



# Information For Voters

Dobwalls and Trewidland  
Neighbourhood Development  
Plan Referendum

22<sup>nd</sup> February 2024

## **About this booklet**

On Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> April 2024, there will be a referendum on a neighbourhood development plan for your area. This booklet explains more about the referendum that is going to take place and how you can take part in it. 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 part)

## **Referendum on the Neighbourhood Plan**

A referendum asks you to vote 'yes' or 'no' to a question. The question which will be asked in the Referendum is:

**“Do you want Cornwall Council to use the neighbourhood plan for Dobwalls and Trewidland to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area?”**

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

You vote 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 Cornwall Council will use the Neighbourhood Development Plan to help it decide planning applications in Dobwalls and Trewidland.

The Neighbourhood Development Plan once adopted will then become part of the Development Plan.

If more people vote 'no' than 'yes', then planning applications will be decided without using the Neighbourhood Development 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 parish councils)

In Dobwalls and Trewidland, the boundary of the neighbourhood area was determined by Cornwall Council and covers Dobwalls and part of St Keyne and Trewidland.

**Who can prepare a Neighbourhood Plan?**

Neighbourhood plans are prepared by the community, led by town or parish councils, or neighbourhood forums. In this case, the Dobwalls and Trewidland Neighbourhood Development Plan was prepared by Dobwalls and Trewidland NDP Steering Group.

**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. Within Cornwall, the local planning authority is Cornwall Council.

**Neighbourhood Planning in Dobwalls and Trewidland**

The Referendum area is identified on the enclosed map as Dobwalls and Trewidland. The Referendum area has been designated as the Dobwalls and Trewidland Neighbourhood Development Plan area.

**Who is the Planning Authority?**

Cornwall Council is the lead authority for Neighbourhood Planning matters in the area, including Neighbourhood Planning Referendums.

**Referendum expenses**

Expenses can be incurred by an individual or body during the period of the Referendum for referendum purposes.

The Referendum expenses limit that will apply in relation to the Referendum is **£2471.38**. The number of persons entitled to vote in the Referendum, by reference to which that limit has been calculated, is **1854**.

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

**Specified documents**

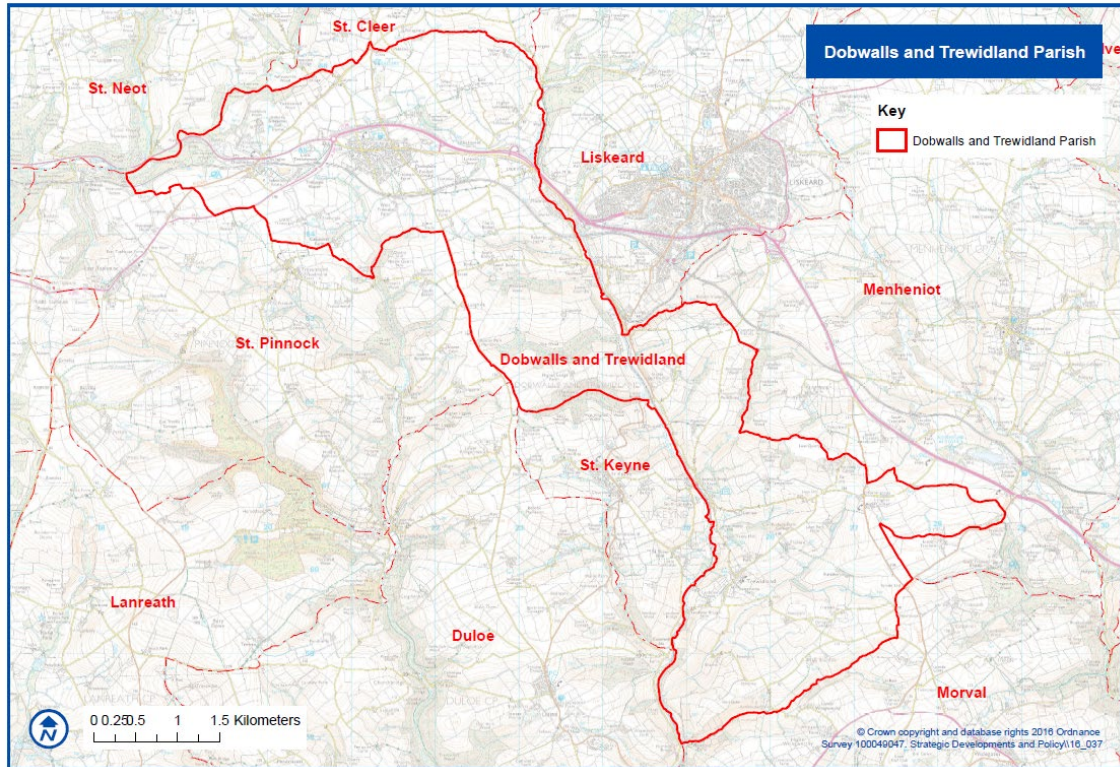
The specified documents are also available for public viewing on the Council's website at:

[Neighbourhood planning activity in Cornwall - Cornwall Council](#)

The specified documents are:

- Dobwalls and Trewidland Referendum NDP
- Dobwalls and Trewidland Examiner's Report
- Dobwalls and Trewidland Referendum Decision Statement
- Dobwalls and Trewidland Summary of Representations

Figure 1: Map of the Dobwalls and Trewidland Neighbourhood Development Plan area



## Can I vote?

You can vote in the referendum if you live in Dobwalls and Trewidland:

- you are registered to vote in local council elections; and
- you are 18 years of age or over on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> April 2024.

You have to be registered to vote by Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2024 to vote in the referendum. You can check if you are registered to vote by calling our Helpline on 0300 1231 115.

The referendum will be conducted based on procedures which are similar to those used at local government elections.

## Ways of voting

There are three ways of voting:

### In person on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> April 2024:

- At your local polling station. It is easy and a member of staff will always help if you are not sure what to do.
- In Dobwalls and Trewidland, the polling stations are:
  - Dobwalls Memorial Hall, Dobwalls PL14 6JE
  - Trewidland Village Hall, Trewidland PL14 4ST
- You will receive a poll card confirming your polling station for this referendum.
- If you do not receive your poll card, you can contact our Helpline on 0300 1231 115 or email us on [voter-registration@cornwall.gov.uk](mailto:voter-registration@cornwall.gov.uk) to find out where your polling station is.
- The polling stations will be open from 7am to 10pm.
- **Voter ID** will be required for all elections and referendums. For more information, please go to our website: [Voter ID - Cornwall Council](#).
- **You must present an accepted form of photographic identification in order to vote in person at a polling station.**
- Accepted forms of photographic identification will be listed on the back of the poll card.
- If you do not possess any of the forms of photographic identification, you can apply for a Voter Authority Certificate online before 5.00pm Monday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2024:
  - [Apply for photo ID to vote \(called a 'Voter Authority Certificate'\) - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)
  - or you can contact the Electoral Registration Officer for an application form on 0300 1231 115
  - or email us on [voter-registration@cornwall.gov.uk](mailto:voter-registration@cornwall.gov.uk)

**By post:**

- New postal vote application forms must be used from 31<sup>st</sup> October 2023. You must provide your National Insurance Number (NINo) in your application.
- People voting by post do **not** need to provide ID.
- If you have a postal vote already, you will receive a poll card confirming this.
- Most electors can now apply online to vote by post: [Apply for a postal vote - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)
- If you prefer to complete a paper application form, postal vote application forms are available from our Helpline on 0300 1231 115 or by emailing [voter-registration@cornwall.gov.uk](mailto:voter-registration@cornwall.gov.uk). You can also download application forms from our website: [Voting by post – Cornwall Council](#).
- Please send your completed application to the Electoral Registration Officer at this address:

Electoral Services  
 Cornwall Council  
 4S County Hall  
 Truro TR1 3AY

- All applications to vote by post must arrive by 5.00pm on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2024.
- Postal votes can be sent overseas but you need to think about whether you will have time to receive and return your completed postal vote by close of poll at 10.00pm on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> April 2024.
- You should receive your postal vote about a week before polling day. If it doesn't arrive in time, you can ask for a replacement up to 5.00pm on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> April 2024 by contacting our Helpline on 0300 1231 115.

**By proxy:**

- New proxy vote application forms must be used from 31<sup>st</sup> October 2023. You must provide your National Insurance Number (NINo) in your application.
- **People voting at a polling station as a proxy on someone's behalf must show their own photo identification (ID), not that of the person they are proxy for, before they can vote.**
- Accepted forms of photographic identification will be listed on the back of the proxy poll card.
- If you have a proxy vote already, you will receive a poll card confirming this.
- If you can't get to the polling station and don't wish to vote by post, you may be able to vote by proxy. This means allowing somebody that you trust to vote on your behalf.
- You can now apply online to vote by proxy in some cases: [Apply for a proxy vote - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)



- Electors can only apply for the following proxy votes online and by a paper application form:
  - Proxy application for definite or indefinite period due to disability
  - Proxy application for definite or indefinite period due to employment, service etc.
  - Emergency proxy application
- If you prefer to complete a paper application form, proxy vote application forms are available from our Helpline on 0300 1231 115 or by emailing [voter-registration@cornwall.gov.uk](mailto:voter-registration@cornwall.gov.uk). You can also download application forms from our website: [Voting by proxy – Cornwall Council](#).
- Please send your completed application to the Electoral Registration Officer at this address:

Electoral Services  
Cornwall Council  
4S County Hall  
Truro TR1 3AY

- All applications to vote by proxy must arrive by 5.00pm on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2024.
- 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 to vote and are willing to vote on your behalf. You will have to tell them how you want to vote.

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

If you're not registered, you won't be able to vote. You can check if you are registered by calling our Helpline on 0300 1231 115.

If you are not registered to vote, you will need to apply by Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2024. You can apply online at [www.gov.uk/register-to-vote](http://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote).

Alternatively, you will need to complete a voter registration form and send it to the Electoral Registration Officer to arrive by Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2024 at this address:

Electoral Services  
Cornwall Council  
4S County Hall  
Truro TR1 3AY

Registration forms are available from our Helpline on 0300 1231 115 or by emailing [voter-registration@cornwall.gov.uk](mailto:voter-registration@cornwall.gov.uk).



**How to find out more:**

- Further general information on neighbourhood planning is available at: [neighbourhood planning](#)
- You can find specific documents on the Dobwalls and Trewidland Neighbourhood Plan at: [neighbourhood planning activity in Cornwall](#)
- For queries about planning issues and neighbourhood planning in general, please contact Neighbourhood Planning on 01872 322222 and ask for Michaela Pollard or e-mail [neighbourhoodplanning@cornwall.gov.uk](mailto:neighbourhoodplanning@cornwall.gov.uk)
- For more information about voting and the arrangements for this referendum, please contact our Helpline on 0300 1231 115 or email: [voter-registration@cornwall.gov.uk](mailto:voter-registration@cornwall.gov.uk).

Prepared by:

**Michaela Pollard**

Development Officer

and

**John Simmons**

Electoral Services Officer

Cornwall Council

22<sup>nd</sup> February 2024

If you would like this information  
in another format or language, please contact:

**Cornwall Council  
County Hall  
Treyew Road  
Truro TR1 3AY**

Telephone: **0300 1234 100**

Email: **enquiries@cornwall.gov.uk**

**www.cornwall.gov.uk**