

Tiverton Neighbourhood Plan

BULLETIN - OCTOBER 2022



[The text below is from the Flyer to be sent to addresses in the parish by Royal Mail in early November]

17 November is Tiverton's Referendum Day!

This is the day when all registered voters in Tiverton Parish will be able to respond to the question ...

“Do you want Mid Devon District Council to use the Neighbourhood Plan for Tiverton to help it decide planning applications in the Neighbourhood Area?”

Poll cards have been distributed.

What is the Tiverton Neighbourhood Plan?

- It is a **planning policy** document that has been developed by a group of volunteers who live in Tiverton.
- It has taken nearly ten years to develop, after a couple of false starts, and has cost at least £40,000, funded by Tiverton Town Council and Government grants.
- There have been public meetings, three rounds of public consultation and an Examination by a planning inspector.
- Once adopted the Plan's Policies must be taken into account when the District Council and the Town Council consider planning applications.
- The Plan becomes part of the statutory **Development Plan for Tiverton**, alongside the Local Plan.

What is in the Plan?

There are **18** policies that cover:

- HOUSING - including criteria for sustainable developments and affordable housing, of which there is a severe shortage in Tiverton - **no housing allocations are added to the Local Plan.**
- CURRENT PROPOSED DEVELOPMENTS - the Plan does **not** support any current proposed developments.
- DESIGN CRITERIA - produced by consultants covering features that should be taken into account in all developments.

- HERITAGE - additional protections for the town's heritage assets and identification of buildings at risk.
- ENVIRONMENT - covering the statutory protection of 30 green spaces in the parish, and the protection of biodiversity and habitats.
- TRANSPORT - the promotion of sustainable transport.
- COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND BUSINESS - covering sports and leisure provision, protection of cultural and community venues, and allotments.

What else is included?

There are **21 Non-Policy Community Actions** proposed covering: Housing Needs, Design and Heritage, Natural Environment, Community Facilities, Transport and Movement (proposals for new and extended walking and cycling routes), and Tourism.

How have the people of Tiverton been engaged?

During the 2014 attempt there were public meetings and several working group meetings attended by scores of people. About 100 ideas were recorded, some of which have been incorporated in the current Plan.

The current effort started in 2018. There were well attended public meetings in late 2018 and in 2019. Focus Groups were formed covering the Plan's topic areas. These groups worked throughout 2019 and 2020 - notwithstanding the pandemic. A consultant was funded by Tiverton Town Council and Government grants. Consultants also produced the **Design Guide** and **Housing Needs Assessment**.

An Informal Public Consultation took place in early 2021. There were then two rounds of Statutory Public Consultation (Regulation 14 and 16) in mid-2021 and early 2022. There was some really good feedback in all cases.

Throughout, regular press notices have been published in the *Tiverton Gazette* and on *Devon Live*. Additionally regular Bulletins have been sent to the scores of people on the Team's Contact Database.

What did the Examiner say?

Ms Deborah McCann - commented, "I would like to congratulate the Neighbourhood Plan Group for all the hard work that went into producing a very thorough and comprehensive Neighbourhood Plan".

Following this successful result Mid Devon District Council recommended that The Plan proceed to the final step - the **Referendum**.

Where can I find more information?

There is copious information on the Tiverton Neighbourhood Plan web site ...

<https://www.tivertonneighbourhoodplan.org.uk/>

Specifically, the latest documents, including the full plan (about 170 pages) and a **Summary Pamphlet** (12 pages) are in the **Documents** section ...

<https://www.tivertonneighbourhoodplan.org.uk/documents/>

Look in ***TNP Examination and Referendum Documents*** and ***TNP Regulation 16 Supporting Documents***, especially ...

<https://www.tivertonneighbourhoodplan.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/TNP-Summary-Pamphlet-v12.pdf>

It has taken a long time to get here!

This Plan has been in gestation for a very long time. The first serious attempt was in 2014. The Town Council made subsequent attempts to restart it, but it was only when volunteers appeared in 2018 that things really got going.

The resulting Plan has been produced by people of Tiverton for the people of Tiverton.

Please spread the word about the Referendum on 17 Nov 2022 to all your contacts.