

Slaugham Neighbourhood Plan

Information for Voters for Referendum on 25th July 2019

About this booklet

On 25th July 2019, there will be a Referendum on a neighbourhood development plan for the parish of Slaugham. This booklet explains more about the Referendum that is going to take place and how you can take part in it. In this booklet you can find out about:

- The Referendum and how you can take part
- The neighbourhood area
- The neighbourhood plan
- The development plan (of which neighbourhood plans are part)

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 Mid Sussex District Council to use the neighbourhood plan for Slaugham 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.

Should more than half of those voting at the Referendum vote in favour of the neighbourhood plan, then Mid Sussex District Council will ensure the neighbourhood plan is 'made' at the earliest opportunity and use it to determine planning applications.

The Neighbourhood Plan once made (adopted) will then become part of the Local Development Plan.

In the Mid Sussex District Council Local Planning Authority area, the development plan currently consists of the:

Mid Sussex District Plan 2018

<https://www.midsussex.gov.uk/planning-building/mid-sussex-district-plan/>

Saved Policies of the Mid Sussex Local Plan 2004

<https://www.midsussex.gov.uk/planning-building/local-plan-2004/>

Small Scale Housing Allocations Document 2008

<https://www.midsussex.gov.uk/planning-building/development-plan-documents/>

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.

A community can prepare a Neighbourhood Plan. This plan can express how the community wants land to be used and developed in its area.

What is a neighbourhood area?

A neighbourhood area can cover single streets or large urban or rural areas. The boundaries of a neighbourhood area are put forward by:

- Town or Parish Councils
- A Neighbourhood Forum (a group of at least 21 people in areas without town or parish councils)

In Slaugham the boundary of the neighbourhood area was determined by Mid Sussex District Council and is identical to the Parish boundary of Slaugham.

<https://www.midsussex.gov.uk/media/2831/slaugham-designation-map.pdf>

Who can prepare a Neighbourhood Plan?

Neighbourhood plans are prepared by town or parish councils, or neighbourhood forums. In this case, the Slaugham Neighbourhood Plan has been prepared by Slaugham Parish Council.

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 set of documents that set out the policies for the development and use of land across the entire local authority area. Within the Mid Sussex area, the local planning authority is Mid Sussex District Council.

Neighbourhood Planning in Slaugham

The Referendum area is identified as the Parish of Slaugham and is identical to the area which has been designated as the Slaugham Neighbourhood Plan Area. – A map of the designated area can be found at:

<https://www.midsussex.gov.uk/media/2831/slaugham-designation-map.pdf>

Referendum Expenses

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

The Referendum expenses limit that will apply in relation to this Referendum is £2,498.41. The number of persons entitled to vote in the Referendum by reference to which the limit has been calculated is 2312.

Specified Documents

The Specified Documents are:

- The Slaugham Neighbourhood Plan incorporating Examiner's modifications (June 2019)
- The Examiner's Report
- A Summary of Representations submitted to the Examiner
- A Decision Statement from Mid Sussex District Council as the Local Planning Authority stating that the Plan meets the Basic Conditions
- General Information on Neighbourhood Planning and the Referendum (Information for Voters)

Copies of the Slaugham Neighbourhood Plan and specified documents are available to view on our website at: www.midsussex.gov.uk/neighbourhoodplans

Hard copies of the plan are available for inspection at:

- Mid Sussex District Council offices, Oaklands Road, Haywards Heath, West Sussex RH16 1SS (normal office hours apply); and
- The Hardware Store, Dudley House, High Street, Handcross, West Sussex RH17 6BL (normal opening hours apply)

Can I vote?

You can vote in the Referendum if you live in Slaugham Parish and:

- You are registered to vote in local council elections;

- And you are 18 years of age or over on 25th July 2019

You have to be registered to vote by Tuesday 9th July 2019 in order to vote in the Referendum. You can check if you are registered to vote by calling our Helpline on 01444 477003.

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

Ways of Voting

There are three ways of voting:

In Person – on Thursday 25th July 2019 at your local polling station.

- It is easy and a member of staff will always help if you are not sure what to do.
- The deadline for new applications to register to vote is Tuesday 9th July 2019.

If you are issued a white poll card you **may only** vote in person at the polling station, unless you apply for and are accepted for postal voting by 5pm on Wednesday 10th July 2019.

In Slaugham Parish the polling stations are:

PD	Polling Place
EC	Handcross Parish Hall, High Street, RH17 6BJ
ED	Finches Field Community Centre, Brighton Road
JC	Seaforth Hall, Cuckfield Lane, Warninglid

If you do not receive your poll card, you can contact our Helpline on 01444 477003. Polling stations are open from 7am to 10pm.

Postal Voting

- If you are issued a buff yellow coloured poll card you are currently a postal voter and **may only** vote by postal vote unless you cancel it by sending an email to: elections@midsussex.gov.uk by 5pm on Wednesday 10th July 2019. Postal votes will be delivered by Royal Mail from Friday 18th June 2019. You would only receive a buff yellow coloured poll card if you are registered to vote by post. If you do not receive your poll card, you can contact our Helpline on 01444 477003

Proxy Voting

- 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. New applications to vote by proxy need to be made by 5pm on Wednesday 17th July 2019. The deadline for applications for an emergency proxy vote need to be made by 5pm on Thursday 25th July 2019.
- 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.

Am I registered to vote?

If you are not registered, you will not be able to vote. You can check if you are registered by calling our Helpline on 01444 477003. Postal and proxy vote application forms are available from our Helpline on 01444 477003 04 by email elections@midsussex.gov.uk

Applications to register to vote or to vote by post or proxy should be made to the Electoral Registration Officer at Mid Sussex District Council, Oaklands, Oaklands Road, Haywards Heath, West Sussex, RH16 1SS by the dates shown below:

Application	Deadline for receipt
New applications to register to vote	Tuesday 9 th July 2019
New applications to vote by post or to cancel or amend an existing postal vote or proxy appointment	5pm on Wednesday 10 th July 2019
New applications to vote by proxy	5pm on Wednesday 17 th July 2019
Applications for an emergency proxy vote	5pm on Thursday 25 th July 2019

How to Find out More:

- Further general information on neighbourhood planning is available at: <https://www.midsussex.gov.uk/planning-building/neighbourhood-plans>
- You can find specific documents on the Slaugham Neighbourhood Plan at: <https://www.midsussex.gov.uk/planning-building/neighbourhood-plans/>
- For queries about neighbourhood planning please email neighbourhoodplans@midsussex.gov.uk or call 01444 477263
- For more information about voting and the arrangements for this referendum please call our Helpline on 01444 477003