



**Rutland**  
County Council

# **Edith Weston Neighbourhood Development Plan**

**Voting Information for  
Referendum on**

**20<sup>th</sup> February 2025**

## Introduction

A referendum will be held in Edith Weston on 20<sup>th</sup> February 2025 asking eligible voters whether the Edith Weston Neighbourhood Development Plan should be used by Rutland County Council to decide planning applications.

Rutland County Council is required to produce “a statement that sets out general information as to town and country planning (including neighbourhood planning) and the referendum”. This document has been produced to meet this requirement.

This document provides:

- Information about the planning system
- Information about the referendum
- Information stating where more details relating to the Edith Weston Neighbourhood Development Plan can be found.

## Information about the planning system

As is made clear in legislation, most development requires consent, known as planning permission, to go ahead. This is usually done by submitting a planning application to a local planning authority, which decides whether to approve or refuse a planning application. Local planning authorities use planning policies, whether they are produced at a national, local or neighbourhood level, to make such decisions.

Rutland County Council is the local planning authority for Edith Weston and decides planning applications in this area.

### National Policy

National planning policy is contained in the National Planning Policy Framework, commonly referred to as the NPPF, as well as other related documents. The NPPF sets out policy on a range of different topic areas to aid in the determination of planning applications and ensure that development contributes to the achievement of sustainable development.

The NPPF sets out policy to local planning authorities regarding the production of Local Plans and makes clear that local policies should be consistent with the NPPF. It also contains relevant policy and advice to local communities that undertake neighbourhood planning.

### Local Policy

Local planning authorities produce Local Plans to introduce policies to guide development within their area. For Rutland, the Statutory Development Plan currently comprises the Core Strategy (adopted in July 2011), the Site Allocations and Policies Development Plan Document (adopted in October 2014), and the Minerals Core Strategy and Development Control Policies (adopted in October 2010). The Council is now preparing a comprehensive Local Plan Review for the County, which will replace all three Development Plan Documents.

### Neighbourhood Planning

The Localism Act and subsequent Neighbourhood Planning Regulations allow communities to guide and shape development in their locality by undertaking neighbourhood planning. The most common neighbourhood planning tool is the neighbourhood development plan, usually known as a neighbourhood plan. A neighbourhood plan contains specific policies relating to land use and development within a particular area, usually a parish, which has

been designated as a neighbourhood area. Edith Weston has been designated as a neighbourhood area. This is shown on the Council's website link below.

<https://www.rutland.gov.uk/planning-building-control/local-plan/neighbourhood-plans>

A neighbourhood plan follows a statutory process that ensures that members of the local community, as well as relevant organisations, have the opportunity to influence the development of the plan. The plan is then subject to an Examination whereby an Independent Examiner reviews the neighbourhood plan and associated material against statutory requirements known as basic conditions and then writes a report (which may include modifications) recommending whether it should proceed to a referendum.

The local planning authority then decides whether to accept the Examiner's recommendations and whether to put the neighbourhood plan to a referendum.

Edith Weston Parish Council have prepared a Neighbourhood Development Plan that has been through the relevant statutory processes and subject to an Examination by an Independent Examiner and, with modifications, has been recommended to proceed to referendum. Rutland County Council have published a Decision Statement that accepts the Examiner's recommended modifications and agrees the neighbourhood plan can proceed to referendum.

## Information about the referendum

The referendum will be conducted based on procedures which are similar to those used at local government elections. The referendum asks eligible voters the following question:

**‘Do you want Rutland County Council to use the neighbourhood plan for the Parish of Edith Weston to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area?’**

Voters will be asked to mark a cross (X) in either the ‘Yes’ or ‘No’ box on a ballot paper to indicate their preference. Should more than half of those voting at the referendum vote in favour of the neighbourhood plan, then Rutland County Council will ensure the neighbourhood plan is ‘made’ at the earliest opportunity and use it to determine planning applications.

### Voter Eligibility

Edith Weston Parish is in the neighbourhood area and the referendum area and have been mapped on page 3 of this document. You can vote in the referendum if you live in the Parish of Edith Weston and:

- you are registered to vote in local council elections; and
- you are 18 years of age or over on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2025

You must have registered to vote by 4<sup>th</sup> February 2025 to vote in the referendum. You can check if you are registered to vote by calling on 01572 720954.

### Ways of Voting

There are three ways of voting. This can be done:

In person on 20<sup>th</sup> February 2025:

- At your polling station it is easy, and a member of staff will always help if you are not sure what to do.

The polling station address is:

- Edith Weston Village Hall, Rectory Lane, Edith Weston, Rutland LE15 8HE

You will receive a poll card confirming your polling station for this referendum.

- The polling station is open from 7am to 10pm.

By post:

- If you have a postal vote already, you will receive a poll card confirming this.
- To vote by post, you will need to complete an application form and send it to the:
  - Electoral Registration Officer to arrive by 5pm on 5<sup>th</sup> February 2025.
- If your postal vote has not arrived by Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2025, you can request a replacement by:
  - Contacting the Elections Office on 01572 720954