

Press release

23rd May 2018

## NEW NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN GOES TO REFERENDUM IN JUNE

**Thursday June 21st** has been set as the date for a local referendum on the long awaited Neighbourhood Plan for the Parishes of Ottery St Mary and West Hill.

Work on the plan began in 2014 following a go-ahead from Ottery St Mary Town Council. Extensive consultations followed, involving a host of organisations, businesses, communities, individuals and interested parties - across what, at that time, was a single Parish. A wide range of views were expressed through questionnaires collated from workshops, public events, and exhibitions.

Several key themes emerged from this early work, forming the bedrock of plans to determine suitable policies and projects for inclusion, leading into a lengthy programme of more detailed research and discussion. During this time the West Hill Parish Council was formed, and with early draft documents showing great promise the two councils quickly agreed to work jointly to ensure the project could continue.

The resulting plan now subject to referendum proposes twenty seven specific policies covering a range of issues which were found important to residents in the two parishes. These range from restricting development in the countryside to protection for valued community facilities, local green spaces and cherished countryside views; and on to support for housing reflecting local needs and Ottery St Mary Hospital's designation for ongoing healthcare provision.

**The June 21st** referendum is the very last stage before the plan is "made." Polling stations at The Institute, Yonder Street, Ottery St Mary EX11 1HD, Escot Village Hall, Taleford, EX11 1NE, Tipton St John Community Hall, EX10 0AF, and West Hill Village Hall, EX11 1UQ will be **open between 07.00 - 22.00 on that day** for voters to indicate if they wish the Neighbourhood plan to come into effect.

Registered electors in the two parishes will receive full details of voting arrangements from East Devon District Council (EDDC), but for those unable to visit a Polling station, postal and proxy votes are available. Full details are available on the EDDC website, at

<http://eastdevon.gov.uk/elections-and-registering-to-vote/election-documents/ottery-st-mary-and-west-hill-neighbourhood-planning-referendum-21-june-2018>

The referendum outcome will be decided on a straightforward majority vote.

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A hard copy of the full Neighbourhood plan document which is the subject of this referendum can be viewed during normal office hours at the Ottery ST Mary Town Council Offices in Broad Street. It can also be viewed as a PDF at

[http://eastdevon.gov.uk/media/2472550/4540\\_neighbourhood\\_plan\\_rev6apr18-1-1.pdf](http://eastdevon.gov.uk/media/2472550/4540_neighbourhood_plan_rev6apr18-1-1.pdf)

Information provided here has been issued by the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group, a 15 strong group comprising a mix of Ottery St Mary and West Hill Parish Councillors and volunteer members of the public. All are resident within the two Parishes..

If you would like more information about the Neighbourhood plan, please contact the Ottery St Mary Town Council Office by e-mail: [admin@otterystmary-tc.gov.uk](mailto:admin@otterystmary-tc.gov.uk)