

Somerby Neighbourhood Plan Referendum Information Statement

A Referendum relating to the adoption of the Somerby Neighbourhood Plan will be held on **Thursday, 6th May, 2021.**

The question which will be asked in the Referendum is:

“Do you want Melton Borough Council to use the Neighbourhood Plan for Somerby to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area?”

The Referendum area is identified on the map below. The Referendum area is identical to the area which has been designated as the Somerby Neighbourhood Plan area.

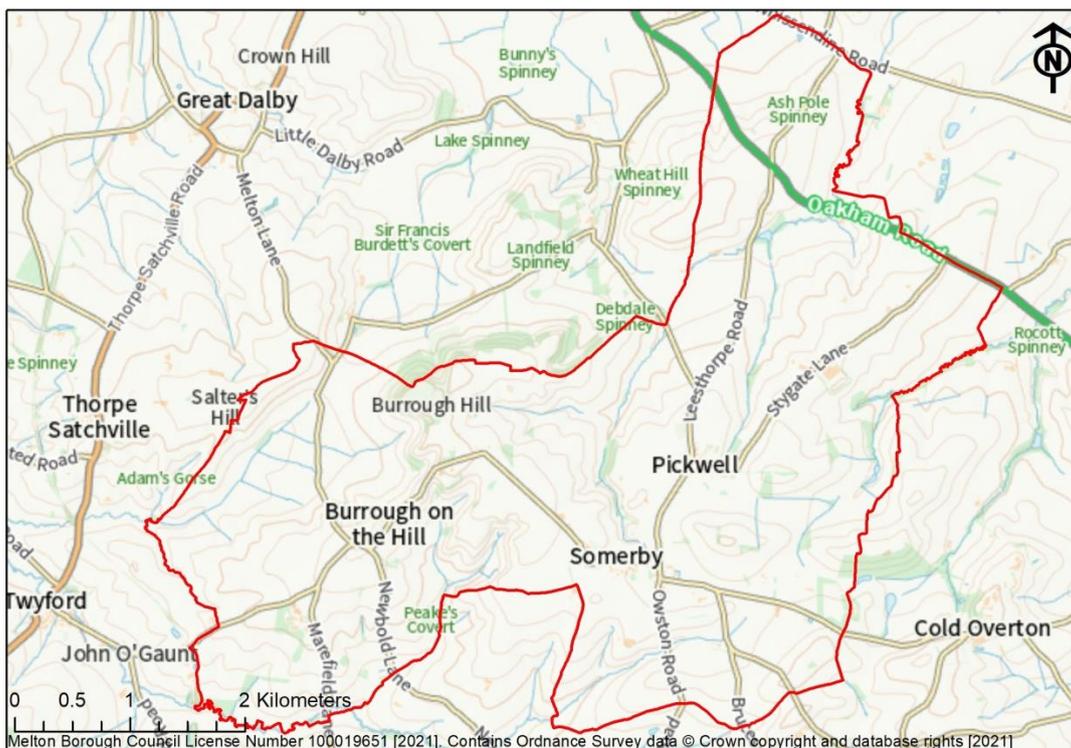


Figure 1 Somerby Neighbourhood Plan area

A person is entitled to vote in the Referendum if on 6th May 2021:

- he or she is entitled to vote in a local government election in the Referendum area; and
- his or her qualifying address for the election is in the Referendum area. A person's qualifying address is, in relation to a person registered in the Register of Electors, the address in respect of which he or she is entitled to be registered.

The Referendum expenses limit that will apply in relation to the Referendum is £2,780.90 and the number of persons entitled to vote in the Referendum by reference to which that limit has been calculated is 710. Polling Stations will be open from 7am till 10pm and normal election rules will be observed.

Voters may vote by post or proxy as well as at a polling station.

Vote by post

Applications to vote by post can be requested by emailing electionservices@melton.gov.uk or calling 01664 502502 or download and print a form from our website at http://www.melton.gov.uk/downloads/file/4604/postal_vote_application_form.

Completed applications must reach us **before 5pm on Tuesday 20 April 2021**. Applications require your date of birth and signature (not an electronic signature). You have the option to choose how long you want your postal vote for. Postal votes can be cancelled up to 11 days before the poll if you decide you want to vote at a polling station.

Completed application forms can be emailed to electionservices@melton.gov.uk or posted to Electoral Services, Melton Borough Council, Parkside, Station Approach, Burton Street, Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire, LE13 1GH.

Voting by proxy

If you are not able to cast your vote in person, you can ask someone you trust to vote for you. The person casting your vote is referred as your proxy.

To apply for a proxy vote, you have to complete a form and give a reason why you cannot get to your polling station in person. Completed applications must reach us **before 5pm on Tuesday 27 April 2021**. Applications can be requested by emailing electionservices@melton.gov.uk or calling 01664 502502 or download and print a form from our website at http://www.melton.gov.uk/downloads/file/4863/proxy_vote_application_form. Your proxy must be a registered elector.

Completed application forms can be emailed to electionservices@melton.gov.uk or posted to Electoral Services, Melton Borough Council, Parkside, Station Approach, Burton Street, Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire, LE13 1GH.

The finished Plan must be accepted by a majority vote for the area before it can be adopted, if more than 50% of electors voting in the referendum support the Neighbourhood Plan it will be adopted.

A copy of the specified documents, that are those listed below, may be accessed on the Council's website using the following link:

<https://www.meltonplan.co.uk/somerby>.

Due to the current COVID-19 crisis our Parkside offices are closed except for urgent contact. If a person is unable to access to this online material, please arrange an appointment with customer services at contactus@melton.gov.uk or 01664 502502 to collect¹ printed material. We will need to know the specific sections that need printing as unnecessary use of paper is discouraged. Please allow us a minimum of two days to have the material ready for you.

The specified documents are:

- The Somerby Neighbourhood Development Plan;
- Report of the independent examiner;
- Documents Submitted with the Neighbourhood Plan
- Statement by the local planning authority that the draft plan meets the basic conditions and complies with relevant legislation;
- This information statement;
- Further general information about town and country planning and the referendum may be accessed on the Council's website using the following link - <https://www.meltonplan.co.uk/neighbourhood-plans>

¹ The Council's doors are currently locked, and we are only seeing emergency/urgent appointments. People working in reception will hand the documents out as these cannot be inspected in the offices.