

Burnley Borough Council

Worsthorne with Hurstwood Neighbourhood Development Plan Referendum Information Statement - September 2025

1. The Referendum

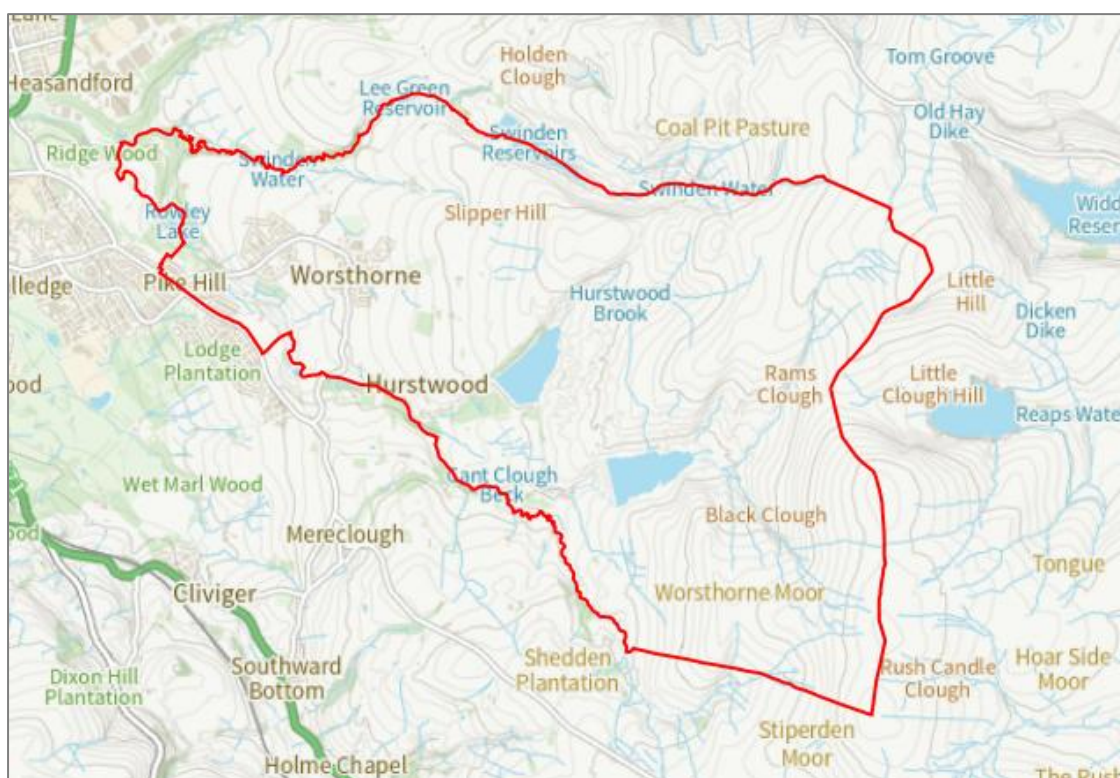
1.1 The referendum on the Worsthorne with Hurstwood Neighbourhood Development Plan will be held on Tuesday 4 November 2025.

1.2 The question to be asked in the referendum is:

Do you want Burnley Borough Council to use the neighbourhood plan for Worsthorne with Hurstwood to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area?

1.3 The referendum area (see below) is the same as:

- The neighbourhood area, which was designated by Burnley Council on 31 March 2017; and
- The parish of Worsthorne with Hurstwood.



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- 1.4 The ballot paper for the referendum will ask you to vote “Yes” or No”.
- 1.5 You should vote by putting a cross (X) in either the “Yes” box, or the “No” box on your ballot paper. Your vote will not be counted if you put a cross in more than one box.
- 1.6 If more people vote “**YES**” in the referendum:
- The Worsthorne with Hurstwood Neighbourhood Development Plan will become part of the Development Plan for the borough.
 - Burnley Council will use the Worsthorne with Hurstwood Neighbourhood Development Plan to help determine applications for planning permission within the neighbourhood area.
- 1.7 If more people vote “**NO**” in the referendum:
- The Worsthorne with Hurstwood Neighbourhood Development Plan will not become part of the Development Plan for the borough.
 - Burnley Council will not use the Worsthorne with Hurstwood Neighbourhood Development Plan to help determine applications for planning permission within the neighbourhood area.

2. Frequently Asked Questions

Q. What is the Worsthorne with Hurstwood Neighbourhood Development Plan?

- 2.1 Neighbourhood planning provides local communities with the opportunity to further influence development in their area through the preparation of a Neighbourhood Plan.
- 2.2 Worsthorne with Hurstwood Parish Council has prepared a Neighbourhood Plan for the parish of Worsthorne with Hurstwood. The Neighbourhood Plan sets out policies about the type of development that will be supported and how development might look.
- 2.3 The Neighbourhood Plan will become part of the statutory ‘Development Plan’ for Burnley if a positive referendum result is returned.

Q. What is the Development Plan?

- 2.4 The Development Plan is a document or set of documents that set out the policies and proposals for the development and use of land within a particular area. In England the Development Plan is used by the local planning authority to help determine applications for planning permission.

Q. Who can vote?

- 2.5 You can vote in the referendum if:
- you are 18 years of age or over on 4 November 2025;
 - you live in the parish of Worsthorne with Hurstwood; and
 - you are registered to vote in local government elections.

2.6 If you are not registered to vote, you won't be able to vote in the referendum. You can register to vote online at www.gov.uk/register-to-vote

2.7 If you don't have access to the internet please contact Electoral Services on 01282 4477261/477263 to register.

2.8 You must register by 17th October 2025 to be eligible to vote in the referendum on the Worsthorne with Hurstwood Neighbourhood Development Plan.

Q. How can I vote?

There are three ways of voting:

A. In Person

- On Tuesday 4 November 2025 at your local polling station(s):

Pike Hill Library, Langwyth Road. Worsthorne, Burnley BB10 3JX

Worsthorne Primary School, Brownsie Road, Worsthorne, Burnley BB10 3LR

- You will receive a poll card confirming your polling station for this referendum
- The polling stations are open from 7:00am to 10:00pm
- If you do not receive your ballot paper by 10:00pm you won't be able to vote.

B. By Post

- If you are already registered to vote by post, you will receive a poll card confirming this.
- If you are not registered to vote by post, you will need to complete an application form.
- Applications for a postal vote can be made online: www.gov.uk/apply-postal-vote or you can request an application form by contacting Electoral Services, using the details below:
 - Telephone: 01282 477261/477263
 - Email: democracy@burnley.gov.uk
 - Post: Electoral Services, Town Hall, Manchester Road, Burnley, Lancashire, BB11 9SA
- Your completed application form must be received by Electoral Services no later than 5:00pm on 20th October 2025.
- You should receive your postal vote approximately 10 days before polling day. If it doesn't arrive in time you can request a replacement up to 5:00pm on 4 November 2025 by phoning Electoral Services using the telephone number above.

C. By Proxy

- If you already have a proxy vote, you will receive a poll card confirming this.

- If you are unable to attend the polling station on polling day, it may be possible to allow somebody that you trust to vote on your behalf. This person is called a “proxy” and you must tell them how you intend to vote.
- You can only apply for a proxy vote under specific circumstances, including:
 - being away on polling day (e.g. holiday or educational course);
 - having a medical issue or disability; or
 - not being able to vote in person because of work or military service
- When you apply to vote by proxy you must say why you are unable to vote in person.
- Applications for a proxy vote can be made online: www.gov.uk/apply-proxy-vote or you can request an application form by contacting Electoral Services, using the details below:
 - Telephone: 01282 477261/477263
 - Email: democracy@burnley.gov.uk
 - Post: Electoral Services, Town Hall, Manchester Road, Burnley, Lancashire, BB11 9SA
- Your completed application form must be received by Electoral Services no later than 5:00pm on 27th October 2025

3. Referendum expenses

3.1 As part of the referendum process, individuals or bodies may choose to campaign for either a ‘Yes’ or a ‘No’ vote.

3.2 Section 6 of the Neighbourhood Planning (Referendums) Regulations 2012 specifies a limit on the amount that can be spent on campaigning for the referendum. This limit is set out below:

- The referendum expenses limit that will apply to this referendum is £2497.17 which is based on the calculation £2,362 plus 5.9p for each entry in the relevant register of electors.
- The number of persons entitled to vote in the referendum, by reference to which this limit has been calculated, is 2291.

3.3 The Referendum will be conducted in accordance with procedures which are similar to those used at local government elections.

3.4 For further information about the referendum and how to vote, please contact Electoral Services at Burnley Council:

- Email: democracy@burnley.gov.uk
- Telephone: 01282 477261/477263

4. Specified documents

4.1 The documents listed below are available to view ahead of the referendum:

- The Worsthorne with Hurstwood Neighbourhood Development Plan.
- The report of the Independent Examiner.
- A summary of the representations submitted to the Independent Examiner.
- A statement by the local planning authority (Burnley Council) stating that the draft plan is considered to meet the basic conditions and relevant legislation (the “Decision Statement”).
- This statement, providing general information about neighbourhood planning and the public referendum (the “Information Statement”).

4.2 These documents can be inspected at the following venues during their normal opening hours:

- The Council’s Contact Burnley Offices;
- Pike Hill Library

4.3 You can also view or download copies of these documents on the Burnley Council website at: <https://burnley.gov.uk/planning/planning-policies/neighbourhood-planning/neighbourhood-planning-worsthorne-hurstwood-neighbourhood-plan/>

5. Further Information

5.1 Further information on neighbourhood planning in Burnley can be found on the Burnley Council website at <https://burnley.gov.uk/planning/planning-policies/neighbourhood-planning/> or by contacting the Planning Policy team:

- Email: localplan@burnley.gov.uk