

Crowthorne Neighbourhood Plan Public Referendum Thursday 6 May 2021

Your Choice—Your Voice—Your Vote

On 6 May 2021 residents of Crowthorne Parish will get their opportunity to vote on key planning and environmental policies, contained in the Crowthorne Neighbourhood Plan (the Plan), which is designed to protect Crowthorne Parish ensuring it grows and develops in a positive, responsible and sustainable way.

What is the Crowthorne Neighbourhood Plan?

The Plan covers the period up to 2036 and contains planning policies that will be used to determine future planning applications in the Parish. Once approved, the Plan will carry significant weight in how planning applications in the Parish are decided.

Who decided what went into the Plan?

You did! The Plan has been prepared with input from residents and other interested stakeholders. The overwhelming feedback has been that any development should be in keeping with the surrounding area and contain measures which are sympathetic to wildlife, biodiversity and the environment.

Who checked that the Plan will safeguard the things we love about Crowthorne Parish?

The Plan has been checked and consulted on with Bracknell Forest Council throughout. It was also checked and scrutinised by an Independent Examiner, Mr Ashcroft, who made sure the Plan complies with the law and enshrines the priorities of the residents into planning policies. He concluded that *'the Plan seeks to bring forward positive and sustainable development in the neighbourhood area. There is a very clear focus on safeguarding its attractive character based on a series of policies underpinned by an excellent Design Guide. The Plan has been underpinned by community support and engagement.'*

So, did you just speak to the experts?

Residents who wished to get involved were able to do so. Also, the public were canvassed via drop-in information sessions, on social media and via formal public consultations.

What about the green open spaces and environment?

The working group and consultees told us how important these things are. We made sure these commitments are both specifically detailed and intrinsic to the Plan. For example, Policy 12 focuses on Enhancing Green Infrastructure. The Independent Examiner said in his report *'[the Plan] takes an ambitious approach in proposing the establishment of the Green Infrastructure Network'*. Biodiversity is also covered as the Plan requires that *'Wherever practicable, proposals should contribute to, increase and enhance the natural environment by providing additional habitat resources for wildlife and green spaces for the community.'*

So, did you just focus on green issues?

There are also policies which seek to ensure that any built environment/developments are in keeping with, sympathetic to, and ideally improve the vitality of the surrounding area, including air quality issues. The Parish will have its own set of policies which encompass high quality design and respect the uniqueness of their place in the village.

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Will the Plan make any difference?

The Plan contains details of projects which the Parish will look to secure resources to fund, including: street tree management and replanting; new or extended cycle routes; designate new public rights of way; improvements in air quality; funds for additional bus services; and improvements to sports/recreation facilities. There are also other non-planning matter projects included in the Plan such as: community facilities improvements (including solar panel installations); recreation and play, public art, planting schemes, car parking and signage enhancements.

What about the Wokingham Without part of Crowthorne?

Wokingham Without Parish Council is also working on a Neighbourhood Plan for their area of Crowthorne. Residents in that part of the village will be able to vote in the Wokingham Without referendum when their Neighbourhood Plan is ready.

How do I vote?

Bracknell Forest Council will send out polling cards and you will be able to vote at your usual polling station used for general elections. The Referendum will take place on **Thursday, 6 May 2021 from 7am to 10pm.**

Where do I view the Crowthorne Neighbourhood Plan?

Copies of the Crowthorne Neighbourhood Plan and supporting documents are available to view on Crowthorne Parish Council's website: <http://www.crowthornepc.org.uk/neighbourhood-plan.html> Hard copies will be available from BFC, although due to the Covid situation this may be difficult.

How can I hear more or ask any questions?

Crowthorne Village Action Group are due to present a talk at the **Crowthorne Annual Parish Meeting** which will take place virtually on **Tuesday, 13 April 2021 at 7.30pm.** The public are welcome to attend. For meeting details or if you have any questions, please email the Clerk at clerk@crowthornepc.org.uk and we will either reply direct, or if it is of general interest, we may respond at the meeting on 13 April to give others the chance to hear the response.

How will I know the results?

The polling result will be on CPC's website <http://www.crowthornepc.org.uk/> and announced on their Facebook page and on **We Love Crowthorne Village.** The result of the referendum is determined by the majority vote. In the event of a majority vote in favour, the Plan will be adopted as part of the statutory development plan for the area.

PLEASE VOTE IN THE REFERENDUM IT IS REALLY IMPORTANT the outcome will determine the character of Crowthorne Parish for decades to come

