

# Skillington

# Neighbourhood Plan

# Referendum

# Information for

# Voters

## About this booklet

There will be a referendum on a neighbourhood plan for your area. It is to be held on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2017. In this booklet you can find out about:

- The referendum and how you can take part
- The neighbourhood area
- The neighbourhood plan
- The development plan (of which neighbourhood plans are a part)

## Referendum on the Neighbourhood Plan

A referendum asks you to vote yes or no to a question. For this referendum you will receive a ballot paper with this question:

**“Do you want South Kesteven District Council to use the Neighbourhood Plan for Skillington to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area?”**

## **How do I vote in the referendum?**

You show your choice by putting a cross (X) in the 'Yes' or 'No' box on your ballot paper. Put a cross in only **one** box or your vote will not be counted.

If more people vote 'yes' than 'no' in this referendum, then South Kesteven District Council will use the Neighbourhood Plan to help it decide planning applications in the Skillington Parish area.

### **The Neighbourhood Plan will then become part of the adopted South Kesteven District Council Local Plan.**

If more people vote 'no' than 'yes', then planning applications will be decided without using the Neighbourhood Plan as part of the Development Plan for the local area.

## **What is Neighbourhood Planning?**

Neighbourhood planning aims to help local communities play a direct role in planning the areas in which they live and work.

A community can prepare a neighbourhood plan. This plan can show how the community wants land to be used and developed in its area.

## **What is a neighbourhood area?**

A neighbourhood area can cover single streets or large urban or rural areas.

The boundaries of a neighbourhood area are put forward by:

- Town or parish councils
- A neighbourhood forum (a group of at least 21 people in areas without town or parish councils)

## **Who can prepare a Neighbourhood Plan?**

Neighbourhood plans are prepared by town or parish councils, or neighbourhood forums.

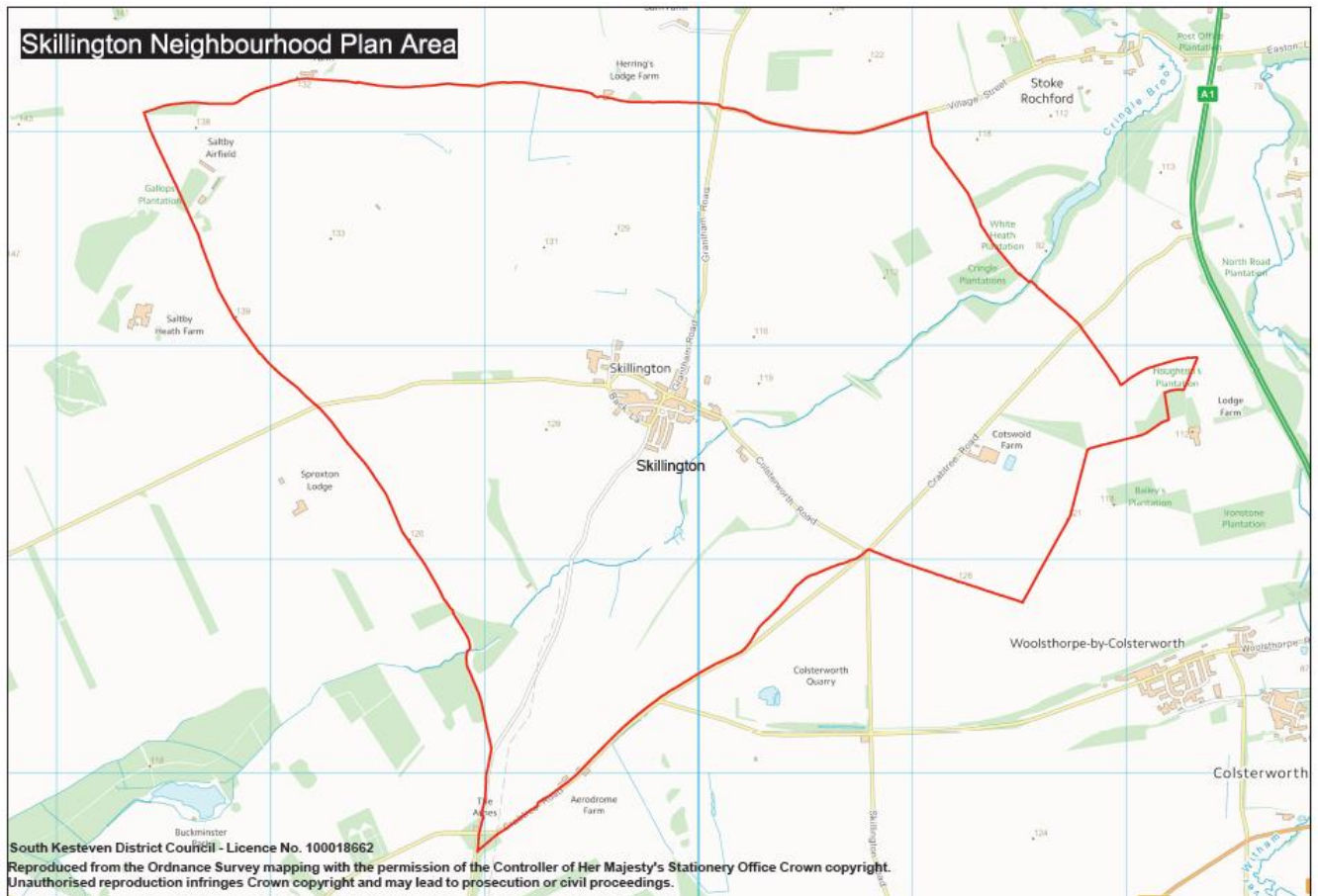
## **What is a Development Plan?**

In England, planning applications are determined by local planning authorities in accordance with the development plan.

A development plan is a set of documents that set out the policies for the development and use of land across the entire local authority area.

## Neighbourhood Planning in the Parish of Skillington

The Referendum area is identified on the map below as the parish area of Skillington Parish and is identical to the area which has been designated as the Skillington Plan area.



## Referendum expenses

The Referendum expenses limit that will apply in relation to the Referendum is £2,378.17. The number of persons entitled to vote in the Referendum by reference to which that limit has been calculated is 274.

## Specified documents

A copy of the specified documents, that is the documents listed below, may be viewed on the neighbourhood planning page of the council's website at

[www.southkesteven.gov.uk/skillingtonplan](http://www.southkesteven.gov.uk/skillingtonplan)

Paper copies of the specified documents are also available to view at:

Customer Service Centre  
South Kesteven Council Offices,  
St Peter's Hill,  
Grantham,  
NG31 6PZ

During normal office hours (Mon, Tues, Thurs 8.45-17.15, Wed 8.45-16.00, Fri 8.45-16.45)

### **The specified documents are:**

- The Skillington Neighbourhood Development Plan;
- Report of the independent examiner;
- Summary of the representations submitted to the independent examiner;
- Statement by the local planning authority that the draft plan meets the basic conditions and complies with the relevant legislation;
- This information statement
- A statement that sets out general information about town and country planning including neighbourhood planning and the referendum.

### **Can I vote?**

You can vote in the referendum if you live in the parish of Skillington and:

- You are registered to vote in local council elections, and
- You are 18 years of age or over on 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2017

You have to be registered to vote by midnight on **Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> July 2017** to vote in the referendum. You can check if you are registered to vote by calling **01476 406080**.

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

### **Ways of voting**

There are three ways of voting:

**In person on:** 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2017

Most people vote in person at their local polling station. It is easy and a member of staff will always help if you are not sure what to do.

- In the Skillington Parish area the polling station is:  
**The Methodist Chapel, Skillington, NG33 5HB**

You will receive a poll card to advise you about the polling station.

- If you do not receive your poll card, you can contact Electoral Services on **01476 406080**. You can vote without your poll card as long as you are registered.
- Polling stations are open from 7am to 10pm.
- If you are not in the queue at the polling station by 10pm you won't be able to vote, so make sure you arrive in plenty of time.

#### **By post:**

- To vote by post, fill in an application form and send it to Electoral Services, **South Kesteven District Council, Council Offices, St. Peter's Hill, Grantham, Lincs NG31 6PZ** to arrive by **5pm on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> July 2017**.
- Ballot papers can be sent overseas, but you need to think about whether you will have time to receive and return your ballot papers by 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2017.
- You should receive your postal vote one to two weeks before polling day. If it doesn't arrive in time, you can get a replacement up to 5pm on 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2017.

#### **By proxy:**

- If you can't go to the polling station and don't wish to vote by post, you may be able to vote by proxy. This means allowing somebody you trust to vote on your behalf.
- To vote by proxy, fill in an application form and send it to **Electoral Services, South Kesteven District Council, Council Offices, St. Peter's Hill, Grantham, Lincs NG31 6PZ** to arrive by **5pm on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> July 2017**.
- When you apply for a proxy vote you must say why you cannot vote in person.
- Anyone can be your proxy as long as they are eligible and registered to vote and are willing to vote on your behalf. You will have to tell them how you want to vote.

Postal and proxy vote application forms are available from Electoral Services on **01476 406080** or for downloading at:  
[www.yourvotematters.co.uk/](http://www.yourvotematters.co.uk/)

## **Am I registered to vote?**

- If you're not registered, you won't be able to vote.
- If you are not sure if you are registered, you can contact the elections team on 01476 406080.
- If you are not on the electoral register, you can register online at [www.gov.uk/register-to-vote](http://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote) by **18th July 2017**. Alternatively you can complete a voter registration form and send it to **Electoral Services, South Kesteven District Council, Council Offices, St. Peter's Hill, Grantham, Lincs NG31 6PZ** to arrive no later than **Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> July 2017**.

Registration forms are available from Electoral Services on 01476 406080 or applications can be submitted online at: [www.gov.uk/register-to-vote](http://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote)

## **How to find out more**

- Further general information on neighbourhood planning is available on the following websites <https://www.gov.uk/neighbourhood-planning>
- You can find the specified documents and a copy of this information statement and the decision statement, on the council's website at: [www.southkesteven.gov.uk/skillingtonplan](http://www.southkesteven.gov.uk/skillingtonplan)
- Information about the Skillington Plan is also available on the Skillington Neighbourhood Plan website at: <http://www.skillingtonlife.co.uk/nhp.html>
- For queries relating to the neighbourhood plan please contact the Planning Policy team on 01476 40 60 80 or by email: [planningpolicy@southkesteven.gov.uk](mailto:planningpolicy@southkesteven.gov.uk)