

Information Statement on the Neighbourhood Plan referendum

A referendum on the Brenchley and Matfield Neighbourhood Development Plan (BMNP) will be held on **10th November 2022**. Registered voters in the parish will receive polling cards as in an election. Brenchley Memorial Hall and Matfield Village Hall will be open as polling stations 7am to 10pm.

After earlier informal and formal consultations, a draft Neighbourhood Plan was submitted, along with Basic Conditions and Public Consultation Statements, to Tunbridge Wells Borough Council (TWBC) who carried out a further public consultation between 29 November 2021 and 24 January 2022.

An Independent Examiner was appointed earlier this year to examine whether the BMNP met the basic conditions of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 and whether the plan should proceed to a referendum. His report recommended that it should do so, subject to a number of modifications which have been adopted in the latest 'referendum edition' of the plan.

The Neighbourhood Plan documents can be viewed online on the Neighbourhood Plans section of TWBC website <https://tunbridgewells.gov.uk/planning/planning-policy/neighbourhood-plans> or a paper copy will be available for viewing at the Gateway in Tunbridge Wells. They are also easily accessible for online viewing at www.bandmnp.com.

Paper copies of the documents will be available for viewing at the following sessions within the parish, when members of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group will be available to answer questions:

Brenchley Memorial Hall Meeting Room

Tuesday 1st November: 2pm – 4pm

Sat 5th November: 2pm – 4pm

Matfield Pavilion

Wednesday 2nd November: 2pm – 4pm

Saturday 5th November: 10am- 12noon

Paper copies will also be available for viewing as follows:

Brenchley Memorial Hall Meeting Room

Mondays 1.30pm - 3.30pm

October 17th, October 24th, October 31st, November 7th

Thursdays 10am - 1.00pm

13th October, 20th October, 27th October, 3rd November

Matfield Pavilion

Tuesdays 10am - 12noon

October 18th, October 25th, November 1st, November 8th

Wednesdays 10am - 12noon

October 19th, October 26th, November 2nd, November 9th

What is a Neighbourhood Plan and how does it help?

Once a parish's Neighbourhood Plan has been passed in a referendum and "made" by a Borough Council, it forms part of the Development Plan for the area. This means the Borough Council must take account of what's in your Neighbourhood Plan when making decisions about planning applications, and developers or landowners should follow it if they want to get planning permission.