Poyntz Neighbourhood Plan

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Neighbourhood planning aims to help local communities play a direct role in planning the areas in which they live and work. In parished areas such as Weymouth the Town or Parish Council is responsible for preparing a neighbourhood plan. The plan can show how the community wants land to be used and developed in its area. If a plan is made following a successful referendum, it becomes part of the development plan for that area.

In May 2016, the Sutton Poyntz Society applied for designation as a neighbourhood forum and a neighbourhood plan area. Following public consultation and consideration of the representations made, formal approval was given in September 2016 by Weymouth & Portland Borough Council to the Neighbourhood Plan Area and to the Society as the qualifying body to prepare the Neighbourhood Plan.

Weymouth has been the subject of recent extensive local government re-organisation, with the creation of Dorset Council, as a unitary authority, and Weymouth Town Council, whose area includes Sutton Poyntz. Thus, the legal position is that, as of 1 April 2019, the designation of the Sutton Poyntz Society as a qualifying body ceased to have effect and responsibility for the Neighbourhood Plan passed to the newly formed Weymouth Town Council.

In May 2019 Weymouth Town Council submitted the draft Sutton Poyntz neighbourhood plan and supporting material to Dorset Council. Dorset Council were satisfied that the documents submitted met the requirements of Regulation 15 of the 'Regulations'. Weymouth Town Council and the Sutton Poyntz Society were notified of the Councils conclusion and informed

that the plan could proceed to examination. The submitted documents were made available for consultation from 31 May 2019 until 12 July 2019.

Mrs Mary O'Rourke was appointed as an Independent Examiner for the Sutton Poyntz Neighbourhood Plan, and in October 2019 she produced her [report](#) confirming that she was satisfied that the plan meets the basic conditions and recommended that it should, subject to some changes, proceed to referendum.

Dorset Council considered each of the recommendations and modifications contained in the examiner's [report](#) and agreed the amendments in an Executive Decision Statement 27 November 2019. Dorset Council issued its [decision](#) which was in agreement with the examiner's findings, and that the [plan as modified](#) should proceed to referendum.

## What the referendum is deciding

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The question which will be asked in the referendum is:

“Do you want Dorset Council to use the neighbourhood plan for Sutton Poyntz to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area?”

The referendum asks you to vote yes or no to this question.

## When and where the referendum will be held

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The referendum will be held on **Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2020**.

## What is the area covered by the referendum?

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The referendum will therefore be held over the neighbourhood area as marked on Map 1 of the Referendum draft of the Sutton Poyntz Neighbourhood Plan.

## Who is entitled to vote?

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You are entitled to vote in the referendum if you live in the referendum area, you are on the electoral register to vote in local council elections and you are 18 years of age or over on 13 February 2020.

You have to be registered to vote by Tuesday, 28 January 2020 to vote in the referendum. You can check if you are registered to vote by telephoning 01305 838299 during normal office hours.

## How can people vote?

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

You can vote in person at the polling station – which is at the Mission Hall, Sutton Poyntz. We will issue poll cards to voters on 09 January 2020. The polling station will be open from 7am to 10pm on 13 February 2020.

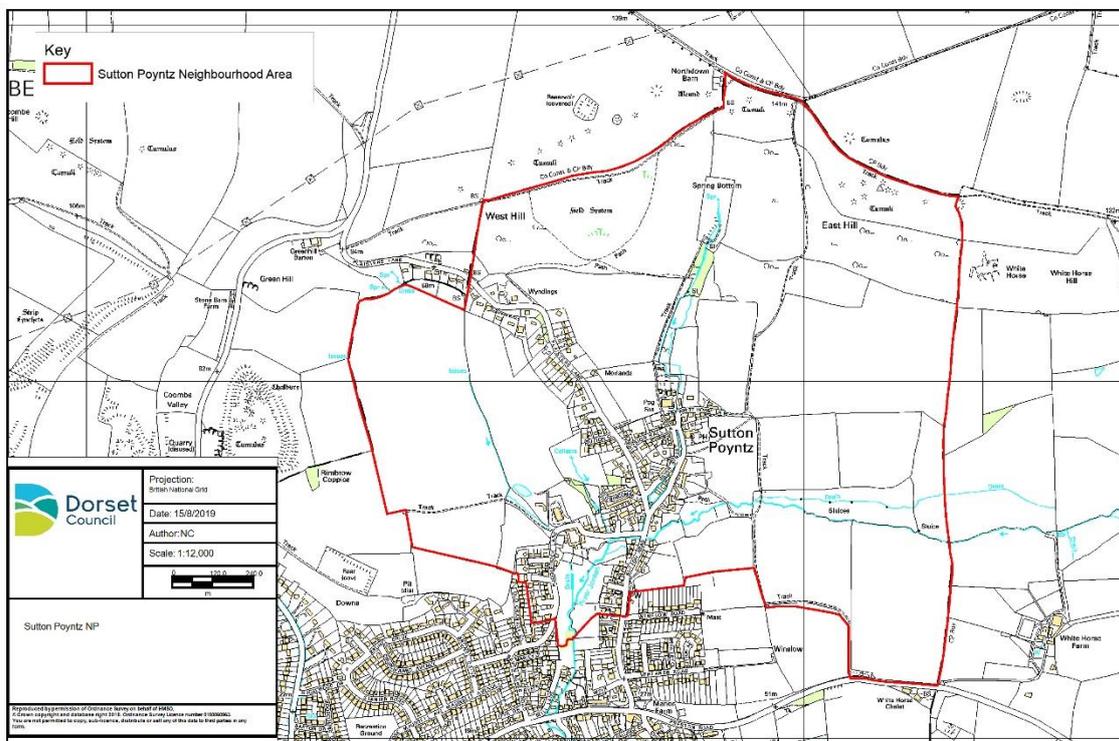
To vote by post or proxy in this referendum, you will need to have filled in an application form and sent it to the Electoral Registration Officer. Postal and proxy vote application forms are

available online from the elections website <https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/councillors-committees-elections/elections-and-voting/ways-you-can-vote.aspx> or by contacting the council.

Applications to vote by post must be received by no later than 5pm on Wednesday, 29 January 2020. To vote by proxy, application forms should be received by no later than 5pm on Wednesday, 5 February 2020. However in certain circumstances emergency proxy vote applications can be received up until 5pm on 13<sup>th</sup> February 2020. 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.

Ballot papers for people who vote by post will be posted from 17<sup>th</sup> January 2020, and will need to be returned by 10pm on the day of the poll.

## Map of the referendum area



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## Referendum expenses

The referendum expenses limit that will apply in relation to the referendum is £2,362 plus £0.059 per registered elector (the electorate in January 2020 was 411).

## What information is there available about the neighbourhood plan?

A copy of the specified documents, that is the documents listed below, may be inspected at the following council offices and library:

- **Dorset Council offices**, South Walks House, South Walks Road, Dorchester DT1 1UZ which is open 8.30am to 5pm Monday to Thursday and 8.30am to 4.30pm on Fridays.
- **Weymouth Town Council**, Council Offices, Commercial Rd, Weymouth DT4 8NG which is open 9 am – 4pm, Monday to Friday
- **Littlemoor Library**, Louviers Rd, Littlemoor, Weymouth, DT3 6SF

The specified documents are:

- A **summary of representations** submitted to the examiner
- The **examiner’s report**
- The **Sutton Poyntz Neighbourhood Plan** (as proposed)
- The **decision statement**, which includes a statement by the local planning authority that the plan as proposed meets the basic conditions
- This **information statement**, which includes general information as to town and country planning including neighbourhood planning and the referendum

All of the above documents can be viewed on the council’s website:

<https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/sutton-poyntz-neighbourhood-plan>

The Sutton Poyntz Society also intends to ensure copies of these documents are available locally.

The adopted Local Plan for West Dorset and Weymouth & Portland	<a href="https://www.dorsetforyou.com/jointlocalplan/west/weymouth">https://www.dorsetforyou.com/jointlocalplan/west/weymouth</a>
National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)	<a href="https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/810197/NPPF_Feb_2019_revised.pdf">https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/810197/NPPF Feb 2019 revised.pdf</a>
Local Development Scheme (LDS)	<a href="https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/planning-buildings-land/planning-policy/dorset-council-local-plan/evidence/dorset-council-lds-250619.pdf">https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/planning-buildings-land/planning-policy/dorset-council-local-plan/evidence/dorset-council-lds-250619.pdf</a>
Independent Examiner’s Report	<a href="http://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/planning-buildings-land/planning-policy/west-dorset-and-weymouth-portland/neighbourhood-planning/pdfs/neighbourhood-plan/sutton-poyntz/referendum/sutton-poyntz-examiner-report-final-021019.pdf">www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/planning-buildings-land/planning-policy/west-dorset-and-weymouth-portland/neighbourhood-planning/pdfs/neighbourhood-plan/sutton-poyntz/referendum/sutton-poyntz-examiner-report-final-021019.pdf</a>
Sutton Poyntz Neighbourhood Plan Decision Statement	<a href="http://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/planning-buildings-land/planning-policy/west-dorset-and-weymouth-portland/neighbourhood-planning/pdfs/neighbourhood-plan/sutton-poyntz/referendum/sutton-poyntz-decision-statement.pdf">www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/planning-buildings-land/planning-policy/west-dorset-and-weymouth-portland/neighbourhood-planning/pdfs/neighbourhood-plan/sutton-poyntz/referendum/sutton-poyntz-decision-statement.pdf</a>
Sutton Poyntz Neighbourhood Plan (as modified)	<a href="http://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/planning-buildings-land/planning-policy/west-dorset-and-weymouth-portland/neighbourhood-planning/pdfs/neighbourhood-plan/sutton-poyntz/referendum/referendumversionnppnov2019revised-reduced.pdf">www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/planning-buildings-land/planning-policy/west-dorset-and-weymouth-portland/neighbourhood-planning/pdfs/neighbourhood-plan/sutton-poyntz/referendum/referendumversionnppnov2019revised-reduced.pdf</a>