
Information Statement

This information statement is about the referendum to be held on the
Motcombe Neighbourhood Plan 2017 to 2027

About town and country planning

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.

At the current time, the adopted Local Plan for North Dorset, which forms part of the development plan, is the starting point for considering planning applications in the Parish of Motcombe. 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 Motcombe Neighbourhood Plan

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 Motcombe, the 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.

Motcombe Parish Council started preparing their plan neighbourhood plan in 2016. After much research, and having listened to the various issues and suggestions made through various consultation events, a draft plan was produced for consultation in October 2018. The plan was then revised in response to the consultation and submitted to Dorset Council in March 2019.

On 1 April 2019 the county's nine councils were replaced by two new organisations, Dorset Council and Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council. Consequently North Dorset District Council as been replaced by Dorset Council as the Local Planning Authority for the Motcombe Neighbourhood area.

Mr David Kaiserman BA DipTP MRTPI was appointed as an Independent Examiner for the Motcombe Neighbourhood Plan, and in July 2019 he produced his report confirming that he was satisfied that the plan meets the basic conditions and recommended that it should, subject to some changes, proceed to referendum.

Dorset Council considered the report and 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

The question which will be asked in the referendum is:

“Do you want Dorset Council to use the neighbourhood plan for Motcombe 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

The referendum will be held on **Thursday 7th November 2019 between 7am and 10pm.**

The polling station is **Motcombe Memorial Hall, The Street, Motcombe, SP7 9PE.**

What is the area covered by the referendum?

The referendum area and the area covered by the neighbourhood plan is the parish of Motcombe.

Who is entitled to vote?

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 7 November 2019.

You have to be registered to vote by Tuesday, 22 October 2019 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?

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

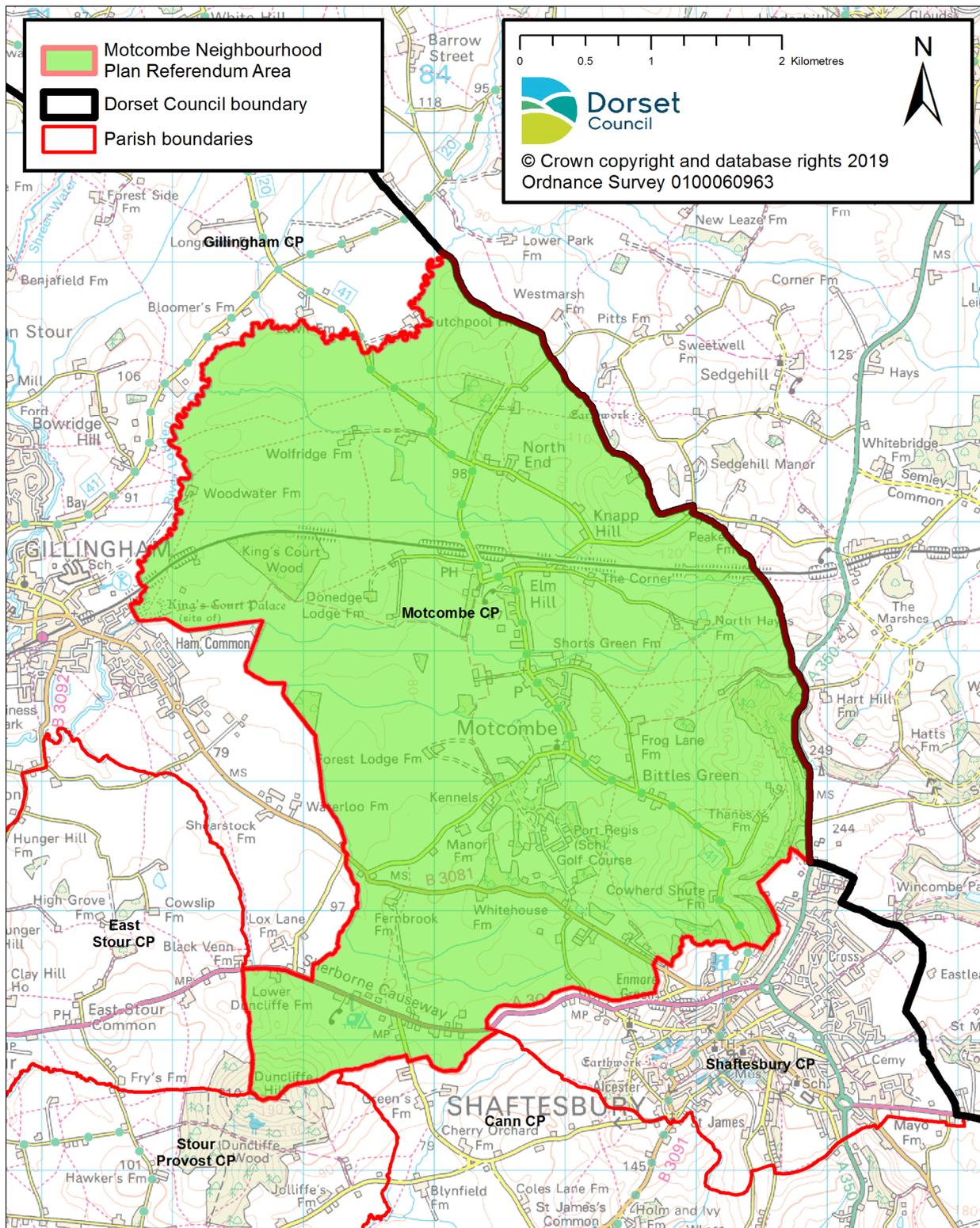
You can vote in person at the polling station – which is at Motcombe Memorial Hall. We will issue poll cards to voters around the 3rd October 2019. The polling station will be open from 7am to 10pm on 7 November 2019.

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 Dorset Council.

Applications to vote by post must be received by no later than 5pm on Wednesday, 23 October 2019. To vote by proxy, application forms should be received by no later than 5pm on Wednesday, 30 October 2019. However in certain circumstances emergency proxy vote applications can be received up until 5pm on 7 November 2019. 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 Thursday 24 October, 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 September was 1057).

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 locations:

- **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.
- **Motcombe Community Shop***, The Street, Motcombe, SP7 9PF
- **Shaftesbury Library***, Bell Street, Shaftesbury, SP7 8AE
- **Gillingham Library***, Chantry Fields, Gillingham, SP8 4UA

* Please check opening hours before making a journey.

The specified documents are:

- The Motcombe **Neighbourhood Plan 2017 to 2027** (referendum version)
- A **summary of representations** submitted to the examiner
- The **examiner's report**
- 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

Web links

The table below provides web links to documents referred to in this Information Statement.

Motcombe Neighbourhood Plan – including all the 'specified documents' listed above	www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/motcombe-neighbourhood-plan
The adopted Local Plan for North Dorset	www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/planning-buildings-land/planning-policy/north-dorset/the-north-dorset-local-plan/the-north-dorset-local-plan.aspx
National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)	www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework--2
Local Development Scheme (LDS)	www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/planning-buildings-land/planning-policy/dorset-council-planning-policy/pdfs/dorset-council-lds-250619.pdf