



RUSCOMBE

Parish Council



Neighbourhood Planning Team

Ruscombe Neighbourhood Plan Referendum Vote On: Thursday 7th December 2023

You will be aware that Ruscombe Parish Council has for some time been developing, on your behalf, the Ruscombe Neighbourhood Plan. Many of you will have contributed by responding to a questionnaire. Following a statutory external examination a Referendum Version of the Plan has been created. The key policy statements included with this Plan are summarised overleaf.

Anyone who is registered to vote in Ruscombe will now have the opportunity to vote on whether the neighbourhood plan will be 'made' (adopted). If 'made' the Parish Council will receive 25% of the Infrastructure Levy paid by developers, rather than 15% with no Plan.

As a reminder, a neighbourhood plan is:

- A document that sets out planning policies for the neighbourhood area. These planning policies are used to decide planning applications.
- Written by the local community, the people who know and love the area rather than the Local Planning Authority.
- A powerful tool to ensure the community gets the right types of development, in the right places.

On referendum day, you will be asked to vote 'yes' or 'no' on the following: **"Do you want Wokingham Borough Council to use the Neighbourhood Plan for Ruscombe Parish to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area?"**. A majority 'yes' vote will mean the Plan will carry weight in planning decisions.

As per referendum rules, you will be able to vote in person at a polling station (7am - 10pm), by post or by proxy. We ask that you please remember to bring a valid ID if voting in person.

You can view the full Neighbourhood Plan and related documents online at:
www.ruscombeparishcouncil.co.uk

Hard copies of the Plan will also be available to view at
The Royal Oak, Ruscombe Lane, Ruscombe, RG10 9JN and at
Twyford Library, 15 Old Mill Court, High Street, Twyford, RG10 9AF

**For questions about the referendum
please contact Wokingham Borough Council**

Summary of key policies

Development Limit For Ruscombe

Conserve the distinction between Ruscombe's built-up areas and the open countryside.

Ruscombe Housing Design Codes

Establishes principles for housing design within different areas of the Parish.

Enhancing Ruscombe's Conservation Area

Establishes the significance of the Conservation Area and its setting to which development proposals should have regard.

Buildings of Traditional Local Character

Gives additional protection to buildings and structures of importance in recognition of the contribution they make to the character of the Parish.

Employment

Supports the preservation of employment in Ruscombe's business centres.

Community Facilities

Supports the preservation of identified community facilities and encourages appropriate improvements.

Local Green Spaces

Designates local green spaces that are valued by the community to avoid their unnecessary loss.

Green Infrastructure and Biodiversity

Defines a network of assets including open spaces, woodlands, trees, ponds, footpaths, etc.

Managing Traffic

Aims to mitigate traffic volumes and speeds on Ruscombe's roads.

Car Parking

Seeks to ensure that new developments provide adequate off-street parking.

Implementation

This sets out how the plan will be used, local infrastructure improvements to allocate the infrastructure levy to and non-planning matters to be taken forward elsewhere.

**For questions about the referendum
please contact Wokingham Borough Council**
