

Faringdon Neighbourhood Plan Area Publication



The document provides a record of the various methods of engagement that will be utilised for the publication of the proposed Faringdon neighbourhood plan area. This document conforms to the Town and Country Planning, England – The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012. Part 2 Regulation 6.

Introduction

1. The publication of the proposed Faringdon Neighbourhood Plan Area and related neighbourhood planning body is a formal process. Faringdon is in the unique position that it has achieved 'front runner' status in partnership with the Vale of White Horse District Council. 'Front runner' status means that the town council is one of approximately 200 in the country that will be pioneering the neighbourhood planning approach.
2. The main aim of this publication is to
 - Provide notification of the proposed area for neighbourhood planning
 - Provide notification of the proposed neighbourhood planning body
 - Provide an opportunity for stakeholders to comment on the proposed area before the area is designated.
3. Neighbourhood planning is a new tool in a range of different options which are aimed at empowering local communities. The approach helps local communities to take a more proactive role in planning for their local areas. Our district has parishes, so neighbourhood plans can only be made by either or town or a parish councils. Where the area does not have parishes neighbourhood plans can be brought forward through neighbourhood forums.
4. Neighbourhood plans have to be in general conformity with the local development plan for an area. With a neighbourhood plan a local community can do the following:
 - Choose where they want new homes, shops and offices to be built
 - Have their say on what those new buildings should look like
 - Grant planning permission for the new buildings they want to see go ahead.

Previous consultation

5. This issue has not been the subject of any previous consultation.

Current publication and timescale

6. In order to meet the regulatory requirements¹ we have identified a six week publication period. There has already been some publicity regarding the ‘front runner’ status. This publication period should be able to use the momentum that has already been generated from this. The publication will be targeted at Faringdon area and any adjacent parishes, which may be impacted by the potential designation of a neighbourhood plan area within this location. This publication period avoids the major holiday periods. Where possible we will try to accommodate any late responses received, within a reasonable time period. We will work with Faringdon Town Council in helping to ensure that the proposals are publicised in the best and most cost effective way possible.
7. The potential publication period we have identified runs from **19 April to 31 May 2012**. A breakdown of the overall timescale is as follows:

Items	Dates (2012)
Scrutiny call-in period	4 – 12 April (takes into account Good Friday and Bank Holiday Monday)
Press adverts submitted	13 April
Formal consultation period (6 weeks)	19 April – 31 May
Processing of responses and revisions arising	2 weeks depending on responses
Report back to Cabinet	TBC (3 August)
Formal designation	TBC

8. The following table highlights the various consultation methods that will be used. The shaded boxes denote regulatory minimum requirements of the publication. The boxes without shading identify methods over and above the minimum requirements, which we will use. We have used our Statement of Community Involvement (SCI)² as a rough starting point for appropriate methods of involvement. The SCI is in need of updating, but we have assessed these areas in a similar fashion to that of a development plan document process.

¹ Town and Country Planning, England – The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 – Regulation 6

² Statement of Community Involvement – The Vale of White Horse District Council, December 2009

Principal methods of consultation

9. The table provides further information on the methods of consultation that we will look to use for publication of the proposed neighbourhood plan area. The table provides further information on the main aims that we want to achieve with each identified consultation activity. We have provided specific dates for some events, but also date ranges for some activities, where appropriate.

Proposed method of consultation	Description and Aim	Date
Hard copies of publication material available in the district council offices	To provide an opportunity for local communities to access hard copy versions of the proposed publication area and neighbourhood planning organisation publication material.	18-19.04.12
Hard copies of publication material available in Faringdon library	To provide improved access to local community representatives trying to access publication material associated with Faringdon Neighbourhood Plan publication process.	18-19.04.12
Correspondence sent out to targeted stakeholders from the planning policy consultation database	To improve the notification process associated with the Faringdon Neighbourhood Plan Area publication process. The stakeholders that will be targeted are all statutory stakeholders, all planning agents and landowners and all those with a Faringdon reference within their address details	18-19.04.12
Press notice released to local newspapers	To help widen the notification process and pick up local community representatives unaware of the neighbourhood plan process. Papers to target will be Oxford Times and Oxford Mail.	Press adverts submitted 13.04.12 running w/c 16.04.12
Information held on the council's website	To provide a quick and easy method of obtaining publication data. We have also taken the opportunity of setting up a general neighbourhood planning section to again increase the ease of which information can be accessed from the web.	19.04.12
Press releases to local	To help widen the notification process and pick up local community representatives	w/c 16.04.12

newspapers and local newsletters	unaware of the neighbourhood plan process. Papers to target Faringdon Folly, Swindon Advertiser, What's on Faringdon	
Information on other local community websites	To improve online publicity of the publication event at a local level. Websites targeted will be Faringdon Town Council's website and Faringdon Community Website	w/c 16/04/12
Public notice/posters (town council notice boards)	To improve the visibility of the publication process, using local sources.	w/c 16.04.12
Information sent to adjacent councils	To ensure that neighbouring parishes are aware of the publication process, we will send letters/e-mails along with relevant information to adjacent councils to ensure that they are aware of the Faringdon Neighbourhood Plan Area publication process.	18-19.04.12