

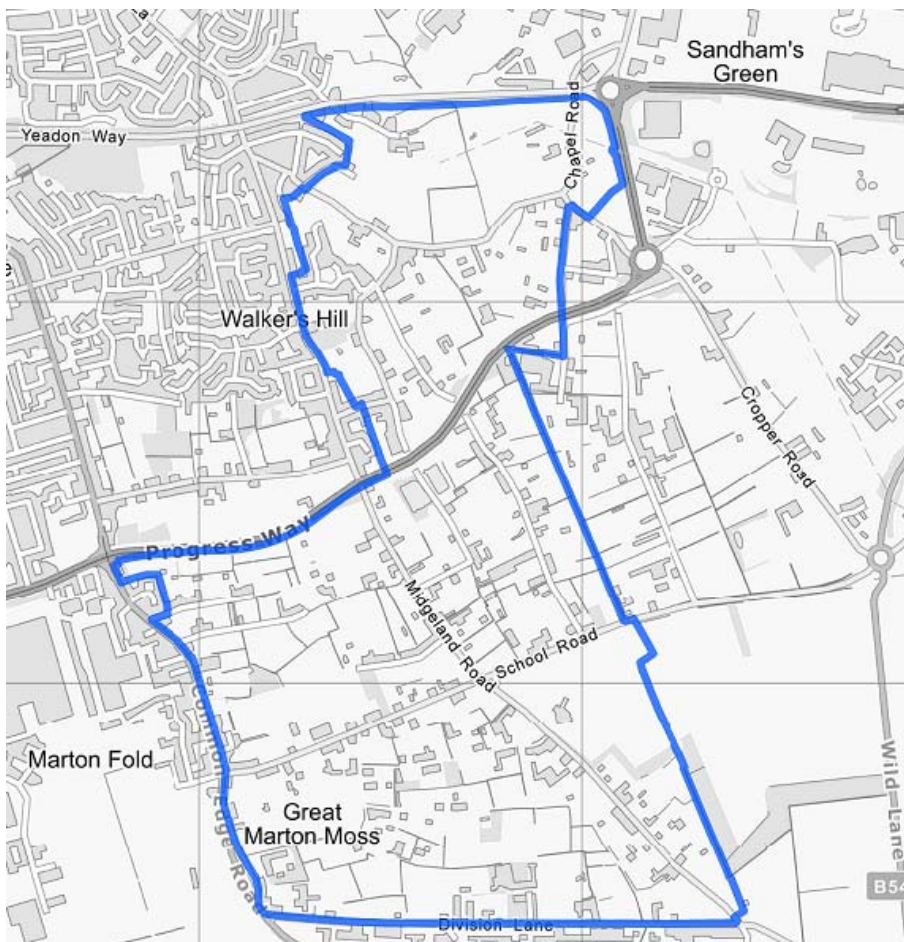
Marton Moss Neighbourhood Planning Approach

What does the Blackpool Local Plan Part 1: Core Strategy say about Marton Moss?

The Core Strategy was adopted in January 2016 and identifies the remaining lands at Marton Moss as being **integral to the local distinctiveness of Blackpool and is highly valued by the local community.**

Policy CS26 sets out a neighbourhood planning approach. This means getting the community more involved in deciding what you want for the area, for example how to retain the distinctive character of the Moss as well as deciding where and what type of development may be acceptable.

There are **two** ways which we can go about developing this policy framework.



A. One way is for the local community to develop their own **Neighbourhood Plan.**

B. The other way is for the Council to lead on developing specific policies for Marton Moss and include them in Part 2 of the Blackpool Local Plan – the **Site Allocations and Development Management** document.

Core Strategy Policy CS26: Marton Moss Neighbourhood Planning Approach



What is a Neighbourhood Plan?

A Neighbourhood Plan is prepared by the community and it sets out policies for the use and development of land in a specific Neighbourhood Area.

These policies can be about the type, design, location and mix of development as well about retaining and protecting important buildings and open spaces.

The policies can be detailed or general, but they have to be in line with the strategic policies of the Core Strategy and also with government policy set out in the National Planning Policy Framework.

To produce a Neighbourhood Plan you have to set up a Neighbourhood Forum.



What is a Neighbourhood Forum?

A Neighbourhood Forum is created by local people; ward councillors would also be involved. As a minimum, a Forum must:

- be open to all those living or working in the Neighbourhood Area,
- have at least 21 members and
- have a written constitution

The local authority has to agree and formally designate the Neighbourhood Forum.

The Forum would oversee the whole process of preparing a Neighbourhood Plan with working groups set up for specific tasks. A key group would be one tasked with writing the Plan itself.

The constitution would set out the powers of the Forum, membership criteria and working arrangements such as the roles of working groups.

Government funding continues to be available to help groups preparing Neighbourhood Plans and you could set up a working group to apply for grants. These could be used for various purposes such as meeting the costs of carrying out survey work and covering the expense of employing consultants to do specialist work.

A great deal of effort is involved in producing a Neighbourhood Plan and even with the funding available to pay for assistance much will rely on members of the Forum devoting a lot of their own time. It can take at least 2 to 3 years to produce a Plan and may take longer. Much will depend on the on-going commitment of Forum volunteers.



How would Blackpool Council help the community prepare a Neighbourhood Plan?

If the local community wants to prepare a Neighbourhood Plan for Marton Moss, the plan would be **led by the community** with the Council providing assistance such as sharing evidence and advice on planning issues and policies, helping with consultation events and communication with external partners.



What are the key stages in preparing a Neighbourhood Plan?

There are a number of key stages which the community need to do to prepare a Neighbourhood Plan. These are:

Defining the neighbourhood – The Neighbourhood Plan Area has to be agreed by the community and local authority. The Core Strategy already suggests a boundary (see page 1) this covers all the remaining lands at Marton Moss.

Preparing the plan – The Neighbourhood Forum, with the involvement of the wider community, needs to decide what policies they want to include in a Neighbourhood Plan. The contents of the Plan need to be based on a thorough understanding of the planning issues of the area backed by firm evidence of what is required to address them. The policies and proposals put forward must be clear and capable of being brought into effect. Once the Neighbourhood Plan has been drafted it must be consulted on.

Independent check – Following the consultation the Neighbourhood Plan is submitted to the local authority who then appoints an independent examiner. The Examiner makes sure the Plan is in line with national policy; the strategic policies of the Core Strategy; and with other laws and obligations. The examiner can then recommend, with or without modifications that the plan is put to a community referendum.

Community referendum – The local authority will organise a referendum of all residents in the area on the Neighbourhood Plan. If it is approved by a majority of those voting, the local authority will approve the Neighbourhood Plan.

Legal status – Once approved, the Plan will then become a part of the development plan for the area and will be used for making decisions on planning applications in the Marton Moss area.

What happens if the community do not want to prepare a Neighbourhood Plan?

If the community do not want to prepare a Neighbourhood Plan, policies for the Marton Moss area will be included in the **Blackpool**

Local Plan Part 2: Site Allocations and Development Management Policies document. This is **produced by the local authority** and will identify sites for development, other land for safeguarding or protection and include detailed policies to help the Council decide planning applications.

Although Part 2 of the Local Plan will cover the whole of Blackpool, **a specific section in this document would be about Marton Moss with the Council working closely with the community to develop a suite of policies specific to your neighbourhood.** A Marton Moss community working group would be set up to ensure the full involvement of local residents.

The key stages in preparing the Local Plan Part 2 are set out below:

Stage 1 - Producing a Draft Plan -

This stage will first involve updating the evidence base including assessing sites and their development viability. This will be followed by developing borough-wide policies and proposals as well as those specific to Marton Moss through engagement with the local community. All the draft policies will then be subject to public consultation.

Stage 2 - Publication of Revised Plan – The responses to the consultation at Stage 1 are considered and changes made to the Plan before it is published to allow further formal comments to be made.

Stage 3 - Submission - following publication, the Plan along with all the comments received is submitted to the Secretary of State for examination.

Stage 4 - Examination of the Plan by an Inspector, followed by the Inspector's Report and formal adoption by the Council. We are working towards Adoption of the Local Plan Part 2 towards the end of 2019.

How can I find out more information?

You can visit our webpage:

www.blackpool.gov.uk/martonmoss

If you would like any more information on neighbourhood planning please contact Keith Keeley on 07759 531132.

Please complete our survey!

We would like you to complete the online survey. It's only a short survey so won't take very long:

www.blackpool.gov.uk/martonmoss

The deadline for completing the survey is 5pm Monday 11th December 2017.

What happens next?

A report on this consultation will be produced setting out the results of the survey. The Council will consider all the responses received and residents and businesses will be informed of the outcome.

