

Hartest Neighbourhood Plan

Referendum Information Statement



A local referendum on the Hartest Neighbourhood Plan will be held on Thursday 7 May 2026

The Hartest Neighbourhood Plan 2024 - 2037 contains planning policies for the use and development of land within the designated area (the parish). There is a statutory process which must be followed before this Plan can be 'made' (adopted). This involves holding a referendum which will be conducted in accordance with procedures similar to those used at local government elections. Those entitled to vote will be asked the following question:

'Do you want Babergh District Council to use the Neighbourhood Plan for Hartest to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area?'

If more than 50% vote 'yes', then Babergh District Council will be legally obliged to 'make' (adopt) this neighbourhood plan as part of its development plan.

A person is entitled to vote in this referendum if:

- He or She is entitled to vote in a local government election in the referendum area; *and*
- He or She has an address at which they are registered to vote within the referendum area and are over the age of 18 years on the date of poll.

The referendum area is identical to that designated as the Neighbourhood Plan Area. It follows the parish boundary. A map of this can be found within the referendum version Plan (see link further below).

Those individuals or groups who register as a campaigner during the referendum period will be subject to an expenses limit which is calculated to be £2,385.18

The number of persons entitled to vote in this referendum by reference to which that limit has been calculated is 393 (*figure correct at time of publication*).

The specified documents (listed below) can be viewed by selecting the appropriate links or by going to: <https://www.babergh.gov.uk/HartestNP>

- A Statement setting out general information relating to this referendum (this document)
- The referendum version of the [Hartest Neighbourhood Plan 2024 - 2037](#)
- The [Independent Examiner's Report](#) on the submission draft version of this Plan
- The [Written Representations](#) on the submission draft plan (includes the Parish Councils response). See also the [Examination Procedures Note](#) which provide general information
- A [Decision Statement](#) (published on 26 January 2026) which confirms that, subject to modification, the submission draft Plan met the basic conditions and other legislative requirements, and that it could proceed to referendum.

Printed copies of the referendum version Hartest Neighbourhood Plan have been deposited at Hartest All Saints Church, from where they can be borrowed for a short period. Please remember to return it when you have finished.

The Counting Officer, Babergh District Council

Dated: 20 March 2026