

WHAT IS A NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN?

A neighbourhood plan puts in place planning policy for an area to guide future development. The plan is about the use and development of land – it can contain a vision, aims, planning policies and proposals for improving the area.

Many areas across the country and over 20 in Westminster (e.g. Soho, Belgravia, Bayswater) have made or are developing Plans.

WHAT IS THE PROCESS?

Under the Localism Act 2011, the Forum was set up to produce a Pimlico Neighbourhood Plan for an area defined by Westminster City Council. This doesn't include the Churchill Gardens Estate, which has its own Neighbourhood Forum.

The Referendum is the final stage of over six years work. This work has been led by the volunteers in the **Pimlico Neighbourhood Forum** Steering Group with the help of a consultant and working closely with residents associations, local businesses and others.

The Plan has been through an extensive process of consultations, revisions and independent examination:

2016 – First round of consultation with resident groups.

Early 2017 – 'Vision for Pimlico' agreed.

November 2017 – Exhibition following a wider consultation of residents and other stakeholders on how to fulfil the vision.

July 2019 – Draft Plan published and consultation with a wide range of local and other interests.

Summer 2021 – Formal consultation on the revised Plan carried out by Westminster Council.

October 2021 to July 2022 – Revised Plan sent to an Independent Examiner appointed by the Council. Further amendments were made during this process.

August 2022 – Final version of the Plan (80 pages) published.

WHAT'S IN THE PIMLICO NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN?

The Plan sets out a positive vision for how our area should develop:

- Continue to maintain the quiet village atmosphere and its largely residential nature
- Improve the quality of life of current and future residents by bringing about a more vibrant retail and commercial sector and enhancing leisure and cultural facilities
- Development that respects and enhances the form and setting of the conservation areas
- Protecting the squares and green spaces and where possible add more of them
- Improve the local environmental quality by continuing to limit and if possible reduce the harmful effects of traffic

The Plan has 23 sets of policies, including:

- Design in the Neighbourhood and all its Conservation Areas, e.g:
 - building heights, historic townscape and views
 - unlisted buildings and structures of merit
 - shopfronts and signage (including hotels)
- Housing: conversions and extensions, new housing
- Supporting and enhancing our retail areas
- Protecting and improving our public realm, and our green and open spaces
- Renewable energy and air quality
- Major developments

Areas with neighbourhood plans hold on to a bigger share (up from 15% to 25%) of their CIL money.

CIL is a Council charge on new developments. It is used for infrastructure, eg. open spaces, schools, trees, local facilities, traffic and safety measures, etc.

LOCAL REFERENDUM

22 September 2022 (7am to 10pm)

The question will be a yes/no answer to:

'Do you want Westminster City Council to use the Neighbourhood Plan for Pimlico to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area?'

WHO CAN VOTE AND WHERE?

To vote, a person must be:

- registered to vote in the Pimlico Neighbourhood Plan area.
- at least 18 years old on the day of the referendum.

There are three polling stations depending on where you live: St Gabriels Church (Warwick Square), Lillington Gardens Estate and St Saviour's (St George's Square).

Postal and Proxy votes are also available.

FIND OUT MORE

Neighbourhood plans in general:

www.westminster.gov.uk/planning-building-and-environmental-regulations/planning-policy/neighbourhood-areas-forums-and-plans/about-neighbourhood-planning

The Pimlico Neighbourhood Plan:

www.pimlicoforum.org/referendum

