

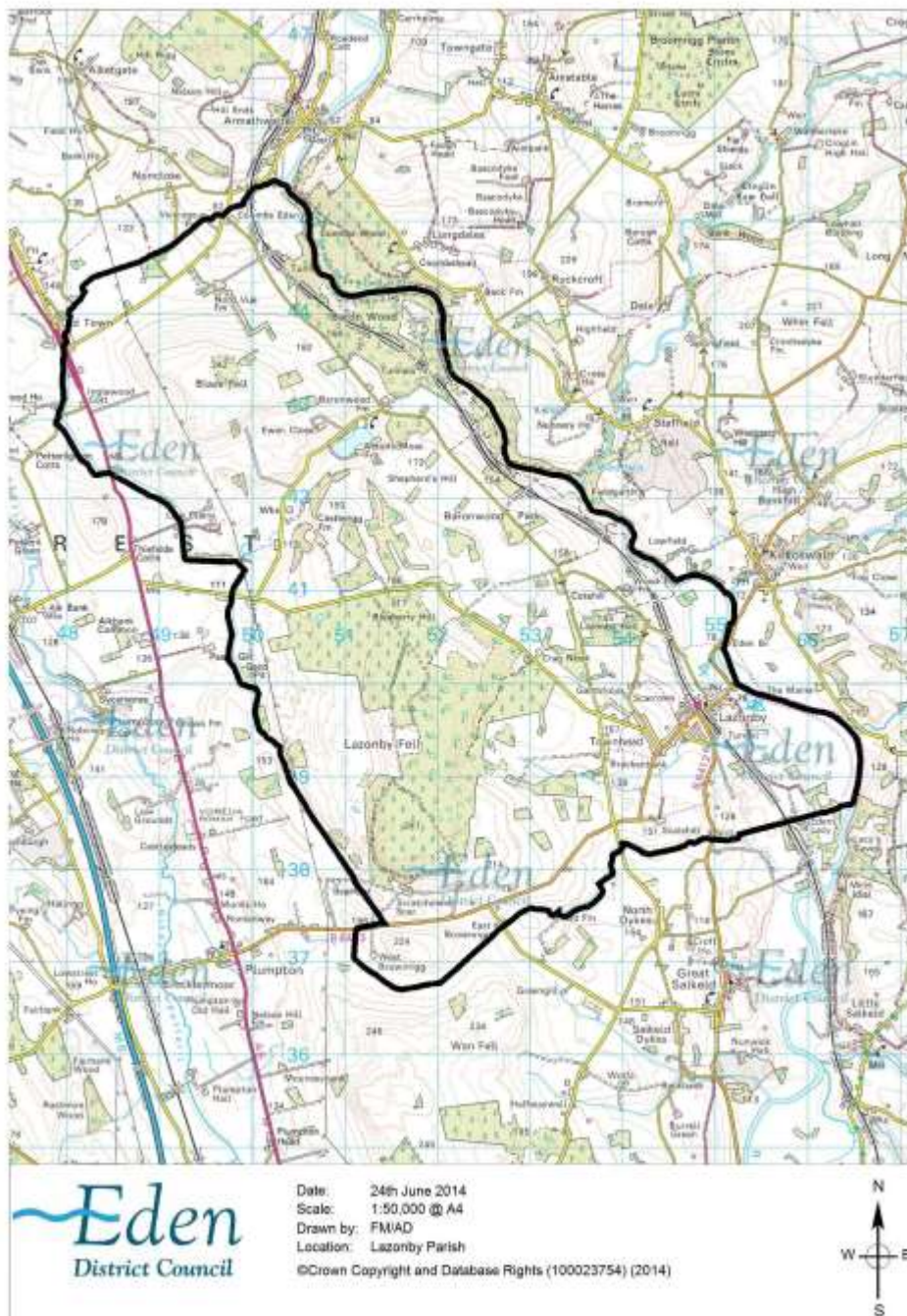
**Lazonby Neighbourhood Plan referendum
Information Statement
including a brief guide to neighbourhood plans and
the planning system**

1. Information Statement

1.1 A neighbourhood planning referendum will be held for the Lazonby Neighbourhood Plan on 17 October 2019. The question to be put to voters is as follows:

‘Do you want Eden District Council to use the neighbourhood plan for Lazonby Parish to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area?’

1.2 The Referendum area is identified on the map below. The area for the referendum is the neighbourhood plan area which was formally designated on 18 September 2014. The area is shown on the map below.



- 1.3 An elector is entitled to vote in the referendum on 17 October 2019 if the following is true:
- The elector is entitled to vote in a local government election in the referendum area; and
 - The elector's qualifying address for the referendum 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.
- 1.4 The referendum expenses limit that will apply in relation to the referendum is £2,413.92. The number of persons entitled to vote in the referendum by reference to which the limit has been calculated is 880.
- 1.5 The referendum will be conducted in accordance with procedures which are similar to those used at local government elections.
- 1.6 The following documents associated with the neighbourhood plan referendum ('the specified documents') can be viewed on the Council's website:
- The Lazonby Neighbourhood Plan and Design Guide.
 - Report of the independent examiner (received by Eden District Council on 12 December 2018).
 - Statement by the local planning authority that the draft plan meets the basic conditions (the Decision statement).
 - Statement that sets out general information on neighbourhood planning and the referendum (the information statement).
- 1.7 The specified documents can also be viewed at the following locations:
- Eden District Council offices (open Monday to Thursday 8.45am-5.15pm and Friday 8.45am-4.45pm).
 - Penrith Town Hall, Corney Square, Penrith, Cumbria CA11 7QF.
 - Mansion House, Friargate, Penrith, CA11 7YG.
 - Lazonby Library Link, Co-operative store, Lazonby, Penrith CA10 1BG (open Monday to Saturday 7.30am-8pm and Sunday 9am-1pm).
 - Penrith Library, St Andrew's Churchyard, Penrith, CA11 7YA (open Monday and Tuesday 9.30am-6pm, Wednesday to Friday 9.30am-5pm and Saturday 9.30-4pm).
- 1.8 For more information please contact the Planning Policy Team on 01768 817817 or e-mail neighbourhoodplanning@eden.gov.uk

General Guidance

2. The Planning System

- 2.1 The planning system manages the use and development of land and buildings with the aim of creating sustainable places to live and work. Without a planning system in place, development would not be controlled and could take place anywhere, with considerable impact on people and the environment. Potential development activity is managed through planning applications, using local plans as a basis to make decisions.
- 2.2 The planning system has two parts which are usually the responsibility of the Local Planning Authority:
- Plan making - setting out proposals for development and policies to guide development over a period of time.
 - Development management – where planning decisions are made through the assessment of planning applications.
- 2.3 Not all forms of development require planning permission as some proposed development, depending on the scale and type, is covered by permitted development rights. For development that requires planning permission, Eden District Council (EDC) is responsible for deciding whether the development should go ahead. Decisions on planning applications in Lazonby Parish are currently based on the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and the adopted Eden Local Plan 2014-2032. If 'made' (adopted) the Lazonby Neighbourhood Plan 2014-2032 will also become part of the Development Plan and be used in decision making on planning applications within the neighbourhood area.

3. National Planning Policy

- 3.1 The NPPF sets out the Government's planning policies for England and how these are expected to be applied. The framework gives guidance to local planning authorities in drawing up development plans and on making decisions on planning applications. The NPPF includes a presumption in favour of sustainable development and sets out core planning principles to be followed which include environmental, social and economic aspects. National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG) supports the NPPF and provides further guidance on planning issues such as neighbourhood planning.

4. Local Plans

- 4.1 Local Plans are prepared by Local Planning Authorities and set out the strategic priorities and planning policies for the local authority area. The policies in a local plan set out to deliver key development including homes and jobs required, the provision of retail and community facilities and infrastructure. Policies relating to managing climate change, conservation and enhancement of the natural and historic environment are also included. Local Plans must be positively prepared, justified, effective and consistent with national policy in line with s.20 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended) and the NPPF.
- 4.2 The current Local Plan for the District is the adopted Eden Local Plan. Further information on the adopted Local Plan can be found here:

<https://www.eden.gov.uk/planning-and-building/planning-policy/eden-local-plan/>

5. Neighbourhood Planning

- 5.1 Neighbourhood Planning was introduced under the 2011 Localism Act. It provides an opportunity for local communities to shape future development in their local area.
- 5.2 In parished areas, neighbourhood plans can be produced by parish Councils which are referred to as the 'Qualifying Body'. In non-parished areas, neighbourhood fora can be established as the qualifying body. In this case, the qualifying body is therefore Lazonby Parish Council.
- 5.3 Neighbourhood plans have to meet a number of basic conditions in order to proceed to referendum stage. An independent examiner is appointed to check that a plan meets the basic conditions which are set out below:
 - Have regard to national policies and advice contained in guidance issued by the Secretary of State.
 - Contribute to the achievement of sustainable development.
 - Be in general conformity with the strategic policies of the development plan for the area; and.
 - Be compatible with European Union (EU) and European Convention on Humans Rights obligations.

6. What is a Neighbourhood Plan Area?

- 6.1 A neighbourhood plan must apply to a specific designated area which can range from single streets or large rural or urban areas.
- 6.2 The boundary of the neighbourhood area for the Lazonby Neighbourhood Plan was approved by EDC on 18 September 2014. EDC agreed with the Examiner's recommendation to proceed to a referendum based on the Lazonby Neighbourhood Area (Lazonby Parish) as approved by the Executive of the Council on 2 July 2019.

7. Neighbourhood Plan Referendum

- 7.1 The Neighbourhood Plan has been the subject of two formal public consultation stages and was submitted to the District Council in May 2018. An independent examiner (John Slater BA (Hons) DMS MRTPI) considered the Neighbourhood Plan and provided his report to EDC in December 2018. His report recommended that, subject to certain proposed modifications, the neighbourhood plan should proceed to referendum.
- 7.2 EDC accepted and agreed all the modifications proposed and were subsequently satisfied that the neighbourhood plan met the basic conditions and all other legislative requirements. EDC confirmed in July 2019 that the neighbourhood plan could proceed to referendum.
- 7.3 The Lazonby Neighbourhood Plan referendum will be held on 17 October 2019 from 7am to 10pm.

- 7.4 The proposed Neighbourhood Plan needs to gain the approval of the majority of voters (more than 50%) in the local community for the Local Planning Authority to 'make' the neighbourhood plan.
- 7.5 If the Neighbourhood Plan is made then it will become part of the Development Plan for Eden District and will be used in the determination of planning applications in Lazonby Parish. If more people vote 'no' than 'yes', then the Neighbourhood Plan will not become part of the Development Plan for the local area.
- 7.6 Additional information on neighbourhood planning is available on the following website – <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/neighbourhood-planning--2>