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South **Cambridgeshire** District Council

31 July 2015

To: Councillor Robert Turner, Portfolio Holder

> Henry Batchelor Opposition Spokesman

**Kevin Cuffley** Scrutiny and Overview Committee

Monitor

Aidan Van de Weyer Opposition Spokesman

Dear Sir / Madam

You are invited to attend the next meeting of PLANNING PORTFOLIO HOLDER'S MEETING, which will be held in COUNCIL CHAMBER, FIRST FLOOR at South Cambridgeshire Hall on MONDAY, 10 AUGUST 2015 at 10.00 a.m.

Yours faithfully **JEAN HUNTER** Chief Executive

Requests for a large print agenda must be received at least 48 hours before the meeting.

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	PROCEDURAL ITEMS	PAGES
1.	Declarations of Interest	
2.	Minutes of Previous meeting The Planning Portfolio Holder is asked to sign the Minutes of the meeting held on 9 July 2015 as a correct record.	1 - 4
	DECISION ITEMS	
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South Cambridgeshire will continue to be the best place to live, work and study in the country. Our district will demonstrate impressive and sustainable economic growth. Our residents will have a superb quality of life in an exceptionally beautiful, rural and green environment.

#### **OUR VALUES**

We will demonstrate our corporate values in all our actions. These are:

- Working Together
- Integrity
- Dynamism
- Innovation

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# Agenda Item 2

#### SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the Planning Portfolio Holder's Meeting held on Thursday, 9 July 2015 at 10.00 a.m.

Portfolio Holder: Robert Turner

Councillors in attendance:

Scrutiny and Overview Committee monitors: Kevin Cuffley

Opposition spokesmen: Aidan Van de Weyer

Also in attendance: David Bard, Anna Bradnam, Peter Johnson,

Janet Lockwood, Des O'Brien, Ben Shelton and

John Williams

Councillor Henry Batchelor (an Opposition spokesman) was unable to attend the meeting.

Officers:

Jonathan Dixon Principal Planning Policy Officer (Transport)

Caroline Hunt Planning Policy Manager

Jo Mills Planning and New Communities Director

Jennifer Nuttycombe Senior Planning Policy Officer Ian Senior Democratic Services Officer

#### 1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

#### 2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Planning Portfolio Holder signed, as a correct record, the Minutes of the meeting held on 10 March 2015.

#### 3. SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE LOCAL PLAN - RESPONSE TO INSPECTORS' LETTER

The Planning Portfolio Holder considered a report summarising the response to the Inspectors' letter asking for further work to be carried out on the Local Plan. That response had been submitted on 30 June 2015 following the resolution of the Extraordinary Council meeting on 4 June 2015, and other related matters.

While disappointed by the Inspectors' letter, the Planning Policy Manager welcomed the opportunity to address their concerns at an interim stage of the Local Plan Examination. She referred the Portfolio Holder, and others present, to the three key areas identified as needing further attention, namely

- Evidence of housing numbers
- Development strategy
- Conformity with revisions to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)

and, specifically, to Appendices 1 and 2 attached to the report from the Planning and New Communities Director. The proposed timetable was to seek the Planning Portfolio Holder's endorsement of the additional work, and any proposed modifications to the Local Plan, in October 2015, with public consultation during November and December, and for the

additional work to be submitted to the Examination in February 2016. The Planning Policy Manager recognised the importance of striking a balance between moving forward efficiently and effectively, and ensuring that the work was robust.

In response to a question about the adequacy of Council resources given the amount of additional work required, the Portfolio Holder referred to paragraph 28 of the report, indicating that South Cambridgeshire District Council's share of the joint work with Cambridge City Council had been estimated at about £150,000. The Planning Policy Manager outlined some of the actions that were already taking place. These included joint meetings with the City Council and some external work with regard to the Cambridge Green Belt. The Planning and New Communities Director added that the District and City Councils were also working with other bodies, such as the Joint Strategic Planning Unit and Cambridgeshire County Council.

In response to a question about the 'Planning Obligation Justification' template mentioned in paragraph 18, the Planning and New Communities Director confirmed that this template is intended to assist the presentation of reports but does not affect the way the judgements are made. She reported that reports to Planning Committee will start to include the new template. She said that cases would continue to be brought to Committee in a timely manner as delay could result in the Council being challenged. As stated in the report, the Council is seeking an independent assessment of the way it is dealing with applications made under the lack of a five-year supply, and the findings would be reported to the Planning Portfolio Holder meeting on 10 August 2015.

In response to a question as to when the two Councils could expect to hear whether the Inspectors were minded to endorse the joint trajectory approach to housing delivery, the Planning Policy Manager referred to the letter attached at Appendix 3 to the report from the Planning and New Communities Director, and advised that they were in the Inspectors' hands in terms of when a response might be received. This letter suggested that, should the Inspectors be satisfied in principle with the joint trajectory approach, they could prepare a single issue report addressing that point, thus providing clarity and enabling the two Councils to resolve the situation with regard to the five-year land supply as soon as possible. The Portfolio Holder said that, until that situation had been resolved, South Cambridgeshire District Council could continue to rely on the NPPF, as well as those local policies which remain relevant, in determining planning applications within its area.

In response to a question, the Planning Policy Manager outlined the relationship between the joint trajectory and five-year housing supply,

In response to a question about whether officers would seek to justify the Local Plan as it stands, subject only to the reassessed elements, or revisit it in full, the Planning Policy Manager reiterated the approach, and said a number of factors would be taken into account in judging whether the additional work supported the Plan as submitted or whether there was a need to consider adjusting the balance between proposals for new settlements and the Cambridge City Fringe. In addition, further transport modelling was being carried out in order to consider again the question of infrastructure delivery for new settlements.

In response to a question about the make-up of the team undertaking the work requested by the Inspectors, the Planning Policy Manager said that South Cambridgeshire District Council's in-house Planning Policy officers were working closely with officers at the City Council and would be supported by the Planning Officers Society, acting as a "critical friend". The Planning and New Communities Director also highlighted the need for the District Council to work closely with Cambridgeshire County Council (as Local Highways Authority) in order to be consistent on transport issues.

In response to a question about the Local Plan evidence, the Planning Policy Manager commented that the Inspectors had highlighted where they considered evidence needed refreshing and that the Councils had asked the Inspectors' view on the intention to carry out a new Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment with adjoining Councils, taking account of current guidance, which could be prepared in parallel with the work identified in the Inspectors' letter.

In response to a question about the Greater Cambridge City Deal, the Planning Policy Manager suggested that the City Deal was about helping to deliver the development strategy determined by the Local Plans and in particular the key infrastructure to deliver growth.

The Portfolio Holder expressed confidence in the comprehensive approach being adopted by officers.

A supportive statement from the Planning Committee Chairman was read out to those present.

The Planning Portfolio Holder:

- 1. **noted** the letter responding to the Inspectors' preliminary conclusions, and endorsed the plan for the additional work;
- 2. **received and noted** the independent advice on managing planning applications while the Council was unable to demonstrate a five-year housing land supply;
- 3. **noted** and **endorsed** the advice provided on bringing forward the Community Infrastructure Levy; and
- 4. **noted** and **endorsed** the proposed review of the Gypsy and Travellers Accommodation Needs Assessment.

# 4. CONSULTATION ON CAMBRIDGESHIRE FLOOD AND WATER SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT

The Planning Portfolio Holder considered a report seeking his agreement for the draft Cambridgeshire Flood and Water Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) to be published for consultation.

In response to a question, the Principal Planning Policy Officer said that Cambridgeshire County Council's consultation on the Cambridgeshire Local Flood Risk Management Strategy was related to its role as Lead Local Flood Authority, whereas the Cambridgeshire Flood & Water SPD had been prepared by the County Council in conjunction with all the local planning authorities in Cambridgeshire to support the implementation of flooding and water related policies in each authority's Local Plans. Once adopted by all of the district councils in Cambridgeshire, or a substantial number of them, the SPD would assist the County Council in its role as a statutory consultee.

The Planning Portfolio Holder:

(a) **agreed** that the draft Cambridgeshire Flood and Water SPD (Appendix 1 to the report) be issued for consultation;

- (b) **agreed** the draft Adoption and Maintenance of Sustainable Drainage Systems in South Cambridgeshire document be issued for consultation (Appendix 2 to the report);
- (c) **agreed** an addendum to the South Cambridgeshire Local Development Scheme setting out the timetable for the preparation of this SPD (Appendix 3 to the report); and
- (d) **delegated** any further minor editing of the SPD and approval of the supporting and technical documents to the Director of Planning and New Communities.

#### 5. WORK PROGRAMME

The Planning Portfolio Holder received and noted the Work Programme attached to the agenda.

One Member expressed some reservation about moving towards a paperless planning service.

#### 6. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Planning Portfolio Holder meeting would take place on Monday 10 August 2015, starting at 2.00pm.

The Meeting ended at 11.05 a.m.

# Agenda Item 3



South
Cambridgeshire
District Council

**Report To:** Planning Portfolio Holder's Meeting 10 August 2015

**Lead Officer:** Director, Planning and New Communities

#### **Neighbourhood Plans: Waterbeach Area Designation**

#### **Purpose**

- 1. To make a decision regarding the application from Waterbeach Parish Council to designate the parish of Waterbeach as a Neighbourhood Area (see Appendix A for the Waterbeach application). To agree to an addendum to the Local Development Scheme regarding neighbourhood planning.
- 2. This is not a key decision and the Planning Portfolio Holder has delegated authority to make decisions on Neighbourhood Planning matters.

#### Recommendations

- 3. It is recommended that the Planning Portfolio Holder:
  - Approves the designation of a Neighbourhood Area for Waterbeach that includes the whole parish with the District and Parish Councils agreeing a framework of how they will work together by 21 August 2015;
  - Note that the Parish Council has expressed its willingness to work with all the parties involved in the future planning of Waterbeach;
  - Approves an addendum to the South Cambridgeshire Local Development Scheme listing the Neighbourhood Areas that have been designated which indicates where Neighbourhood Plans are being prepared by Parish Council(s) (see Appendix D).

#### **Reasons for Recommendations**

- 4. South Cambridgeshire District Council (SCDC) has received an application from Waterbeach Parish Council ("the PC") to designate the 'Waterbeach Neighbourhood Area' (PC). SCDC has eight weeks from the start of the consultation, on 26 June 2015, to make a decision whether to designate the area as proposed or to designate an alternative area. The PC has applied to have the whole of its parish designated. The PC is willing to work and engage with all parties in the development of plans for this area including the proposed new town. It is supportive of creating effective links with SCDC and the other stakeholders to achieve the best of results for Waterbeach and the proposed new town.
- 5. The Local Development Scheme (LDS) that was approved in February 2014 does not list the Neighbourhood Areas that have been designated within the district. An addendum to the Local Development Scheme has therefore been produced (see Appendix D).

#### 6. **Summary**

 National planning guidance provides assistance to SCDC in how it should designate neighbourhood areas within the district.

- There are currently three neighbourhood areas designated in South Cambridgeshire.
- Waterbeach PC had applied for a NA for its whole parish which includes a Strategic Site proposed within SCDC's Submission Local Plan.
- SCDC has carried out a four week consultation 26 June to 24 July 2015 on the Waterbeach proposed area. 103 representations were received during this period – 94 supporting; 4 comments and 5 objections which included 2 objections from the promoters of the new town.
- SCDC has met with the PC to feedback the results of the consultation and to discuss the related issues relevant to the area. These include the desire of Waterbeach to develop a plan for the benefit of the whole parish; the Local Plan timetable; future work through the City Deal; and that one of the promoters of the new town wishes to prepare a Development Framework Document and to submit a planning application in 2016 These factors are all inter-related, and therefore it is critical that the District Council and Parish Council establish effective working arrangements in order to consider local and more strategic matters over the same timescale.

#### Background

- 7. A Neighbourhood Area (NA) must be designated before a Parish Council (PC) can prepare a neighbourhood plan (NP). The National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG) provides the primary guidance to assist SCDC in designating a NA in the district (See item 1 of the Background Papers). Also a useful source of information used in preparing this report has been a briefing note produced in March 2015 by the Planning Advisory Service (PAS) which sets out the good practice drawn from how other Local Planning Authorities (LPA) have designated NA's. (See item 2 of the Background Papers).
- 8. The NPPG says that a LPA must designate a NA if it receives a valid application and some or all of the area is not already within a designated NA. A LPA should aim to designate the area applied for but can decide to modify the area as long as reasons are set out for this decision. For Waterbeach there are no existing NAs that would impact on the proposed NA, and therefore some part of the proposed area must be designated following the consultation. SCDC cannot refuse to designate all of this area.
- 9. There have been recent changes to the national regulations for neighbourhood planning which introduced prescribed timeframes within which a Local Planning Authority (LPA) like SCDC must determine applications for NA from a qualifying body in South Cambridgeshire the qualifying body is a parish council. If a PC applies to have the whole of its parish as a NA the LPA must make a decision within 8 weeks. This time period begins from the start date of the consultation. This timetable has been used for the Waterbeach NA. A decision must be made by SCDC by 21 August 2015 to meet the new regulations.
- 10. The PAS note emphasises that the starting point for a NA should be a boundary that makes sense to the community and is logical in spatial terms. PAS has found that LPAs have encouraged the use of pre-existing boundaries for NA such as parish and wards since these areas benefit from established and recognised representation and an existing data and evidence base. The proposed area for Waterbeach is following such a boundary.
- 11. SCDC has designated three NA within the district to date and Waterbeach is unique in being the first area to include a strategic site that is included in the Submission

Local Plan. The NPPG states that a NA can include land allocated in a Local Plan as a strategic site. In these circumstances there should be discussions with the LPA about the particular planning context and circumstances that may inform the LPA's decision on the area it will designate. (see Paragraph 036 of the NPPG) SCDC met Waterbeach PC to discuss their reasons for proposing their whole parish as a NA and these were set out in their application. Two of the objectors to the proposed NA state the strategic issues as reasons for SCDC to exclude the new town from the NA.

- 12. The National Planning Policy Framework highlights (paragraph 184) that 'The ambition of the neighbourhood should be aligned with the strategic needs and priorities of the wider local area. Neighbourhood plans must be in general conformity with the strategic policies of the Local Plan.' SCDC identified the strategic policies in the draft Local Plan for neighbourhood planning purposes in a report to the Planning Policy Portfolio Holder in November 2014. It was thought at that time that no neighbourhood plan would progress to submission before the local plan was adopted. The recent letter from the Inspectors examining the draft Local Plan has meant that the adoption date for the local plan is likely to be delayed. The consequence of this is that a NP may have to be considered against the strategic policies in the existing adopted Local Development Framework. In their application Waterbeach PC has indicated that the new town is not included in these adopted plans. However in these circumstances the NPPG says that although a NP would not be tested against an emerging Local Plan the reasoning and evidence informing this plan would be relevant (para 009 - NPPG - item 3 in Background Papers). For SCDC the new town in Waterbeach is a key strategic element of the emerging Local Plan and it is relevant for this to be a consideration in deciding on the NA.
- 13. The NNPG states that the LPA should take a 'proactive and positive approach', working collaboratively with a qualifying body (*parish council*) particularly sharing evidence and seeking to resolve any issues to ensure the draft NP has the greatest chance of success at independent examination. The LPA should work with the *parish council* to produce complementary Neighbourhood and Local Plans
- 14. The PAS note highlights the lack of prescription in the neighbourhood planning legislation which offers flexibility for LPAs and communities to work together to select NAs which make sense in a local context. PAS believes that as NPs become more common place it is likely that case law as a result of legal challenges will shape the practice of LPAs.
- 15. Officers in preparing this report have looked to see how other LPAs have dealt with the matter similar to Waterbeach NA designation particularly those who have had to decide upon NA with strategic sites within them or have strategic implications. The relevant NAs are for Daws Hill; Sprowston; Trull; and North Weald Bassett
  - (a) Daws Hill NA, Wycombe District Council: This NA was designated excluding two strategic sites identified in an adopted Core Strategy. Two court challenges to this decision were dismissed. The reason stated was that the LPA determining a neighbourhood area application must exercise discretion on the specific factual and policy matrix that exists in the individual case at the time the determination is made. It was not simply that the two sites were strategic but that the planning process for the two sites was already well advanced when the application was made for the NA.

This case study highlights that when SCDC in deciding to designate a NA for Waterbeach it must take into account the specific local circumstances at the time/ treating each on its merits.

(b) Sprowston NA, Broadlands District Council: A joint Core Strategy for Broadland, Norwich and South Norfolk identifies a growth triangle on the edge of Norwich. Sprowston Parish Council has a neighbourhood plan that has been adopted by Broadlands DC to be part of its statutory development plan. Broadland DC is currently working on an AAP for the Growth Triangle which is at examination stage. Broadlands DC and Sprowston PC have worked together and this complimentary plan making has worked well

This study shows that both a NP and Local Plan can be prepared for an area but that there needs to be close working between the LPA and the PC if this is to be successful. Policies in an emerging NP and Local Plan would have to be complimentary.

(c) Trull NA, Taunton Deane District Council: The adopted Core Strategy identified a broad location for development and this is included in the Trull NA. Trull was one of the frontrunners for neighbourhood planning in 2012. The PC has worked hard to produce a draft NP with much engagement with its local residents. This draft NP has indicated where development should be located in the urban extension to Taunton. The PC has not been willing to work with the developer who has been masterplanning a major scheme within the area. The developer has submitted a planning application for part of the area. Taunton Deane DC has submitted a Site Allocation and Development Management Plan to the Secretary of State in July 2015 which sets out more detailed planning policies and allocations including those for the Trull area. It is uncertain how these matters will be resolved.

This illustrates the difficulties of planning in a strategic growth area if the LPA, the PC and developers do not work together. By relying on the NP and not engaging with the developer the PC may have missed the opportunity to influence the future development of their area.

(d) North Weald Bassett NA, Epping Forest District Council: The NA proposed by the PC has been modified to exclude land on the edge of Harlow. This land is not identified as strategic but is in a location where it could impact on strategic cross boundary matters and harm the results of any future comprehensive assessment of housing sites around Harlow.

This illustrates where a LPA has modified a NA to take into account future strategic matters.

#### **Application from Waterbeach Parish Council**

- 16. Waterbeach Parish Council has decided that it would like to prepare a Neighbourhood Plan (NP). It has applied to the Council for the whole parish to be designated as a Neighbourhood Area (NA), supplying a map of the area to be designated, and a statement explaining why the area should be designated. (See Appendix A for their application form). SCDC must take this statement into account when deciding what is the appropriate area to designate for Waterbeach
- 17. The statement sets out the special combination of issues that the PC considers unique to Waterbeach, and which can be summarised as:
  - It is a predominantly rural area;
  - Unique transport infrastructure impacts, the village has a railway station, level crossings, and heavily used roads and dangerous junctions around the A10;

- Land low lying and prone to flood. Limited pumping capacity. Flood risk and surface drainage are significant issues
- Village supports good range of local shops and services
- Has a designated conservation area, listed buildings and scheduled ancient monuments.
- Varied environment with pastures, river meadows, farmland and old airfield.
- 18. The consequence of applying for the whole parish to be designated as a NA is that this would include the site of a new town to the north of the village proposed within SCDC's Submission Local Plan currently being examined by independent inspectors (Policy SS/5: Waterbeach New Town for 8,000 to 9,000 dwellings and associated uses on the former Waterbeach Barracks and additional land to the east and north). The Local Plan says that the final number of dwellings will be determined in an Area Action Plan (AAP).
- 19. The PC has set out in its statement why it considers it essential that the new town site is included in their NA. Their reasons are as follows:
  - It reflects the current boundary of the Parish;
  - To exclude it would create an unacceptable geographic barrier between Waterbeach and Chittering;
  - The Parish is taking a proactive approach in order to determine the development and use of land. Speculative planning applications have already seen the village lose the buffer zone between it and the proposed new town;
  - In longer term the NP will support the community in maintaining its identity and the quality of life that is enjoyed;
  - The PC considers that in their opinion the reality is that there is no local plan and therefore the former Barracks should not be considered a strategic site for the purpose of designating the Waterbeach NA.

#### **The Consultation**

- 20. SCDC carried out a four week consultation on the proposed NA which began on 26 June 2015 until 24 July 2015.
- 21. Consultation on the area application was undertaken by SCDC as required, with support from the PC: The details of how this consultation was carried out are included in Appendix B of this report.
- 22. Following concerns raised with the Council about the on-line consultation system it was decided to extend the opportunity to comment on the proposed neighbourhood area until 9am on Wednesday 5 August. This will give a longer period for local people to provide their comments and still enable officers to provide an update to the Planning Portfolio Holder before he makes a decision on the designation.
- 23. 103 representations were received during the consultation. 5 objecting to the area designation, 94 supporting the Waterbeach neighbourhood area and 4 commenting on the proposal. Summaries of the representations received during the consultation are attached as Appendix C.
- 24. Sport England and Historic England have both offered general support to neighbourhood planning and web links to relevant advice they have to assist parish councils in preparing a plan.

- 25. There is much support from local residents and businesses to the idea of Waterbeach Parish Council preparing a NP for their parish, with many stressing the importance of the whole parish being included in the NA. There is mention of the need for the people of the parish to have a stronger voice in planning and development decisions affecting their parish. Residents highlighted the issues they consider important to be included in a NP for the village and that the barracks site is part of the parish.
- 26. There were 5 representations objecting to the proposed NA. These are set out below.
- 27. Urban&Civic (U&C) has been appointed by the Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO) as development manager for the development of DIO's land at Waterbeach. They support the PC's desire for a NP and believe that this can be 'a positive process to sit alongside their own planning and design process.' However they consider that there are good reasons for the Council to exclude the strategic site of the new town. The reasons according to U&C are as follows:
  - (a) The new town is proposed as a strategic allocation in the emerging Local Plan. It is a large scale predominantly brownfield site development opportunity consistent with Government priorities
  - (b) The emerging Local Plan remains a relevant context for planning of this strategic site and the NP should be aligned with strategic needs and priorities;
  - (c) A NP including the strategic site is likely to require significant resources and expertise to meet the tests that a NP must pass before adoption;
  - (d) There is an alternative and more effective opportunity for the local community to engage in the emerging proposals for the strategic site which could sit alongside the NP process. U&C are committed to this engagement process
- 28. RLW Estates (RLW) acts on behalf of a number of farming families within the Waterbeach site. They welcome the PC's initiative in seeking to prepare a NP and are willing to engage with them. However they do not consider that it is within the remit of the NP process to 'address the principle of strategic development allocations' and therefore the new town at Waterbeach should be excluded from the NA. They highlight two case studies North Weald Bassett NA and Daws Hill NA where strategic sites were excluded from a NA. Both of these case studies are referred to in more detail in paragraphs 16 of this report). RLW consider it possible for a NP excluding the new town to still address some matters concerning the new settlement allocation.
- 29. Sustrans (an organisation promoting sustainable transport) has suggested that the NA should be drawn wider to recognise the importance of Waterbeach's services and its railway station to the surrounding area. It suggests including part of Landbeach, Horningsea and Lode parishes. Whilst supporting the proposed NA for Waterbeach two individuals have suggested that Landbeach parish be included within this area.
- 30. SCDC has met with Waterbeach PC to feedback to them the results of the consultation and to discuss the related issues relevant to the area and how their proposed NP would link into these. All these factors will need to be considered by the PC whilst they are preparing their NP. The PC indicated that it is ready to engage in these projects to ensure that the local community is fully involved in the future planning of their area. These strands of work are all interlinked and the PC believes that working together as a team, and with SCDC, they can greatly help future planning of their parish. The PC said it would focus on the priorities outlined in its application, and that it wants to engage with SCDC and the promoters of the new town to ensure the new development is well-linked to Waterbeach village and is planned and delivered as well as possible. The PC also indicated it would work with

SCDC on strategic transport matters and regarding links with Landbeach and the business parks located on the A10.

#### **Considerations for South Cambridgeshire District Council**

- 31. There are a number of strategic factors and projects that will affect Waterbeach and the surrounding area. These include the progress of the Local Plan; future work on the City Deal particularly regarding transport; and the fact that one of the promoters of the new town wishes to bring forward the development of the new town by preparing a Development Framework Document and submitting a planning application in 2016. Work on all these projects will take place whilst the PC prepares a NP.
- 32. There are a number of relevant considerations that the Portfolio Holder should take into account when making a decision on the NA. These were discussed with the PC when SCDC met with them recently. Key points are:
  - (a) The PC has set out clearly in its parish statement the reasons why it considers the whole parish should be designated as a NA. The PC is concerned about recent planning decisions in their area particularly the loss of the green separation proposed in the submitted Local Plan between their village and the proposed new town. A NP would be an opportunity for the local community to consider the combination of issues special to Waterbeach which, in their opinion, make the parish unique and to plan specifically for this local area including the proposed new town. At the recent meeting, Waterbeach PC indicated it understands the complex nature of future planning in its area and has recognised that this will be a challenging commitment. At the meeting it was said that the PC is willing to work with SCDC and other stakeholders as well as the promoters of the new town to achieve what is best for their local community.
  - (b) If the whole parish is designated, the PC does not see its role in preparing a NP for Waterbeach as doing the strategic planning for the new town but rather contributing local knowledge to assist SCDC who would tackle the wider strategic matters relating to the future planning for the Waterbeach area in particular the new town. There will need to be links to the wider area when planning for the new town to include Landbeach and the Cambridge Research Park to the west of the A10
  - (c) Consideration must be given to the representations received during the consultation on the NA designation. Compared to the previous NA consultations carried out by SCDC this one has generated much more local support. Objections were received from the promoters of the new town.
  - (d) The Local Plan examination is expected to resume in the first six months of 2016. The Inspectors have recently indicated that they are likely to issue an outline programme for future hearings in the autumn. One of the matters to be considered by the Inspectors will be the new town at Waterbeach and all the associated issues, including transport. The preparation of a NP would be informed by these hearings.
  - (e) The City Deal for the Greater Cambridge area has identified the A10 corridor as one where improvements are needed to meet existing and future demands. It is not within the first list of priority schemes but there is early work being carried out to gear up for the future.

(f) There are two promoters for the Strategic Site in Waterbeach. Both have objected to the new town being included in the NA. U&C is in discussions with SCDC to speed up the development of the new town in the light of recent national announcement regarding the reuse of brownfield land and the need for deliverable housing land to contribute to the five year housing land supply. The developer is considering preparing a Development Framework Document with public involvement and infrastructure evidence. They are also proposing to submit a planning application for all or part of the proposed new town in 2016. The preparation of the NP would have to follow the statutory process set out in regulations. The average NP takes 2 years to progress from commencement through examination and referendum, and therefore it could be that planning of the new town through a planning application would be determined before a NP was made to influence its masterplanning.

#### **Options for consideration by South Cambridgeshire District Council**

- 33. There are two options available to the Portfolio Holder regarding designating Waterbeach NA:
  - 1. To designate the whole parish of Waterbeach as a NA as proposed by Waterbeach Parish Council
  - 2. To amend the boundary of the proposed NA to exclude the new town site. If the area applied for is considered to be not appropriate SCDC must set out clearly the reasons for this decision.

#### **Option 1**: To designate the whole parish of Waterbeach.

- 34. There are a number of reasons why this option is recommended:
  - (a) The PC wishes to support its community and maintain its identity and quality of life through producing a NP. By preparing a plan for the whole parish the PC could through a NP, as happened in the case study on Sprowston, seek to achieve integration of the growth, ensuring that it respects the character of the area and provides for the needs of the existing and future community. The PC is keen to work with SCDC to achieve complementary plans for Waterbeach. The PC has stressed the importance of their local knowledge in considering future development within the parish and this knowledge would be incorporated in the policy making of a NP.
  - (b) By excluding the new town from the NA the local community could feel that they would have less influence over the future development of their whole parish. If the whole parish is designated the PC will, in preparing the NP, be able to look holistically at their area including not just the existing settlements of Waterbeach and Chittering but also how the new town will be integrated into their parish. The PC is willing to engage constructively with SCDC and the promoters during the proposed planning process for the new town.
  - (c) This is an existing administrative boundary with existing data available to be used in the evidence base during the plan making for the NP. The PAS advice would support such a boundary as making sense to the community and is logical in spatial terms.

- (d) If the proposed new town area is excluded it would create an unusually shaped NA for the PC to plan for, and there would be a gap between Waterbeach and Chittering.
- 35. **Option 2**: To modify the boundary of the proposed NA to exclude the strategic site. This option is preferred by the promoters of the new town, and factors that could support this option include:
  - a) The new town north of Waterbeach is a strategic site within the Submission Local Plan and a key part of the development strategy for the district. The successful planning of this strategic site is very important to the future delivery of housing within the district to 2031 and beyond. The new town has strategic infrastructure needs which will require careful planning and provision at a strategic level. Whilst recognising that it will impact on the local area including the adjoining Waterbeach and Chittering, its influence and overall impact will be over a much wider area. The evidence of Northstowe points to the planning and delivery of a new town and its supporting infrastructure to be a very complex task. Representations by U&C and RWL would support this conclusion.
  - b) The investment of time, energy and cost by the local community in preparing a NP needs to be well targeted. The Trull case study highlights how a local community needs to engage in all aspects of the planning of a strategic area not rely only on its NP.
- 36. SCDC notes the concerns from U&C and RLW Estates about including the new town in the NA but considers that, as the PC is willing to work together with all parties, then designating the parish as a whole is the most appropriate approach. This is the preferred option but would be subject to the PC agreeing principles regarding roles and working arrangements with SCDC by 21 August 2015.
- 37. Two objectors suggested having a larger NA taking in either all or part of surrounding parishes. This is not considered a realistic option as the adjoining parishes may wish to do a NP at a later date, and an area cannot be included in two NAs. Also none of the neighbouring PCs have requested to be included in the Waterbeach NA.

#### **Local Development Scheme**

- 38. The Local Development Scheme (LDS) was approved in February 2014 and sets out the planning documents that SCDC proposes to prepare. This LDS does not list the NAs that have been designated since at that time no NAs were designated in the district. Such designations are the first stage in preparing a NP for these parishes and these NPs after a successful referendum will become part of the development plan for the district. It is therefore proposed to include an addendum to the LDS to indicate which NAs have been designated. (See Appendix D for this addendum.)
- 39. In summary, the Portfolio Holder could for the proposed Waterbeach NA -
  - (a) Designate the whole parish of Waterbeach as a neighbourhood area as proposed within the application by the Parish Council,
  - (b) Decide to exclude the strategic site included in the Submission Local Plan from the proposed Waterbeach neighbourhood area (choice of boundaries);
  - (c) Decide to change the boundary to include all or part or of surrounding parishes notably Landbeach Parish within the NA. Officers consider this an unrealistic option as it could impact on these parishes being able to prepare for future NPs.

#### **Implications**

40. In the writing of this report, taking into account financial, legal, staffing, risk management, equality and diversity, climate change, community safety and any other key issues, the following implications have been considered:

#### Financial

- 41. SCDC has a neighbourhood planning budget and can claim from DCLG for up to 20 area designations in each financial year. The basic level of funding per NP is £30,000, of which £5,000 can be claimed for designation of a Neighbourhood Area.
- 42. The PC can access funding to assist it in preparing a NP. Locality provides grants of up to £8,000 for local communities preparing NPs. However an additional £6,000 is available if the NP is in a growth area or is for a more complex NP. Waterbeach PC may be eligible for this additional funding to assist them in plan making.

#### Legal

43. The Planning Portfolio Holder has delegated authority to make decisions on Neighbourhood Planning matters. Legal advice was sought to understand clearly the legal implications of the different options available to the Portfolio Holder in deciding what area to designate for Waterbeach.

#### Staffing

44. Support for neighbourhood planning is delivered by the Planning Policy Team and the Sustainable Communities and Partnerships Team, drawing upon the expertise of other staff as required.

#### Equality and Diversity

45. Equality and diversity issues will be considered during the preparation of the NP as appropriate to its content.

#### Climate Change

46. Climate change issues will be considered during the preparation of the NP as appropriate to its content.

#### **Consultation responses (including from the Youth Council)**

47. Consultation responses on the proposed NA are set out in Appendix C.

#### **Effect on Strategic Aims**

# Aim 1 - Engagement: engage with residents, parishes and businesses to ensure we deliver first class services and value for money

- 48. Neighbourhood planning engages local people in the planning process by giving them a tool to guide the future development, regeneration and conservation of an area. Parish councils lead on the preparation of NPs and local residents and businesses are engaged throughout the process.
- 49. Aim 2 Partnerships: Work with partners to create opportunities for employment, enterprise, education and world-leading innovation.

  The designation of a NA for Waterbeach is the first stage in preparing a NP for Waterbeach. This is an opportunity for the local community to shape through neighbourhood planning their local area whilst working with all parities engaged in

developing the strategic site and involvement in planning for strategic transport needs.

50. Aim 3 – Wellbeing: Ensure that South Cambridgeshire continues to offer an outstanding quality of life to our residents.

By preparing a NP local communities are being given the opportunity to create policies in their NP that will enhance the character of their local surroundings to contribute to ensuring an outstanding quality of life.

#### **Appendices**

Appendix A: The application from Waterbeach PC to have their parish designated as a NA. Appendix B: Details of the consultation carried out for designating a neighbourhood area in

Waterbeach

Appendix C: Summary of the representations received during the consultation.

Appendix D: Addendum to Local Development Scheme .

:

#### **Background Papers**

Where the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012 require documents to be open to inspection by members of the public, they must be available for inspection: -

- (a) at all reasonable hours at the offices of South Cambridgeshire District Council;
- (b) on the Council's website; and
- (c) in the case of documents to be available for inspection pursuant to regulation 15, on payment of a reasonable fee required by the Council by the person seeking to inspect the documents at the offices of South Cambridgeshire District Council.
- National Planning Practice Guidance relating to the designation of neighbourhood areas <a href="http://planningguidance.planningportal.gov.uk/blog/guidance/neighbourhood-planning/designating-a-neighbourhood-area/">http://planningguidance.planningportal.gov.uk/blog/guidance/neighbourhood-planning/designating-a-neighbourhood-area/</a>
- 2 PAS Briefing Note: Neighbourhood Area and Neighbourhood Forum Designations (March 2015) <a href="http://www.pas.gov.uk/web/pas1/neighbourhood-planning/-/journal">http://www.pas.gov.uk/web/pas1/neighbourhood-planning/-/journal</a> content/56/332612/7122577/ARTICLE
- 3 National Planning Practice Guidance What is neighbourhood planning.

  http://planningguidance.planningportal.gov.uk/blog/guidance/neighbourhoodplanning/what-is-neighbourhood-planning/what-is-a-neighbourhood-plan-and-what-isits-relationship-to-a-local-plan/

**Report Author:** Alison Talkington – Senior Planning Policy Officer

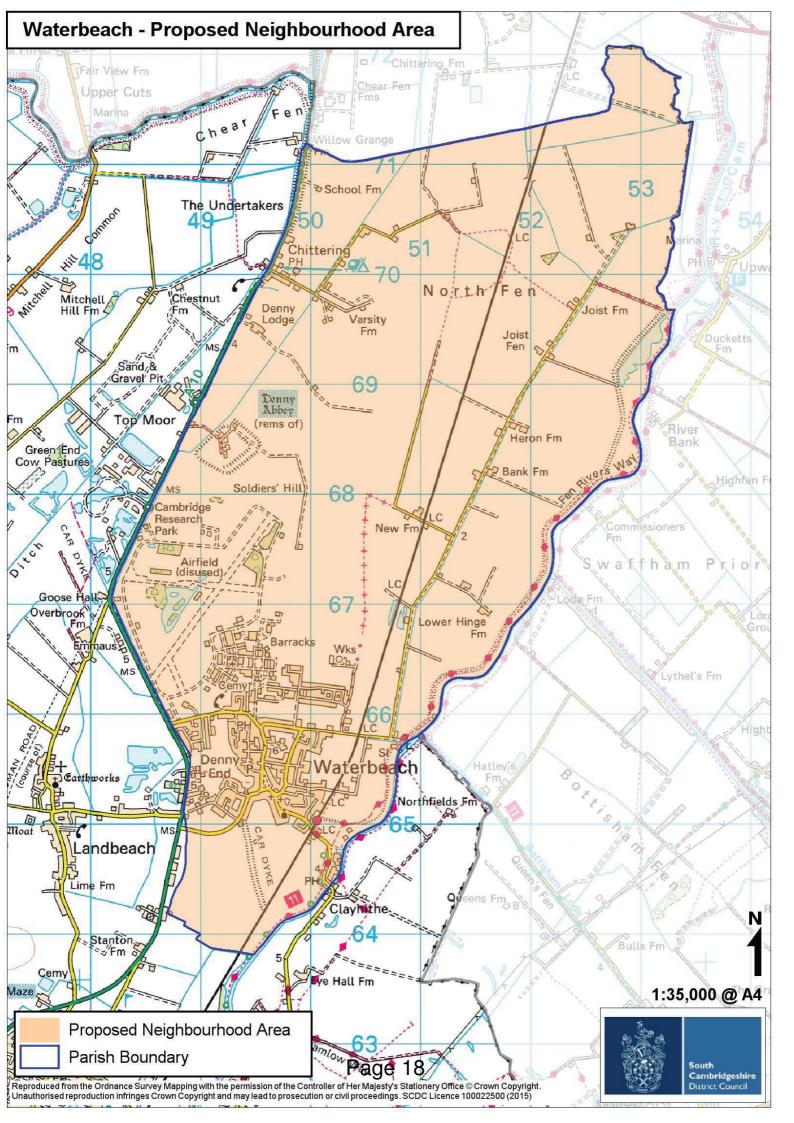
Telephone: (01954) 713182

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## Appendix A

Application by Waterbeach Parish Council to designate a neighbourhood area

- 1. Neighbourhood area map
- 2. Area designation form



# **Neighbourhood Planning**

# Application to designate a Neighbourhood Area



Town and Country Planning Act 1990
Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 and (Amendment)
Regulations 2015

Before completing this form, please read our Frequently Asked Questions document and the guidance notes below

Within South Cambridgeshire District only Parish Councils can apply for Neighbourhood Area designation. These will be the 'qualifying body' in this District – a term used in the regulations for Neighbourhood Planning. As the Local Planning Authority, South Cambridgeshire District Council (the Council) will need to undertake various periods of statutory consultation on your proposals.

#### **Data Protection and Freedom of Information**

Information in this form will be used solely for statutory Neighbourhood Planning consultations. Information, including names and contact information, will be available to view on the Council's website. By submitting this response form you are agreeing to these conditions.

If you n	If you need help to complete this form please call 01954 713182 or email <u>Neighbourhood.Planning@scambs.gov.uk</u> .		
Pleas	e complete this form using information a	nd contact details we can publish on our website	
1	Name of parish (or lead parish where there is more than one).  Where there is no parish council in place to make this application, please contact the Council for assistance in applying to designate a Neighbourhood Forum	Waterbeach	
2	Address	Waterbeach Parish Council The Old Pavilion Recreation Ground Cambridge Road Waterbeach Cambridge CB25 9NJ	
3	Contact name & position	Liz Jones, Parish Clerk and Barbara Bull, Vice Chair	
4	Telephone number	01223 441338( Parish Office) and 07527 476701 (Cllr Bull)	
5	E-mail	council@waterbeach.org.uk and Barbara.bull@waterbeach.org.uk	
6	Additional parish contact details If applicable, please list all parishes involved in this application and provide contact details for the clerks of each.		

- 7 Name of Neighbourhood Area In many cases this will reflect the name of the parish/es it covers
- 8 Proposed Neighbourhood Area
  The parish boundary might provide a good basis
  for a Neighbourhood Area but this is not
  obligatory. You must state why you consider the
  boundary you have proposed appropriate for
  designation. Without this information, your
  application cannot be processed.

Also, you must provide an Ordnance Survey Map showing clearly the boundary of the proposed Neighbourhood Area. Your application cannot be processed without a map. If you need help to prepare a map please contact <a href="Meighbourhood.Planning@scambs.gov.uk">Neighbourhood.Planning@scambs.gov.uk</a> or call 01954 713182

Waterbeach

Waterbeach Parish Council are proposing the designation of Waterbeach Parish as the Neighbourhood Area for their Neighbourhood Plan.

Parish Council Statement justifying designation of Waterbeach Parish as the Neighbourhood Area. (reference minute 14/139 Recommendation from 3 March 2015 Parish Council meeting and reference 15/21from 16 June 2015 Planning Committee)

Waterbeach Parish, bounded primarily by the A10 to the West and the River Cam to the East has a unique combination of issues compared to neighbouring communities including:

#### Rural nature:

The parish is still set in a predominantly rural area with significant agricultural land and a mix of housing, industry and commerce.

#### Transport Infrastructure:

Unlike other villages north of Cambridge it has a railway station, a station car park and 4 level crossings, which impact the transport infrastructure of the village. The village is heavily used by many commuters to avoid the queues at the A14/A10 junction by diverting through Waterbeach and Horningsea (to A14 East bound access, and to the B1047). The junctions to the A10 at Car Dyke Road and Chittering still see many accidents and they are not currently scheduled for major improvement. The A10 itself is constantly subject to heavy traffic and delays in travelling both North and South.

#### Flooding and Drainage

The land is mostly drained into the river Cam through the area controlled by the Waterbeach Internal Drainage Board, but much of the land is low lying and prone to flooding and the pumping capacity is limited meaning that flooding risk and surface water drainage are significant issues.

The sewage treatment plant is already running at high capacity resulting, at times, in sewage flooding parts of the village.

#### **Local Services and Community**

The parish supports health services such as the village surgery and a pharmacy, social care facilities such as sheltered housing and residential homes. There is a range of shops and businesses in the parish offering services and employment and a number of sports clubs and recreation facilities. There is a well supported local community primary school and several playgroups.

#### Conservation and Heritage

The parish has a designated conservation area, 22 listed buildings, 4 scheduled ancient monuments (Car Dyke, Denny Abbey, Waterbeach Abbey and Romano-British settlement at Chittering) as well as two museums.

#### **Environment**

The parish provides a varied environment with the millennium wood, orchards, pastures, river meadows (washes), farmland, lakes and the old airfield with these diverse habitats supporting a wide range of wild life including some protected and rare species.

#### Former Barracks Area

The central swathe of the parish Area is formed by farmland and a Former Barracks area (SS5), part of which is brownfield and part agricultural which is still farmed to this day. There is also an extensive landscape of woodland, grassland and ponds/lakes which are rich in wildlife and flora & fauna.

This Former Barracks area and additional farmland (SS5) is included in the proposed local plan as a strategic site. The proposed local plan has currently been referred back to SCDC for review as the Inspector has serious misgivings in relation to the sustainability of new settlements contained in the proposed plan.

It is therefore essential that this SS5 area be included in the Waterbeach Neighbourhood Plan Area because:

- It reflects the current boundary of the Parish Council.
- To exclude it would create an unacceptable geographic barrier between Waterbeach and Chittering.
- The Parish Council is taking a proactive approach in order to determine the development and use of land, as outlined at <a href="https://www.scambs.gov.uk/neighbourhood-planning">https://www.scambs.gov.uk/neighbourhood-planning</a>. This is particularly pressing in regard to speculative planning applications, which have already seen the village lose the buffer zone between it and the proposed New Town. We expect further speculative applications in the absence of a Local Plan.
- In the longer term, the Neighbourhood Plan will support our community in maintaining its identity and the quality of life that is enjoyed here.
- In reality there is currently no local plan and therefore the former Barracks (SS5) should not be considered as a strategic site for the purpose of designating the Waterbeach Neighbourhood Plan Area.

This combination of issues is unique to Waterbeach Parish and justifies its designation as a Neighbourhood Area for which a Neighbourhood Plan will be developed.

Decay publicity about your proposal to prepare a Neighbourhood Plan Please tell us what you have done so far to let your local community (e.g. residents, landowners, businesses) know you are considering preparing a Neighbourhood Plan for the proposed neighbourhood area. For example have you run public events, placed articles in the local press, made efforts to reach isolated residents?

Idea floated at the Annual Parish Meeting in July 2014.

Residents were asked to come forward if they wished to participate in the preparation of a plan.

Item published on the front page of Waterbeach Parish Council newsletter Autumn 2014. This is delivered to every household in the parish.

Dedicated area on Parish Council website for relevant documents to be uploaded and viewed.

Standing item on the agenda since January 2015 for the monthly Planning Committee meetings which are open to the public.

Open meeting of working party held on 24 February 2015. Announced both on news section of council website and council Facebook page.

Public consultation meeting planned for Wednesday 29 April 2015

Local Contact details

South Cambridgeshire District Council must publicise your application for designating a Neighbourhood Area. Please could you provide with your application details of local contacts for use in the Council's statutory consultation (see guidance notes below)

Local Contact information is enclosed

Yes

Can be provided electronically?

Yes

10

# 11 Declaration I/we hereby declare that this parish council is a constituted parish council and is the qualifying body to act in this context. Local contact information is

Where relevant, please ensure all other parishes involved have signed this application form. Continue on another sheet if necessary

enclosed and/or being sent electronically

	Signature:
	Parish (lead parish where there is more than one): Waterbeach
	Date (08/05/2015): original submission date (17/06/2015): revised version submitted
	Name:
	Signature:
	Parish:
	Date (dd/mm/yy):
-	

#### Guidance Note - please read the 'Frequently Asked Questions' before completing this form

#### Application for Neighbourhood Area designation

This is the first formal step in the development of a Neighbourhood Plan – a Neighbourhood Area must be designated before a Neighbourhood Plan can be developed. We recommend discussing your objectives with Council officers prior to completing this form, to ascertain whether this is the most appropriate vehicle for you and what support is available to develop your Plan. Working with neighbouring parishes with similar issues could reduce the workload and increase the pool of expertise and knowledge needed for the production of a Neighbourhood Plan.

Community engagement and consultation may need to take place before making an application to designate a Neighbourhood Area. Does the local community support the production of a Neighbourhood Plan? What are the issues as they see them? What Neighbourhood Area boundary options have they been given? Have they expressed a preference? Details of this community engagement should be detailed in Question 9.

#### Qualifying Body (sometimes referred to as the 'relevant body')

Applications must include a statement confirming that the parish council is the qualifying body. Your application is not complete without this information.

#### Areas with no parish council

Parish meetings can either get involved with the Neighbourhood Planning in an adjoining parish or apply to the Council to be designated as a Neighbourhood Forum, which can prepare its own Plan. If you think this applies to you, please contact the Council for assistance.

#### Filling out the form

South Cambridgeshire District Council has prepared this form to make it simple to apply for Area Designation. The contact address used on this form should be the main contact for future communication on the Neighbourhood Plan. Please be aware when completing the form that the information given may need to be published online.

#### **Local Contacts**

The Council must publicise the application for designating a Neighbourhood Area. You know your local community and are asked to submit with your application form, details of local contacts that that Council will use in carrying out its statutory consultation. Please ensure that you have enclosed (and send electronically wherever possible to <a href="Meighbourhood.Planning@scambs.gov.uk">Neighbourhood.Planning@scambs.gov.uk</a>) a list of addresses with postcodes and email addresses to named individuals for as many local stakeholders as possible, including businesses, community groups, landowners and education providers. This information will not be posted on our website but needs as far as possible to be professional contact information and not the personal

details of individuals who may not wish to be contacted or consulted on this matter. Information shared with us will be used for the sole purpose of statutory Neighbourhood Planning consultations. **Your application is not complete without this information.** 

#### Map of the Area

If you need help to prepare a map showing the Neighbourhood Area please contact Neighbourhood.Planning@scambs.gov.uk or call 01954 713182.

Your application is not complete without this information.

#### What happens next?

The Council must publicise the Area application on its website and in such other manner as they consider is likely to bring it to the attention of people who live, work or carry out business in the area to which the application relates. There will be a period of not less than 4 weeks of statutory public consultation when the Council will invite comments on the application.

#### Decision to designate

The Council will decide whether to designate the Neighbourhood Area.

#### Decisions will be made:

- Within 8 weeks where the parish council is the qualifying body and the entire parish area is nominated
- Within 20 weeks where the proposed area falls across two or more Local Authorities
- 13 weeks in all other cases

In all cases the time period runs from the date immediately following that on which the application is first publicised by the Local Planning Authority, i.e. the start of the statutory consultation by the Council and not from receipt of the application. The Council will notify the parish and publish decisions on its website. Reasons will be given if the application is not successful within the decision document.

The Council may modify the application with the parish's consent if it is considered the Neighbourhood Area is not appropriate.

#### Checklist - have you ...?

- Signed the declaration
- Included local contact information
- Included a map of the nominated Neighbourhood Area

#### Completed forms should be returned to:

Neighbourhood Planning Planning Policy Team Planning and New Communities South Cambridgeshire District Council South Cambridgeshire Hall Cambourne Business Park Cambourne Cambridgeshire CB23 6EA

### Appendix B

Details of the consultation carried out for designating a neighbourhood area in Waterbeach.

Prior to the application for area designation, the Parish Council (PC) held open meetings to discuss proposals for, and requirements of, a Neighbourhood Plan (NP) for the area. The idea of a NP was first floated at the Annual Parish Meeting in July 2014. Residents were asked to come forward if they wished to participate in the preparation of the plan. An item was published on the front page of the Waterbeach PC newsletter in Autumn 2014.

Waterbeach PC considered a statement justifying the boundary of their neighbourhood area to include in their application at meetings on 3 March 2015 and on 16 June 2015.

The application letter and associated area map from Waterbeach Parish Council, which includes their agreed statement of why the area should be designated, was published on the District Council's website on Friday 26 June 2015 and gave a closing date of 24 July 2015. Representations could be submitted on the consultation in a number of ways, namely via the online consultation system, by email or post.

The application to designate the Waterbeach Neighbourhood Area was available during this period at the District Council offices and at the Waterbeach Parish Office, The Old Pavilion, Cambridge Road, Waterbeach Cambridge CB25 9NJ.

The Council consulted with the Specific and General Consultees that are used for Local Plan consultations.

The Council consults with all the adjoining parish councils to Waterbeach and any others within a three mile buffer zone of the parish boundary.

With assistance from the PC, the Council also contacted local groups, businesses, landowners and schools in order to meet the requirement to bring the consultation to the attention of people, who live, work or carry out business in the proposed NA.

Posters were displayed across the proposed NA in key locations throughout the consultation period.

The PC also included the consultation on their website.

An item advertising the consultation was placed in the Planning Policy monthly update, which goes out to all parishes across the district.

A press release was sent out by the Council prior to the start of the consultation which resulted in an item in the Cambridge News on 24 June 2015. 'Village bid to shape its own planning future'.

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# **Appendix C**

Representations received during consultation about the Waterbeach neighbourhood area designation.

Rep ID	Details
64982	(Support) Waterbeach - Designation of Neighbourhood Area - Waterbeach - Designation of Neighbourhood Area - June 2015
	Respondent: Individual [22459] Received: 30/6/2015 via Web
	Importance of having common planning guidelines developed and then respected, so that conditions are not overturned or weakened later (as has happened in many
	developments). Importance of recognising impact of development on existing infrastructure (drainage, sewage) and environment and ensuring overall capacities are adequate before development.
	Importance of retaining station in its present location and maintaining the character of the parish as a rural community not an urban environment.
64983	(Object) Waterbeach - Designation of Neighbourhood Area - Waterbeach - Designation of Neighbourhood Area - June 2015
	Respondent: Sustrans (East of England) (Rohan Wilson) [7249] Received: 2/7/2015 via Web
	The Neighbourhood area should be drawn wider, to recognise the importance of Waterbeach's services and its railway station to the surrounding area. It should include the core of Landbeach, IQ Park and areas on the eastern side of the River Cam within say 2 miles of Bottisham Lock and Clayhithe Bridge, ie areas within Horningsea and Lode civil parishes, whose parish councils should be represented in the development of a Waterbeach Neighbourhood Plan
64984	(Comment) Waterbeach - Designation of
	Neighbourhood Area - Waterbeach - Designation of Neighbourhood Area - June 2015
	Respondent: Sport England (Zoe Hughes) [24080] Received: 7/7/2015 via Email
	National Planning Policy Framework identifies how planning plays important role in facilitating social interaction and creating healthy, inclusive communities. Encourages communities to become more physically active. Formal sport plays part -providing sports facilities vital. Means positive planning for sport, protection from unnecessary loss of sports facilities and planning for new sites.
	Important Neighbourhood Plan reflects national policy for sport.
	Sport England has role in protecting playing fields and presumption against their loss. Provides guidance on developing sport policy. Works with Local Authorities to ensure Local Plan policy has up to date evidence base. Neighbourhood Plan should reflect recommendations in Playing Pitch Strategy and any local investment opportunities are utilised to support delivery.
	New sports facilities should be fit for purpose and designed using our design guidance

	notes.
64985	(Comment) Waterbeach - Designation of Neighbourhood Area - Waterbeach - Designation of Neighbourhood Area - June 2015
	Respondent: UK Power Networks (Jim Whiteley) [16069] Received: 7/7/2015 via Email
	No comments to make which would be material to the application.
64987	(Support) Waterbeach - Designation of Neighbourhood Area - Waterbeach - Designation of Neighbourhood Area - June 2015
İ	Respondent: Individual [24659]
	Received: <b>9/7/2015 via Email</b> YES! I think the Waterbeach Neighbourhood plan is a GOOD idea.
64988	(Support) Waterbeach - Designation of Neighbourhood Area - Waterbeach - Designation of Neighbourhood Area - June 2015
	Respondent: Individual [24660] Received: 9/7/2015 via Web
	As a resident of the Barracks area, I fully support the whole parish of Waterbeach being considered under the proposed neighbourhood plan.
64989	(Support) Waterbeach - Designation of Neighbourhood Area - Waterbeach - Designation of Neighbourhood Area - June 2015
	Respondent: Individual [17296] Received: 9/7/2015 via Web
	I fully support this plan. Hopefully this will enable the village to have more of a voice especially regarding housing development.
64990	(Support) Waterbeach - Designation of Neighbourhood Area - Waterbeach - Designation of Neighbourhood Area - June 2015
	Respondent: Individual [21007] Received: 10/7/2015 via Web
	I fully support the Waterbeach Neighbourhood Plan application, the parish needs to be the whole of the parish not a fragmented section. We need to be able to be consulted regarding future planning applications and to have our say in deciding the future of Waterbeach.
64991	(Support) Waterbeach - Designation of Neighbourhood Area - Waterbeach - Designation of Neighbourhood Area - June 2015
L	Respondent: Individual [24663]

Received: 10/7/2015 via Web

Fully support local management of a local plan. The plan does need to consider sporting requirements, the Barracks site would be a fantastic location for Cambridgeshires First 50 meter swimming pool complex. The new Luton sporting complexis an ideal model and what Cambridge and its environs need.

The Waterbeach plan is a key local issue and local people should have a major input.

## (Support) Waterbeach - Designation of **Neighbourhood Area - Waterbeach - Designation** of Neighbourhood Area - June 2015

Respondent: Individual [508] Received: 10/7/2015 via Web

I support WPC's application to include the whole of the Parish as the area for the Neighbourhood Plan. It is important for local residents to have as much say as possible over the planned development in the Parish.

# 64993 (Support) Waterbeach - Designation of Neighbourhood Area - Waterbeach - Designation of Neighbourhood Area - June 2015

Respondent: Individual [17286] Received: 10/7/2015 via Web

It is important that we retain the current area of Waterbeach parish for our neighbourhood plan. Waterbeach parish has been the subject of intense activity by developers looking to cash in on the lack of a local plan and we have to protect ourselves from this unprecedented activity. Around 300 additional houses proposed in the Bannold area. Failing this we at least need to maximise the financial contribution of these developers towards local amenities.

# 64994 (Support) Waterbeach - Designation of **Neighbourhood Area - Waterbeach - Designation** of Neighbourhood Area - June 2015

Respondent: Individual [24664] Received: 10/7/2015 via Web

The residents should be able to put forward plans on issues such as transport that affect them directly and have some sort of legal protection for those plans.

#### 64995

# (Support) Waterbeach - Designation of **Neighbourhood Area - Waterbeach - Designation** of Neighbourhood Area - June 2015

Respondent: Individual [24665] Received: 10/7/2015 via Web

I support this application without reservation. If this application succeeds consideration should be given by Waterbeah Parish Council to encouraging Landbeach Parish Council to take similar action so that Neighbourhood Plans can be devised for both sides of the

#### 64996

# (Support) Waterbeach - Designation of **Neighbourhood Area - Waterbeach - Designation** of Neighbourhood Area - June 2015

Respondent: Individual [24666] Received: 11/7/2015 via Web

I feel that the local community needs a greater say in the developments that are being proposed and that it will help protect us from development for development sake( or just plain profit)

64997

## (Support) Waterbeach - Designation of **Neighbourhood Area - Waterbeach - Designation** of Neighbourhood Area - June 2015

Respondent: Individual [17420] Received: 12/7/2015 via Web

The experience of Waterbeach during the recent drawing up of the plan to develop a massive housing estate on the old barracks leads a resident like myself to support any plan for giving a louder voice, however small, to the village. The treatment of the villagers' views and particularly their support for a significant housing development, NOW, on the brown field part of the barracks site was seriously irresponsible given the lack of houses, NOW, locally. I support the neighbourhood area as designated by Waterbeach Parish Council in their submission.

64998

## (Support) Waterbeach - Designation of **Neighbourhood Area - Waterbeach - Designation** of Neighbourhood Area - June 2015

Respondent: Individual [17678] Received: 12/7/2015 via Web

I wish to support the whole of Waterbeach parish as the area for the neighbourhood plan for Waterbeach.

In particular I would object to the exclusion of the area being considered for future development at the former barracks and adjoining land from the neighbourhood plan

64999

# (Support) Waterbeach - Designation of **Neighbourhood Area - Waterbeach - Designation** of Neighbourhood Area - June 2015

Respondent: Individual [15997] Received: 13/7/2015 via Web

Whilst the majority of the residents of the Parish of Waterbeach live in the village there are a number of other properties scattered throughout most of the area outlined on the application map, including the sizeable settlement at Chittering and a small cluster of properties near Denny Abbey. There are also a number of isolated properties. The residents of these properties are in the care of Waterbeach PC and need a voice when plans which affect the parish are being considered.

# 65000 (Support) Waterbeach - Designation of **Neighbourhood Area - Waterbeach - Designation** of Neighbourhood Area - June 2015

Respondent: Individual [18630] Received: 9/7/2015 via Email

I support the proposal that the whole of the area of Waterbeach Parish should be designated a Neighbourhood Area so that Waterbeach Parish Council may develop a Neighbourhood Plan.

65001

# (Support) Waterbeach - Designation of

## **Neighbourhood Area - Waterbeach - Designation** of Neighbourhood Area - June 2015

Respondent: Mr & Ms D & J Groundsell & Holland [24674]

Received: 9/7/2015 via Email

Both my partner and I would like to register our support for the Waterbeach

development plan.

# 65002 (Support) Waterbeach - Designation of **Neighbourhood Area - Waterbeach - Designation** of Neighbourhood Area - June 2015

Respondent: Individual [24675] Received: **10/7/2015 via Email** 

I fully support the proposal for the Waterbeach plan.

# 65003 (Support) Waterbeach - Designation of Neighbourhood Area - Waterbeach - Designation of Neighbourhood Area - June 2015

Respondent: Individual [20774] Received: 13/7/2015 via Web

I support the neighbourhood development plan. I would like to see the character of Waterbeach protected. I would also like to see the land of the barracks used in a positive way for the village, in particular with some additional housing to replace the numbers of soldiers who lived on the barracks. Finally I would like to see the airfield made accessible, in particular to provide access to the Cambridge research park, which currently cannot be safely reached on a bicycle as the A10 does not have provision of a safe cycle route north of Denny End.

65004

# (Support) Waterbeach - Designation of **Neighbourhood Area - Waterbeach - Designation** of Neighbourhood Area - June 2015

Respondent: Individual [24676] Received: 14/7/2015 via Web

It is important that the problems of the A10 are addressed, and that we are fully involved in any process regarding the upgrading and improvements of this road.

65005

# (Comment) Waterbeach - Designation of Neighbourhood Area - Waterbeach - Designation of Neighbourhood Area - June 2015

Respondent: Historic England (Mr David Grech) [23622]

Received: 9/7/2015 via Email

Historic England has no objection to this designation. The Neighbourhood Area incorporates a number of designated heritage assets and it will be important that the strategy for this area safeguards those elements contributing to the importance of these historic assets. This will assist in ensuring they can be enjoyed by future generations and make sure it is in line with national planning policy. We would wish to comment on a draft of the plan in due course. The historic buildings conservation officer at SCDC is best placed to assist the Parish in the development of their Neighbourhood Plan and advising them to consider how the strategy might address the area's heritage assets.

65006

# (Support) Waterbeach - Designation of

# **Neighbourhood Area - Waterbeach - Designation** of Neighbourhood Area - June 2015

Respondent: Individual [24677] Received: 10/7/2015 via Email

The proposed neighbourhood area looks good to me.

# 65007 (Support) Waterbeach - Designation of **Neighbourhood Area - Waterbeach - Designation** of Neighbourhood Area - June 2015

Respondent: Individual [21013] Received: 10/7/2015 via Email

I wish to register my support for the map accompanying the Waterbeach Neighbourhood Plan . It has an historical and a community logic in thinking about the area . There needs to be an overview of the locality.

65008

# (Support) Waterbeach - Designation of Neighbourhood Area - Waterbeach - Designation of Neighbourhood Area - June 2015

Respondent: Individual [24678] Received: 14/7/2015 via Web

I have lived in the village of Waterbeach for the past fourteen years. I am concerned at the current level of proposed development. I have two issues affecting me personally (one of these being a developer trying to build on the woodland behind my house), and feel that it is appropriate that existing residents views are taken into account when decisions are made regarding the shaping of the village in the years to come. I believe the Neighbourhood Area status will allow the parish council to have a greater influence in how the village holds onto its assets.

65009

# (Support) Waterbeach - Designation of **Neighbourhood Area - Waterbeach - Designation** of Neighbourhood Area - June 2015

Respondent: Individual [24679] Received: **10/7/2015 via Email** 

I am emailing you to show support of the Waterbeach parish council application to be a neighbourhood development area.

65010

# (Support) Waterbeach - Designation of **Neighbourhood Area - Waterbeach - Designation** of Neighbourhood Area - June 2015

Respondent: Individual [24683] Received: 15/7/2015 via Web

Anything to take representation away from Ivory Towers must be supported. Decisions by people divorced from core actions will never be deemed to be comfortable or deliver equality. Developments which are considered beneficial to one's environment need to be decided by local support.

# 65011 (Support) Waterbeach - Designation of **Neighbourhood Area - Waterbeach - Designation**

## of Neighbourhood Area - June 2015

Respondent: Individuals[18660]
Received: 16/7/2015 via Web

We agree with the Waterbeach Neighbourhood Plan.

65012

# (Support) Waterbeach - Designation of Neighbourhood Area - Waterbeach - Designation of Neighbourhood Area - June 2015

Respondent: Individual [24684] Received: 16/7/2015 via Web

I support the proposed area for the Neighbourhood Plan because it covers the parish as a whole and in doing so will enable a shared vision to come forward which includes the future development of the barracks site which sits within the centre of the parish. I do not think that any of the areas within the Parish, due to their proximity to one another, can be considered in isolation. A joint strategy is required to ensure that the future growth of the Parish is done strategically and benefits all residents both current and future

65013

# (Support) Waterbeach - Designation of Neighbourhood Area - Waterbeach - Designation of Neighbourhood Area - June 2015

Respondent: Individual [24686] Received: 16/7/2015 via Web

This opportunity to have an input on the development of this village and assist the council in its deliberations cannot be missed. I support the plan. I am anxious that the structure of the village will not be lost in urban development and that care will be taken to ensure a sustainable and comprehensive transport pattern to serve any housing built in the Development Area. Parts of the village are serving as a car park for users of the existing Railway Station to the detriment of residential amenity.

65014

# (Support) Waterbeach - Designation of Neighbourhood Area - Waterbeach - Designation of Neighbourhood Area - June 2015

Respondent: Individual [20360] Received: 17/7/2015 via Email

I would like to register my support for the Waterbeach Neighbourhood plan, I approve of the designation of the area for the Neighbourhood plan as the entire Waterbeach Parish.

65015

# (Object) Waterbeach - Designation of Neighbourhood Area - Waterbeach - Designation of Neighbourhood Area - June 2015

Respondent: Individual [24688] Received: 16/7/2015 via Email

I think it is a good idea to have a neighbourhood plan. I believe that the Landbeach marina Science park and the Waste recycling facility should be included in the area plan, despite being in the parish of Landbeach and on the other side of the road, as they represent part of the A10 corridor, and potentially the access to the countryside on that side of the road. Similarly the Science park trades on being near Waterbeach Station and the A10 bus routes. The corridor should not be split in this way when considering development and the amelioration of such development as it affects the settled

population.

#### 65016

# (Support) Waterbeach - Designation of **Neighbourhood Area - Waterbeach - Designation** of Neighbourhood Area - June 2015

Respondent: Individual [16775] Received: 17/7/2015 via Web

It is important that the local people have a strong influence on the future of our village. The proposed area of the whole parish ensures that all development within the parish

will be influenced by the plan.

# 65017 (Support) Waterbeach - Designation of **Neighbourhood Area - Waterbeach - Designation** of Neighbourhood Area - June 2015

Respondent: Individual [24692] Received: 17/7/2015 via Web

I support the need for a Waterbeach designated neighbourhood area. Waterbeach is a beautiful, semi rural area and I believe that the views of the residents to keep Waterbeach from over development and haven for wildlife, should be taken into account.

#### 65018

# (Support) Waterbeach - Designation of **Neighbourhood Area - Waterbeach - Designation** of Neighbourhood Area - June 2015

Respondent: Individual [16689] Received: 18/7/2015 via Web

I fully support the neighbourhood development plan for the Waterbeach area. I agree that the people of Waterbeach parish should have a stronger voice in the planning and development decisions affecting their parish.

#### 65019

# (Support) Waterbeach - Designation of **Neighbourhood Area - Waterbeach - Designation** of Neighbourhood Area - June 2015

Respondent: Individual [21546] Received: 18/7/2015 via Web

I support the Neighbourhood Development plan. I feel that as local residents we need to have a say in local developments that affect us. The issues of flooding, local affordable housing for local people, the A10/A14 are areas of concern. We should have a voice.

# 65020 (Object) Waterbeach - Designation of **Neighbourhood Area - Waterbeach - Designation** of Neighbourhood Area - June 2015

Respondent: Individual [24695] Received: 19/7/2015 via Web

I support the need for a Neighbourhood development Plan but I think consideration should be given to boundaries of the area to include Landbeach as any new development will impact on both communities and we should be working together to achieve a sustainable future for our villages.

# 65021 (Support) Waterbeach - Designation of **Neighbourhood Area - Waterbeach - Designation** of Neighbourhood Area - June 2015

Respondent: Individual [19007] Received: 19/7/2015 via Web

I Fully support the Waterbeach neighbourhood plan as the community have a say in issues that have been identified as concerns following a public meeting recently held in

Waterbeach.

# 65022 (Support) Waterbeach - Designation of **Neighbourhood Area - Waterbeach - Designation** of Neighbourhood Area - June 2015

Respondent: Individual [21545] Received: 19/7/2015 via Web

I support the application to designate Waterbeach as a Neighbourhood Area because this will help ensure that local people and businesses can influence the future of this area and have a positive impact on it.

#### 65023

# (Support) Waterbeach - Designation of **Neighbourhood Area - Waterbeach - Designation** of Neighbourhood Area - June 2015

Respondent: Individual [24689] Received: 17/7/2015 via Email

I fully support the Waterbeach neighbourhood plan.

#### 65024

# (Support) Waterbeach - Designation of **Neighbourhood Area - Waterbeach - Designation** of Neighbourhood Area - June 2015

Respondent: Individual [17979] Received: 20/7/2015 via Email

I fully support the designation of the entire Parish of Waterbeach as the Waterbeach Neighbourhood Plan area, having read the justification statements on the S Cambs DC and parish council websites.

#### 65025

# (Support) Waterbeach - Designation of **Neighbourhood Area - Waterbeach - Designation** of Neighbourhood Area - June 2015

Respondent: Individual [19296] Received: 18/7/2015 via Email

I hereby give my support to the Waterbeach Neighbourhood Plan as put forward by Waterbeach Parish Council.

# 65026 (Support) Waterbeach - Designation of Neighbourhood Area - Waterbeach - Designation of Neighbourhood Area - June 2015

Respondent: Individuals [21936]

Received: 20/7/2015 via Paper

With all the future plans laid out for the Waterbeach area we feel that it is important we are part of a Neighbourhood plan, so we have more say in the development & plans, plus infrastructures in the future.

It is also important that areas such as Denny Abbey do not become surrounded by

65027

# (Support) Waterbeach - Designation of **Neighbourhood Area - Waterbeach - Designation** of Neighbourhood Area - June 2015

Respondent: Individual [24698] Received: 20/7/2015 via Web

It is imperative that the current boundary of Waterbeach Parish Council is maintained which has the villages of Waterbeach and Chittering within it.If Waterbeach New Town is approved which lies within the boundary at the local plan inquiry the residents of both villages need to have a plan in place to address major issues,infrastructure,drainage, affordable housing, public services, green spaces, highways. The plan is also essential because of the already approved 350+ dwellings inside and outside the village framework due to speculative development whilst the local plan is still at the inquiry stage and could take another year to be finalised.

65028

# (Support) Waterbeach - Designation of Neighbourhood Area - Waterbeach - Designation of Neighbourhood Area - June 2015

Respondent: Individual [21213] Received: 21/7/2015 via Web

I feel that Waterbeach should have a neighbourhood plan to help ensure that all development is sustainable, enhances the current developed area and considers the local issues including the high flooding risk

65029

# (Support) Waterbeach - Designation of **Neighbourhood Area - Waterbeach - Designation** of Neighbourhood Area - June 2015

Respondent: Individual [22459] Received: 22/7/2015 via Web

As a landowner of grazing land in the Parish I consider the Neighbourhood Area proposed is appropriate and support the designation of the Area aligned with the Parish Boundary

# 65030 (Support) Waterbeach - Designation of **Neighbourhood Area - Waterbeach - Designation** of Neighbourhood Area - June 2015

Respondent: Individual [21007] Received: 22/7/2015 via Web

I fully support the whole of Waterbeach Parish to be included in the Neighbourhood plan, with the recent flooding on Thursday 16th July it makes it even more important that we have a say on the amount of houses built in the area for that very reason.

65031

# (Support) Waterbeach - Designation of Neighbourhood Area - Waterbeach - Designation

## of Neighbourhood Area - June 2015

Respondent: Individual [24672] Received: 21/7/2015 via Email

Important time for Waterbeach - decisions being made about housing needs for area. Appears this part of county in particular area north of Waterbeach is being viewed as answer. Suffering from lack of strategy and joined up approach between local and national government planning policy. Demonstrated by:

- \* Planning approval (under central government appeal) for developments north of Waterbeach despite land being proposed for greenbelt in local plan.
- \* Local plan -proposed new settlement at Waterbeach questioned by inspectorate at first review.
- \* Government planning announcements appearing to encourage development close to existing employment areas.

Most people appreciate need for increase in housing supply and accept some in Waterbeach but currently speculative planning applications and prospect of massive settlement proposed in Local Plan.

Neighbourhood area application appears to provide mechanism to help ensure sustainable development whilst maintaining the character of village. Will ensure some local accountability for future of Waterbeach.

# 65032 (Support) Waterbeach - Designation of Neighbourhood Area - Waterbeach - Designation of Neighbourhood Area - June 2015

Respondent: Nine Tiles (J S & Dr C R Grant) [24711]

Received: 22/7/2015 via Email

We would like to support this application for the designation of the area as aligned with Waterbeach Parish.

65033

# (Support) Waterbeach - Designation of **Neighbourhood Area - Waterbeach - Designation** of Neighbourhood Area - June 2015

Respondent: Individual [24077] Received: 22/7/2015 via Paper

I support the Waterbeach Parish Council's application to develop a Neighbourhood Plan on the basis of the area of Waterbeach Parish.

I believe this area would be the best basis for a Neighbourhood Plan because:

- 1) It is large enough to include all the elements needed to make an effective neighbourhood plan
- 2) It is small enough to make the fullest genuine local involvement and participation.
- 3) It is used to working as a cohesive unit and does so effectively.

65034

# (Support) Waterbeach - Designation of Neighbourhood Area - Waterbeach - Designation of Neighbourhood Area - June 2015

Respondent: Individual [24712] Received: 22/7/2015 via Paper

I would like to add my name to the list of people who support Waterbeach Parish Council's application to develop a Neighbourhood plan on the basis of the area of Waterbeach Parish.

My reasons are that it is large enough to include all the elements needed to make up an effective neighbourhood plan, but small enough to make sure that there is genuine interest in local participation.

The present Parish Council seem to be used to working together effectively for the satisfaction of the local people.

65035

# (Support) Waterbeach - Designation of Neighbourhood Area - Waterbeach - Designation of Neighbourhood Area - June 2015

Respondent: Individual [18633] Received: 22/7/2015 via Web

I fully support the designation of the Waterbeach Neighbourhood area. I also support the former barracks being included in the designated area.

Therefore yes I agree to Waterbeach Parish being the designated area for a

Neighbourhood Development Plan.

65036

# (Support) Waterbeach - Designation of Neighbourhood Area - Waterbeach - Designation of Neighbourhood Area - June 2015

Respondent: Individual [22128] Received: 22/7/2015 via Web

Waterbeach Parish Council would have more say in how the parish is developed in the coming years.

More certainty that the views of Waterbeach are taken in to account and not disregarded by South Cambs DC.

The plan would generate funds for the parish to improve facilities for the inhabitants and give a better quality of life.

65037

# (Support) Waterbeach - Designation of Neighbourhood Area - Waterbeach - Designation of Neighbourhood Area - June 2015

Respondent: **Individual [24716]** Received: **22/7/2015 via Web** 

I believe that a Neighbourhood Plan is the best way for the local community to take a proactive approach to contributing to decisions on the future development of Waterbeach parish.

Community involvement through such a plan will enable the community to provide strong guidance to the benefit of the existing community and those people likely to move into new developments.

Important issues that the community needs a strong guiding voice in include:

- sustainable community/transport infrastructure of future developments
- drainage and flooding which already affects the village
- road safety in a village currently lacking crossings
- affordable new housing for local people

65038

# (Support) Waterbeach - Designation of Neighbourhood Area - Waterbeach - Designation of Neighbourhood Area - June 2015

Respondent: SJ Bull & Son (Mr Phillip Bull) [24300]

Received: 22/7/2015 via Email

I fully support the Waterbeach designation of a Neighbourhood Area.

# 65039 (Support) Waterbeach - Designation of **Neighbourhood Area - Waterbeach - Designation** of Neighbourhood Area - June 2015

Respondent: Individual [22163] Received: 22/7/2015 via Email

I am writing to give my backing for Waterbeach parish being nominated as a

neighbourhood development area.

#### 65040

# (Support) Waterbeach - Designation of **Neighbourhood Area - Waterbeach - Designation** of Neighbourhood Area - June 2015

Respondent: Individual [4108] Received: 23/7/2015 via Web

As a resident of the village, I feel it is important that we are consulted about and can influence future developments in Waterbeach. There has been too much development in the village and our sewers can not cope with any more development.

#### 65041

# (Support) Waterbeach - Designation of **Neighbourhood Area - Waterbeach - Designation** of Neighbourhood Area - June 2015

Respondent: Individual [24717] Received: 23/7/2015 via Email

I support the Waterbeach Parish Council application for a community led neighbourhood plan. I would support the suggested area of the plan being the current parish boundary as applied for.

# 65042 (Support) Waterbeach - Designation of **Neighbourhood Area - Waterbeach - Designation** of Neighbourhood Area - June 2015

Respondent: Individual [24703] Received: 23/7/2015 via Web

I would like to support the designation of the proposed Neighbourhood Area for

# (Support) Waterbeach - Designation of **Neighbourhood Area - Waterbeach - Designation** of Neighbourhood Area - June 2015

Respondent: Individual [20369] Received: 23/7/2015 via Web

I am in full support of the designation of a Neighbourhood Area for Waterbeach.

#### 65044

# (Support) Waterbeach - Designation of **Neighbourhood Area - Waterbeach - Designation** of Neighbourhood Area - June 2015

Respondent: Individuals [22344] Received: 23/7/2015 via Web

We support this initiative thinking it is a good idea that residents have a way of making their views known on future planning through the Parish Council.

# (Support) Waterbeach - Designation of Neighbourhood Area - Waterbeach - Designation of Neighbourhood Area - June 2015

Respondent: Individual [24730] Received: 23/7/2015 via Web

I am writing in order to give my support for Waterbeach parish being nominated as a neighbourhood development area.

# 65046 (Support) Waterbeach - Designation of **Neighbourhood Area - Waterbeach - Designation** of Neighbourhood Area - June 2015

Respondent: Individual [24732] Received: **24/7/2015 via Web** 

Barracks housing is/would be part of the village community.

Infrastructure is very important:

Upgrade / dualing of the A10 is critical from Waterbeach since it is already over capacity

Railway station should not be moved just to suit new development since existing village residents will be adversely affected as proposal does not offer easy access to the new location and also people just do not expect a railway station to move!

#### 65047

# (Support) Waterbeach - Designation of **Neighbourhood Area - Waterbeach - Designation** of Neighbourhood Area - June 2015

Respondent: Individual [24733] Received: 24/7/2015 via Web

I hereby give my support to the Waterbeach Neighbourhood Plan as put forward by Waterbeach Parish Council.

#### 65048

# (Support) Waterbeach - Designation of **Neighbourhood Area - Waterbeach - Designation** of Neighbourhood Area - June 2015

Respondent: Individual [24734] Received: 24/7/2015 via Web

I think its right that the Village plan area covers the same area as the parish boundary. The farms and houses up Long Drove are occupied by people who identify as being part of the village, and I would like us to be able to take opportunities to improve access from the village to Denny Abbey (cycling/walking access - away from the A10)

#### 65049

# (Support) Waterbeach - Designation of Neighbourhood Area - Waterbeach - Designation of Neighbourhood Area - June 2015

Respondent: Individual [20843] Received: 24/7/2015 via Web

The boundary as proposed of the whole parish is a good idea. The current housing on

the barracks site was always, and still is, very much part of the village community and any new development at the barracks site will impact on the village. Therefore it makes sense that our village would like to be involved in the planning of it and especially lots of new infrastructure to ensure the overall plan is a cohesive one for the benefit of everybody throughout the parish.

# 65050 (Support) Waterbeach - Designation of **Neighbourhood Area - Waterbeach - Designation** of Neighbourhood Area - June 2015

Respondent: Individual [17465] Received: 23/7/2015 via Email

We support the forming of a Neighbourhood Development Plan for Waterbeach as it will give the community some say in how the area is developed and could bring more finance to the Parish council for the benefit of residents.

65051

# (Support) Waterbeach - Designation of Neighbourhood Area - Waterbeach - Designation of Neighbourhood Area - June 2015

Respondent: Individual [17579] Received: 23/7/2015 via Email

As a Waterbeach resident, I would like to register my full support/backing of the Waterbeach Parish Council's Application to have Waterbeach Parish designated as a Neighbourhood Development Plan Area.

Our community needs to be protected from speculative development such as the proposed New Town. I fully agree with the Parish Council's arguments made in the application, in particular in relation to the current horrific traffic volume on the A10, which as it is now, is no longer sustainable. The queues on the A10 from Waterbeach to Milton are a regular daily feature on the local morning traffic news!

# 65052 (Support) Waterbeach - Designation of **Neighbourhood Area - Waterbeach - Designation** of Neighbourhood Area - June 2015

Respondent: Individual [22440] Received: 24/7/2015 via Email

I write to support the Parish Council's application for a neighbourhood plan for Waterbeach, and also that this would most logically cover the area of the parish boundary on the plan. Having a neighbourhood plan would increase local determination of issues and be a positive step for the village.

65053

# (Support) Waterbeach - Designation of **Neighbourhood Area - Waterbeach - Designation** of Neighbourhood Area - June 2015

Respondent: Individual [24738] Received: 24/7/2015 via Web

Please keep the barracks site together with the village as whatever development happens will impact massively on Waterbeach.

65054

# (Support) Waterbeach - Designation of **Neighbourhood Area - Waterbeach - Designation**

## of Neighbourhood Area - June 2015

Respondent: Individual [18721] Received: 24/7/2015 via Web

I fully support the proposed Neighbourhood Plan that Waterbeach Parish Council and residents have put significant time and effort into bringing foward.

The Neighbourhood Plan's are an excellent example of Localism and giving a community some control and influence over shaping the best interests of their community.

Already we have seen many speculative developments passed. Anything that provides a greater say for the community is crucial.

I would very much implore that the Barracks are included in the area of the Neighbourhood Plan as this land is within the Parish.

65055

# (Support) Waterbeach - Designation of **Neighbourhood Area - Waterbeach - Designation** of Neighbourhood Area - June 2015

Respondent: Individual [24740] Received: 24/7/2015 via Web

It makes sense for the village community of Waterbeach to support a whole parish boundary. The current housing on the old barracks site is an integral part of the community and village. Too much new development is having an impact on local infrastructure, which is already pushed to its limit and localised flooding and sewage problems.

I believe the villagers should be involved in overall planning regarding development and infrastructure.

65056

# (Support) Waterbeach - Designation of **Neighbourhood Area - Waterbeach - Designation** of Neighbourhood Area - June 2015

Respondent: Individual [18748] Received: 24/7/2015 via Web

I fully support this Neighbourhood Plan as submitted by Waterbeach Parish Council. I believe that we, as village residents, should be given the opportunity to have a say in the future of our village and I understand that this Neighbourhood Plan will enable us to do this.

# 65057 (Support) Waterbeach - Designation of **Neighbourhood Area - Waterbeach - Designation** of Neighbourhood Area - June 2015

Respondent: Cottenham Parish Council (Frank Morris) [24742] Received: 24/7/2015 via Web

We support the principle of Neighbourhood Development Plans. Waterbeach adjoins Cottenham Civil Parish to the North-East of our boundary. We agree in principle with the proposed geographic scope. We support the application for the area to be designated as proposed.

65059

# (Support) Waterbeach - Designation of Neighbourhood Area - Waterbeach - Designation of Neighbourhood Area - June 2015

Respondent: Individual [22316] Received: 23/7/2015 via Email

I support the neighbourhood plan boundary proposed by waterbeach parish council. It is vital the whole parish including the barracks is incorporated. Short term, families in the old married quarters will still use the facilities. It's nonsense to separate them from the village and any building on the barracks site into a separate plan, particularly now the proposed green belt separation of the village and barracks/newtown has been lost to speculative development.

Whatever happens on the barracks site impacts on the village so it needs to be a part of the planning process to ensure both the old and new can benefit from each other.

# (Support) Waterbeach - Designation of Neighbourhood Area - Waterbeach - Designation of Neighbourhood Area - June 2015

Respondent: Individual [20368] Received: 24/7/2015 via Web

I fully support the proposal for the neighbourhood plan boundary area to encompass the whole of Waterbeach parish, including the former barracks site. This site is an integral part of the village and any development on it will have a significant impact n the village as a whole. It is essential that the village is fully involved in any future developments on

#### 65061

# (Support) Waterbeach - Designation of **Neighbourhood Area - Waterbeach - Designation** of Neighbourhood Area - June 2015

Respondent: Individual [24737] Received: 24/7/2015 via Web

I support the area proposed for the Waterbeach neighbourhood plan. It is important that it includes the area allocated for the new town to influence the type and design of the proposed development.

# 65062 (Support) Waterbeach - Designation of Neighbourhood Area - Waterbeach - Designation of Neighbourhood Area - June 2015

Respondent: Individual [24748] Received: 23/7/2015 via Email

I totally support the Parish Council's proposal that the the District Council should designate a Neighbourhood Area with the boundary being the same as the parish boundary.

#### 65063

# (Support) Waterbeach - Designation of **Neighbourhood Area - Waterbeach - Designation** of Neighbourhood Area - June 2015

Respondent: Waterbeach Parish Council (Liz Jones) [17084] Received: 23/7/2015 via Email

Following our application to you, Waterbeach Parish Council fully supports the proposed designated area for the Neighbourhood Development Plan.

#### 65064

# (Support) Waterbeach - Designation of **Neighbourhood Area - Waterbeach - Designation**

## of Neighbourhood Area - June 2015

Respondent: **Individuals** [24751] Received: 24/7/2015 via Email

The boundary proposed of the whole parish is a good idea. The current housing on the barracks site is very much part of the village community and any new development at the barracks site will impact on the village too. The village would like to be involved in the planning of it and especially with new infrastructure to ensure the overall plan is a cohesive one for the benefit of everybody throughout the parish.

65065

# (Support) Waterbeach - Designation of Neighbourhood Area - Waterbeach - Designation of Neighbourhood Area - June 2015

Respondent: Individual [21511] Received: 22/7/2015 via Email

I wish to support the proposal by Waterbeach Parish Council to designate the whole Parish Area as the Waterbeach Neighbourhood Plan Area.

65066

# (Object) Waterbeach - Designation of Neighbourhood Area - Waterbeach - Designation of Neighbourhood Area - June 2015

Agent: David Lock Associates (Darren Bell) [24750]

Respondent: Urban & Civic [24293]
Received: 24/7/2015 via Email

U&C support PC aspirations to prepare Neighbourhood Plan and wishes to work closely with local community. Will help shape master planning Waterbeach Barracks site.

Allocation SS/5 of Proposed Submission Local Plan should be excluded:

- \* Strategic / large scale predominantly brownfield site development opportunity, consistent with Government priorities.
- \* Emerging Local Plan context and Neighbourhood Plan should align with strategic needs and priorities.
- \* If included, requires significant resources and expertise.
- \* Alternative / more effective opportunity for community to engage in emerging proposals for strategic site could sit alongside Neighbourhood Plan process.

SCDC should consider High Court and Court of Appeal finding in favour of Wycombe Borough Council's decision to exclude RAF Daw's Hill.

65067

# (Support) Waterbeach - Designation of Neighbourhood Area - Waterbeach - Designation of Neighbourhood Area - June 2015

Respondent: **Individual** [24752] Received: 24/7/2015 via Email

I believe that the boundary as proposed of the whole parish including the barracks site, is a good idea. The housing on the barracks is very much part of the village community and any development on the barracks would impact on the village too. The village would like to be involved in the planning of any new developments, especially with respect to the infrastructure, to ensure that the new plan is a cohesive one which will benefit the whole Parish.

65068

(Comment) Waterbeach - Designation of Neighbourhood Area - Waterbeach - Designation

## of Neighbourhood Area - June 2015

Respondent: Gladman Developments (Mr John Fleming) [23632]

Received: 24/7/2015 via Email

No specific comments to make on Neighbourhood Area designation. Gladman take opportunity to highlight number of key requirements to which development of emerging Neighbourhood Plan should have regard. Gladman wish to participate in Neighbourhood Plan's preparation and be notified of further developments and consultations in this regard.

Government's policies - NPPF (paras 16, 184) & PPG (para 65) & Para 8(2) of Schedule 4B T&CP Act 1990. Must conform with adopted Local Plan - LDF, but reduced weight due to failure to meet OAN. Emerging Local Plan suspended. Inappropriate to progress with NP. Cannot prevent development. May require SA.

65069

# (Support) Waterbeach - Designation of Neighbourhood Area - Waterbeach - Designation of Neighbourhood Area - June 2015

Respondent: Individual [24753] Received: 24/7/2015 via Email

I am responding to the Waterbeach neighbourhood boundary consultation. The boundary as proposed of the whole parish is a good idea. The current housing on the barracks site is part of our village/community and any new development at the barracks would impact on the village. We as a village want to be involved especially around the new infrastructure so we know that the plan will be of benefit to all of us in the parish

65070

# (Object) Waterbeach - Designation of Neighbourhood Area - Waterbeach - Designation of Neighbourhood Area - June 2015

Agent: Boyer Planning (Matthew Clarke) [9069] (unconfirmed)

Respondent: RLW Estates and Defence Infrastructure Organisation [18277] Received: 24/7/2015 via Email

Welcome PC seeking to designate Area - propose dialogue to provide assistance in preparation of NP.

Allocated site in Local Plan (Policy SS/5). Local Plan suspended but new settlements not rejected. Local Plan should be given due weight - emerging plan at advanced stage.

NP can propose more development, identify suitable sites, help determine type and design of development but cannot propose less growth or prevent development. Must conform with national policy and strategic policies in Local Plan - emerging Local Plan.

Not NP remit to address strategic development allocations, although NPPG para 036 allows and para 184 should support strategic development.

SCDC should exclude SS/5 site from Area. Precedent - Epping Forest District Council. Case Law - Daw's Hill Neighbourhood Forum v Wycombe District Council.

65071

# (Support) Waterbeach - Designation of Neighbourhood Area - Waterbeach - Designation of Neighbourhood Area - June 2015

Respondent: **Individual** [24754] Received: 24/7/2015 via Email

I am writing in support of the Waterbeach Parish Council's current application to

designate a Neighbourhood Area.

#### 65072

# (Support) Waterbeach - Designation of Neighbourhood Area - Waterbeach - Designation of Neighbourhood Area - June 2015

Respondent: Individual [24755] Received: 24/7/2015 via Email

It's a great idea to have a Waterbeach Neighbourhood Plan that includes the old barracks site and Denny Abbey. It's important that Waterbeach occupants have a say in how their village is developed and changed. This is a very special village with a strong community spirit and any developments need to support and enhance the community. We must not become a soulless place with no vision.

With plans to expand Waterbeach massively we need a transparent open approach and ability to incorporate all villager's needs and concerns on changes that have the potential to have a positive impact or a very strong long-term negative impact if not dealt with properly.

I am very concerned that without this Plan we are at strong risk of losing a very happy village, that we chose for its unique properties where we want our children to grow up.

# 65073 (Support) Waterbeach - Designation of **Neighbourhood Area - Waterbeach - Designation** of Neighbourhood Area - June 2015

Respondent: Individual [24756] Received: 24/7/2015 via Email

I support Waterbeach Parish Council's designated Neighbourhood area.

Waterbeach has lost the buffer zone between itself and the proposed new town meaning that there is no separation between the two. This has considerable implications for Waterbeach residents. Recent changes to planning rules have given a defacto green light to building on brown field sites. There will be development of at least that part of the Barracks. It's essential expansion within the parish boundary should be considered by the Parish Council and relevant funding applied for benefitting the whole of Waterbeach the designated area would allow for this.

I believe it would be fundamentally anti-democratic to exclude the Barracks site from the remit of the Parish Council as part of its designated area.

#### 65074

# (Support) Waterbeach - Designation of **Neighbourhood Area - Waterbeach - Designation** of Neighbourhood Area - June 2015

Respondent: Gilzean Electronics Television Engineer & Aerial Specialist (Mr Ivan Gilzean) [24256]

Received: 24/7/2015 via Email

Wish to support proposed Neighbourhood Plan. Village resident and run small business. Whole of proposed area should be part of plan. Most of old married quarters occupied is part of village. Any further building on barracks should be part of plan for Waterbeach. People of village need to be part of future planning.

Rural character of village should be maintained as part of future expansion plans for community. Includes protection of open spaces and greenbelt sites especially on fen edge. All village buildings need to be cared for. Long term concerns about sustainability of any new sites built on. Includes current sites rejected by SCDC but passed by government inspectors.

Many issues in village that need addressing including possible future flooding; poor transport infrastructure,. Village residents including Chittering need to be part of

planning process. Have their legitimate concerns taken into consideration.

Links to online submission not working so emailed comments.

65075

# (Support) Waterbeach - Designation of **Neighbourhood Area - Waterbeach - Designation** of Neighbourhood Area - June 2015

Respondent: Individual [20571] Received: 24/7/2015 via Email I support the proposed boundary plans.

# 65076 (Support) Waterbeach - Designation of **Neighbourhood Area - Waterbeach - Designation** of Neighbourhood Area - June 2015

Respondent: Individuals [24758] Received: 24/7/2015 via Email

I support the proposed boundary of Waterbeach (the current one) and oppose any change to this.

65077

# (Support) Waterbeach - Designation of **Neighbourhood Area - Waterbeach - Designation** of Neighbourhood Area - June 2015

Respondent: Individuals [24758] Received: 24/7/2015 via Email

I support the proposed Waterbeach neighbourhood plan new boundary to ensure that development of barracks site and village take all aspects into account and are not treated as separate.

The current housing on the barracks site is part of the village community and any new development there will impact on the village too. Village needs to be involved in the planning, especially regarding new infrastructure, ensuring overall plan is cohesive one benefical for the whole parish. New proposed development off Bannold Road needs looking at in context of plans for the barracks, avoiding overdevelopment, protecting village green spaces and taking account of pressure on roads and services.

65078

# (Support) Waterbeach - Designation of Neighbourhood Area - Waterbeach - Designation of Neighbourhood Area - June 2015

Respondent: Individual [24759] Received: 24/7/2015 via Email

I support the proposed Waterbeach neighbourhood plan new boundary to ensure that development of barracks site and village take all aspects into account and are not treated as separate.

The current housing on the barracks site is part of the village community and any new development there will impact on the village too. Village needs to be involved in the planning, especially regarding new infrastructure, ensuring overall plan is cohesive one benefical for the whole parish. New proposed development off Bannold Road needs looking at in context of plans for the barracks, avoiding overdevelopment, protecting village green spaces and taking account of pressure on roads and services.

# (Support) Waterbeach - Designation of Neighbourhood Area - Waterbeach - Designation

## of Neighbourhood Area - June 2015

Respondent: Individual [24760] Received: 24/7/2015 via Email

Full support to Waterbeach Neighbourhood Plan, area should extend to include area north of Waterbeach including Chittering, old barracks site and Denny Abbey and areas inbetween. Wish to be involved in consultation for new Waterbeach town should it go ahead. My opinions should be considered as existing resident in village - will benefit from new facilities; may be affected adversely in other ways. Waterbeach has special community / special history. Moral duty to intervene in it's development sensitively and to develop the area in a progressive but green way promoting a town which will organically continue to provide the environment required for a lively and healthy community.

Keep me informed on all developments related to Waterbeach and this Neighbourhood Plan.

#### 65080

# (Support) Waterbeach - Designation of **Neighbourhood Area - Waterbeach - Designation** of Neighbourhood Area - June 2015

Respondent: Individuals [21395] Received: 24/7/2015 via Email

Note and applaud Neighbourhood Plan being set up. Hope both South Cambs and Waterbeach Parish Councils will be proactive now in strategising for future.

Appalled that Spring/Summer 2015 issue of Cambridge Architecture [www.cambridgearchitects.org] has included an Urban&Civic advertisement proclaiming Waterbeach Airfield Barracks as 'viable' and 'good design' developments. Distinct sense of'done deal' here, publicly flaunted.

Hope development will be confined to infill of existing buildings to preserve wider ecosystem and heritage of area. Serious consideration needs to be given, faster than usual, to infrastructure and siting/services of railway line.

Wish well to all of those who support and facilitate any public consultation. Lack of transparency at this point borders on undemocratic - and worse.

# 65081 (Support) Waterbeach - Designation of Neighbourhood Area - Waterbeach - Designation of Neighbourhood Area - June 2015

Respondent: Nine Tiles (J S & Dr C R Grant) [24711] Received: 24/7/2015 via Email

AS a representative of the partnership JS and CR Grant Trading as Nine Tiles, a Waterbeach business, I support the designated area proposed which should ensure that any extension and expansion to the village is done within a holistic rather than divisive manner.

# 65082 (Support) Waterbeach - Designation of **Neighbourhood Area - Waterbeach - Designation** of Neighbourhood Area - June 2015

Respondent: Individual [18631] Received: 24/7/2015 via Email

I am writing in response to the Waterbeach Neighbourhood Plan Boundary consultation.

I find that the proposed boundary of the whole parish is a good idea. Given the current housing on the barracks is vey much part of our community and any future development on this site will directly impact on the village, it must remain as part of the boundary.

The village as a whole has many ideas on how to incorporate more housing into the area without losing the unique area we live in. It's impossible for any planning to be comprehensive or cohesive unless it is inclusive.

# 65083 (Support) Waterbeach - Designation of **Neighbourhood Area - Waterbeach - Designation** of Neighbourhood Area - June 2015

Respondent: Individual [24766] Received: 24/7/2015 via Email

As a resident of Waterbeach I would like to register that I support the proposed boundary.

65084

# (Support) Waterbeach - Designation of Neighbourhood Area - Waterbeach - Designation of Neighbourhood Area - June 2015

Respondent: Individual [24767] Received: 24/7/2015 via Email

I would like to support the proposed boundary for the neighbourhood development plan.

65085

# (Support) Waterbeach - Designation of **Neighbourhood Area - Waterbeach - Designation** of Neighbourhood Area - June 2015

Respondent: Individual [24718] Received: 24/7/2015 via Email

Responding to Waterbeach Neighbourhood plan boundary consultation. I feel that it is important that waterbeach keeps its own autonomy and the proposed boundary is a good idea. The village contains housing on the barracks site which was once an important part of its identity and any new housing on the barracks site will be alien to it and reduce the village character. Therefore we would like to be involved in the planning of it so that it benefits the whole of the parish instead of dividing it. We must accept the proposed boundary to retain ptotect our rural status.

# 65086 (Support) Waterbeach - Designation of **Neighbourhood Area - Waterbeach - Designation** of Neighbourhood Area - June 2015

Respondent: Individual [24768] Received: **24/7/2015 via Email** 

I support the proposed boundary in Waterbeach.

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# **Local Development Scheme Addendum August 2015**

This addendum was approved by the Planning Portfolio Holder on 10 August 2015. The addendum is brought into effect on x August 2015 (this date subject to call in period after the Portfolio Holder meeting on 10 August 2015)

## **Appendix D**

# South Cambridgeshire Local Development Scheme Addendum – August 2015

This addendum lists the Neighbourhood Areas that have been designated and where a Neighbourhood Plan is being prepared by the local Parish Council(s).

### **Neighbourhood Plans**

Since the introduction of neighbourhood planning there has until recently been limited interest shown by Parish Councils in South Cambridgeshire in preparing a Neighbourhood Plan. Some Parish Councils are now starting to show an interest in neighbourhood planning and have applied for a neighbourhood area to be designated.

There are currently three designated neighbourhood areas in South Cambridgeshire:

- Linton and Hildersham these two parishes have joined together to form a single neighbourhood area that was approved in May 2014;
- Histon & Impington this covers the area of the two parishes to the north of the A14 and was approved in September 2014;
- Gamlingay this covers the parish and was approved in February 2015; and
- Waterbeach this covers the parish and was approved in August 2015.( subject to approval on 10 August 2015 at the Planning Portfolio Holder meeting)

Neighbourhood plans for these areas are being prepared.

Initial general discussions have been undertaken with a small number of other Parish Councils about neighbourhood planning and whether a Neighbourhood Plan would be the right tool for them to achieve the aspirations they have for the future of their villages.

Further details on neighbourhood planning, including information on how to apply to designate a neighbourhood area and details of consultations on neighbourhood areas, are available on our website: <a href="https://www.scambs.gov.uk/neighbourhood-planning">https://www.scambs.gov.uk/neighbourhood-planning</a>.

# Agenda Item 4



South
Cambridgeshire
District Council

**Report To:** Planning Portfolio Holder 10 August 2015

**Lead Officer:** Director of Planning and New Communities

#### **Review of Consultancy Team**

#### **Purpose**

- 1. To provide the Planning Portfolio Holder with an update following the implementation of the new Consultancy team, its vision and ways of working in April 2014. The report also sets out the direction and priorities of the team for 2015-16, which will be incorporated in a team plan.
- 2. This is not a key decision.

#### Recommendations

3. It is recommended that the Portfolio Holder notes the progress the Consultancy team has made and endorses the outcomes and recommendations in paragraph 7 of this report to be taken forward in the Team Plan and endorses the new team vision, as set out in paragraph 22.

#### **Reasons for Recommendations**

4. To enable the Portfolio Holder to comment on the work of the team, and its priorities for the year ahead.

#### **Executive Summary**

- 5. Following the Service Review concluded March 2014, the team has made considerable progress in working differently. The team members have been committed to working together to deliver improvements to customer service. Prior to the review, there were concerns about the level of complaints. Over the last six months, no complaints have been received, and feedback from internal and external customers is good.
- 6. Over the last year, the team has delivered:
  - Up skilling of planning officers on the historic environment,
  - Improvement in response time
  - Set up a respected Design Enabling Panel,
  - Set up a Design Workshop service offer to developers, that has been taken up 8 times
  - Led the 'Work Experience Programme' winning a 'Going the Extra Mile' award in December 2014.

- Supported the Northstowe phase 2 planning application, and the Local Plan examination, and provided specialist advice on planning applications for unallocated sites.
- 7. The team will build on these successes by formulating a team plan to set the direction for the next year. The following priorities have developed by the Consultancy Unit:
  - Empowering the team to make best use of their professional skills, competencies and resources;
  - Optimising the use of ICT with more rigorous performance management, to further enhance efficiencies and performance;
  - Deepening understanding of customer requirements to strengthen the consultancy offer, particularly to parishes producing neighbourhood plans and considering village design guides;
  - Giving priority to strategic sites and major applications, particularly those on unallocated sites.

#### **Background**

- 8. Approval was given by the Portfolio Holder Planning and Economic Development in July 2013 to explore the options for the delivery of the Conservation Service. An inhouse solution was recommended in December 2013, and implemented following consultations with staff and stakeholders.
- 9. The in-house solution comprised the creation of a Consultancy Unit providing Urban Design, Historic Buildings, Ecology and Landscape advice to internal and external customers. The Tree service was transferred to the Development Control Manager
- 10. The changes proposed to the consultancy service were outlined in the reports to the Portfolio Holder Planning and Economic Development on 22 October 2013, and to the Scrutiny and Overview Committee in February and April 2014.
- 11. The implementation of the service was carried out in 3 phases:
  - Phase1: Creating a sound foundation: by 5th May 2014
  - Phase2: Launching the team and developing the detail: May 2014 October 2014
  - Phase 3: Review and adapt: (October 2014 April 2015)

#### **Review of Past Year**

- 12. This report outlines progress since May 2014, made by the Consultancy Team in delivering its vision "To achieve a consistently high standard of service by striking the right balance between quality, timeliness and customer satisfaction".
- 13. The period following the Review concentrated on putting the new team in place, developing new ways of working with the planning officers and providing training to support this. A permanent Team Leader came into post in January 2015, and the post was covered with interim arrangements until that time.

- 14. New processes put in place in autumn 2015 have enabled the team to manage Development Control consultations effectively and monitor the timeliness of service. The team meets weekly to review cases and work together to monitor performance. Performance has therefore continued to improve from autumn 2014 to present.
- 15. Good progress has been made in order to make best use of specialist resources. Training, mentoring and guidance for planners has enabled case officers to assess Conservation Area applications and proposals within the setting of listed buildings without consulting specialists. This has freed up specialist officer time to deal with more complex applications and provide pre-application service.
- 16. The first phase of implementation prioritised Historic Building upskilling. Consultancy officers have cited examples where their mentoring, combined with the new ways of working has encouraged planning officers to approach their decision making in a different way, becoming increasingly aware of design, landscaping and ecological considerations.
- 17. The introduction of the Design Enabling Panel and Design Workshop Service has been widely praised by internal and external customers. The Design Enabling Panel draws on external skills and expertise to provide a high quality independent design review service that is cost-neutral to the Council. Between April 2014 and June 2015, the Panel has reviewed 33 schemes. The Design Workshop is a new Service offered to customers to inform scheme development at project inception stages. The consultancy team has enjoyed working together to shape developments at this early stage and found that it developed their understanding of other specialist areas with the team. The provision of these services has helped raise the profile of the team and created an excellent environment for collaboration, learning and development.
- 18. In May 2015, we interviewed some of the agents whom we previously contacted during the Review of the previous Conservation Service. Feedback has generally been positive including: quality of advice has improved considerably; it is largely clear, proportional, pragmatic and based on common sense. Officers are open to negotiation and discussion. Responses are generally timely and officers are available to meet on site when needed. These are all things they originally asked for from the new Consultancy service.
- 19. The Consultancy team has supported the delivery of key projects including Northstowe phase 2, the local plan examination process and specialist advice on sites coming forward outside the site allocations in the last year
- 20. There is still work to be done to develop the team and enable it to work in the most effective way. This includes refining and putting new processes in place and consistently using and optimising technology to support service delivery.
- 21. Further work is also needed to support officers to provide advice and undertake projects in the most efficient way,. There is a need for further training and development, to develop refreshed management processes in the team to support

this. More work is also needed to forward plan resources and incorporate more regular analysis of customer feedback into discussion with the team.

#### **Future Actions**

#### A: Team Vision

22. The team vision was formulated as part of the conservation service review, responding to feedback from customers at that time. In light of the findings of this report, based on the progress the team has made over the last year and acknowledged by customers, the team seeks to further build on the vision to reflect the purpose and priorities of the team.

The revised draft vision for the team is a follows:

'We will strive to protect and enhance the rural character of our built and natural environment whilst promoting sustainable growth, thriving communities and beautiful places. We will encourage high quality design though design advocacy, positive engagement with partners and customers, and provide advice that strikes the right balance between quality, timeliness and customer satisfaction'

- 23. The team has made significant progress over the past year. The vision, structure, new ways of working, innovation, and drive from individuals in the team has enabled them to deliver evident improvements to customer service.
- 24. The Team Plan now needs to be developed to provide clarity on the direction of travel over the forthcoming year. It is recommended it should achieve the following outcomes:
  - Empowering the team to make best use of their professional skills, competencies and resources;
  - Optimising the use of ICT with more rigorous performance management, to further enhance efficiencies and performance;
  - Deepening understanding of customer requirements to strengthen the consultancy offer, particularly an offer to parishes producing neighbourhood plans and considering village design guides;
  - Giving priority to strategic sites and major applications, particularly those on unallocated sites.
- 25. Specific projects and measures will be developed as part of the Team Plan , these should also include:

#### **B: Performance**

- Deeper analysis and review of both individual and team performance including at 1 to1s and team meetings
- Engaging with the automated performance management reporting through the planned upgrades to the APAS system.
- A new target of 85% for return of consultation responses within the agreed time with respective teams.

#### **C: Training and Development**

- Training Plan & preparation of guidance for training Development Control officers on other specialism within the team such as ecology, landscape and urban design. This will be programmed dependant on capacity within the Development Control Teams
- Training and development plan for each of specialists within the team including wider mix of projects and consultations to optimise use of their professional skills, knowledge and competencies.

#### D: Processes

- Development of processes which support efficient working including allocation of case and, managing input of consultancy advice where one or more professional is involved on an ongoing basis into large developments
- Resource planning, refinement and active management of the Service level agreements with internal customers
- Work with APAS project to ensure all staff are trained and using the System and that the system is optimised to maximise efficient ways of working

#### E: Innovation and customer focus

- To explore use of neighbourhood plans to engage our local communities in preparing guidance which seeks to enhance the special (design, ecology historic buildings landscape) characteristics of our local authorities whilst balancing it in the context with major growth and development.
- To develop customer insights and promote and market our service
- To refine the Service Level Agreements and include more regular reviews of our internal customer's requirements and level of service provided
- To promote the Consultancy Unit's specialist advisory service externally to generate income and raise the team's profile.

#### F: Forward Planning

In the following months, it is anticipated that there will be an increase in demand of the Consutancy service due to:

- The submission of reserved matters on Northstowe Phase 1 and 2 following the determination of phase 2 outline application.
- The high probabilities of further planning applications on sites outside the site allocation (5 year land supply), following the Public examination on the Local plan being put on hold.
- Intention from Waterbeach and Bourne airfield to progress masterplanning of their sites.
- Increased interest from parishes with regard to Neighbourhood Planning
- On-going commitment on Cambourne West and other strategic sites such as Trumpington Sports Site coming forward as planning application.

- Input into the Cambridge Northern Fringe East AAP.
- Conservation Projects such as the Sawston Tannery and Tithe Barn at Landbeach

The team workshop held on 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> July 15 clarified the strategic priorities for the consultancy unit, which will be reflected in the teamplan. This will include proactive engagement on key sites such as Waterbeach, and Bourne Airfield, involvement in neighbourhood planning and supporting the delivery of Northstowe. In addition, the team will continue to provide specialist advice on planning applications.

#### G: Resourcing

If we are to meet the anticipated demands on the service, the existing staffing levels within the team need to be sustained. The team plan should look in detail at the resource implications for the team and develop business cases accordingly. The daily rate of officers in the council is generally 50% of those charged in the private sector.

#### **H: Budgets**

The overall salary cost including overheads for the last financial year 2014-15 was £316,163.42. For the same year, the team generated fee income of £13,322.89 through the administering of the Design Enabling Panel and Design Workshop service. Both of these services have been well received by applicants with positive customer feedback. The fee earning work in the team was 5% of its annual salary costs in 2014-15.

There is potentially fee earning work this financial year in conservation service and on design workshop and design enabling panel. The conservation team will also look into the potential of a premium service for speedy advice, site visits and listed property enquires from estate agents/owners intending to sell or buy. The team's contribution to PPA and planning application fee income will be monitored, probably by way of financial ratios that measure comparisons of the team with private consultant suppliers.

#### **Implications**

26. In the writing of this report, taking into account financial, legal, staffing, risk management, equality and diversity, climate change, community safety and any other key issues, the following implications have been considered: -

#### **Financial**

27. The cost of training and resources has been budgeted for this financial year.

#### Legal

28. There are no specific legal implications arising from this report

#### **Staffing**

29. As part of any future training, external expertise may need to be bought for upskilling of existing staff. Council policies and procedures will be adhered to

#### **Risk Management**

30. There are no risk identified as part of this report or recommendations

#### **Equality and Diversity**

31. We will prepare a training and development plan as part of the recommendations and will follow council policies.

#### **Climate Change**

32. The training and development plan will include best practice on energy saving/conserving measures into design and conservation

#### **Consultation responses (including from the Youth Council)**

33. The team identified a list of agents who regularly use the conservation service. A telephone Survey was carried out and feedback reported above. It will be used for benchmarking. The feedback will contribute towards any further recommendations moving forward. No consultation was carried out through the youth council.

#### **Effect on Strategic Aims**

- 34. The recommendation seek to achieve the Council's three A's
- 35. Conservation has an important role to play 'in offering an outstanding quality of life for our residents, however we are aware that measures are put in place to ensure that officers consider Conservation in relation to wider considerations such as the Council's growth agenda including to create "opportunities for employment, enterprise, education and world leading institution.

#### **Background Papers**

Annual Review, Consultancy Unit: Analysis of Primary Data Appendices, June 2015

**Report Author:** Trovine Monteiro - Consultancy Team Leader

Telephone: (01954) 712931

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# Agenda Item 5



South
Cambridgeshire
District Council

**Report To:** Planning Portfolio Holder 10 August 2015

**Lead Officer:** Planning and New Communities Director

#### Performance 2014/15 and Progress in Service Improvements

#### **Purpose**

- 1. To update the Planning Portfolio Holder on a number of service issues and progress concerning planning and building control performance and the delegation of planning decisions to officers.
- 2. This is not a key decision.

#### Recommendations

3. It is recommended that the Portfolio Holder notes the performance issues facing the planning service and progress made towards addressing them.

#### **Reasons for Recommendations**

4. Members need to be aware of the increasing challenges facing the planning and building control services and consider ways in which they may work with officers in addressing them.

#### **Performance**

- 5. Attached are summary graphs of performance in 2014/15 for the processing of planning applications, planning enforcement cases and building control approvals. They indicate the following key features:
  - Planning application workloads have remained at high levels and there was an 18% increase in the number of planning decisions;
  - Performance for minor and other application categories saw a marked decline;
  - Planning enforcement performance remained steady;
  - Appeals performance has noticeably improved and
  - Building control applications declined.
- 6. These features have been reported by other councils in the region. The recent changes in PD regulations have led to new forms of planning decisions being required by property owners and prospective purchasers. The housing market has also encouraged growth in the numbers of house adaptations and extensions, as occupiers make better use of their current homes, rather than purchase a new one. These have added pressures to planning officers' workloads, so affecting performance on minor applications.

- 7. Building control applications declined due to increased activity of commercial competitors. This has been noted in the preparations for the sharing of building control services with partner authorities. It is hoped the new shared service will make it more resilient to market pressures and adaptable to changes.
- 8. These trends for both planning and building control have been noted to continue into the current year, and will be reported to a future meeting. An additional, recent workload pressure is the growth in number of housing applications on land outside of current or emerging planning policy in the Local Plan. These applications, although few in number at the moment are likely to increase workloads in processing applications and responding to appeals.
- 9. The pressure on performance during a period of rapid changes in the nature and complexity of workloads has come at a time when the regional demand for planning skills and competent planners has been greater than ever before. Due to high staff turnover and vacancy levels, the service has had to rely on private contractors, with extremely variable results. It has been challenging to plan and allocate staff resources to meet fast changing workloads. This has affected the flow of work, created some backlogs and therefore affected performance.

#### **Response to Performance Issues**

- 10. The planning service is now running with unacceptably high individual staff workloads. In the short-term and as an urgent measure, capacity is being bought in by the use of external consultants:
  - Contract staff
  - External planning validation service and
  - A team of external appeals specialists.
- 11. This additional capacity will assist in reducing individual workloads to allow backlogs of cases and enquiries to be tackled, and training on improved processes and system upgrades.
- 12. The duty planner service is being transferred to an appointment system to help manage customer expectations, provide tracking of enquiries and reduce the number of lost and repeat calls.
- 13. In the autumn, a series of process and system upgrades will be introduced that will improve the ease with which customers may use the web pages, and gain information on progress, plan amendments, and consultations. These will assist in working towards a paperless planning office and bring considerable productivity gains and efficiencies in the processing of pre-applications and applications.
- 14. A consolidated recruitment campaign for planning officers of all grades has been launched. Market supplements have been applied where appropriate. Should this be successful, then new starters will join the Council in the autumn.

- 15. It is intended, therefore, that the purchase of additional capacity, process improvements and recruitment will put the planning service in a much better position to face future challenges.
- 16. It is encouraging that, despite an increase in the number of appeals, there have been more dismissals, so indicating improvement of judgement in planning decisions by members and officers.

#### **Housing Land Supply**

17. The deferral in the Local Plan timetable has, as expected, raised additional interest from landowners and agents in bringing forward more sites as planning applications. A number of complex appeals are likely result, such as at Foxton and Melbourn. Officers are responding to this by commissioning external specialists from outside the local area to advise members and officers and represent the Council. Our team is working ever more closely with County Council colleagues in the negotiation of planning obligations. Senior managers are meeting regularly to review cases and improve working arrangements. In addition, a series of operational workshops have been arranged to consider s106 requirements for significant applications, which bring together parish clerks, education, highways, transport, health and other infrastructure providers. Further advice is awaited from the Planning Officers Society, who are reviewing officer reports, where a 5 year under supply of housing is a material consideration.

#### **Review of Planning Decision Delegations**

- 18. A review of how planning decisions are delegated to officers and referred to members is planned. It is intended to bring forward for members' approval suggested changes to address the following issues:
  - Desire to align delegation arrangements across the planning committees and joint committees
  - Need to clarify the role of local members and parish councils
  - Retain a simple process that is robust from challenge.

The current delegation arrangements incorporate parish councils, as third parties, into the decision making process, through their automatic referral to Planning Committee, which raises a number of concerns about the role of local members and integrity of the Council as Local Planning Authority. The review of delegation should resolve these concerns and also have the side benefit that planning officers will be able to focus their energy on cases most significant to the district.

19. The suggested programme for approval of changes is:

Meeting	Date	Decision	
Planning Portfolio	8 September	Approve draft for	
Holder		consultations	

Joint Committees & parishes	Sept/October	Make comment	
Planning Committee	tee 4 November Make comment		
Planning Portfolio	10 November	Recommend to Council	
Holder			
Council	26 November	Approve	

#### **Implications**

20. In the writing of this report, taking into account financial, legal, staffing, risk management, equality and diversity, climate change, community safety and any other key issues, the following implications have been considered: -

#### **Financial**

21. The costs are contained within budgeted resources for this financial year.

#### Legal

22. There are no specific legal implications arising from this report.

#### **Staffing**

23. Training of staff will as much as possible be 'in the work' to prevent loss of productive effort. Current high workloads are untenable in the long term without affecting the stress and morale of staff. All improvements to process and working arrangements are being made with the fullest involvement of staff.

#### **Risk Management**

24. There is a considerable risk from not addressing the challenges facing the service. However, in doing so, there will be a risk of short-term disruptions to service as improvements are introduced and staff learn to work with new systems and structures.

#### **Equality and Diversity**

25. The recruitment campaign and working arrangements allow for full flexibility to meet specific requirements of current staff and candidates.

#### **Climate Change**

26. No specific implications.

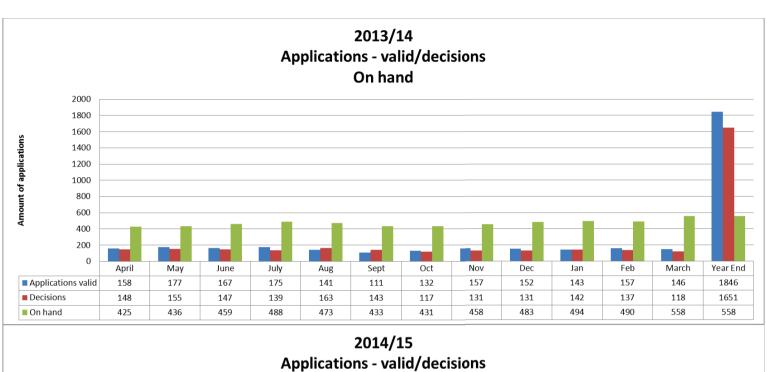
#### **Effect on Strategic Aims**

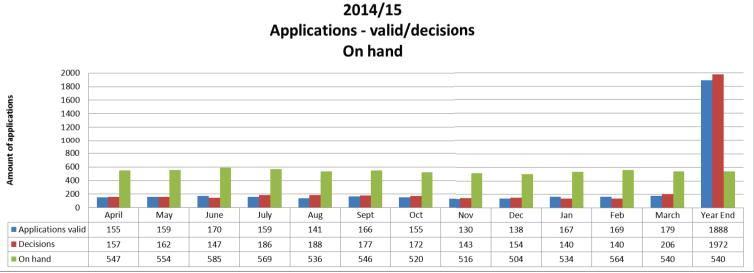
27. The recommendation seek to achieve the Council's three A's

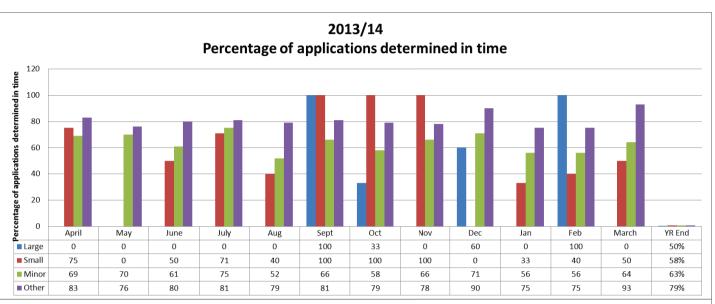
#### Background Papers - None

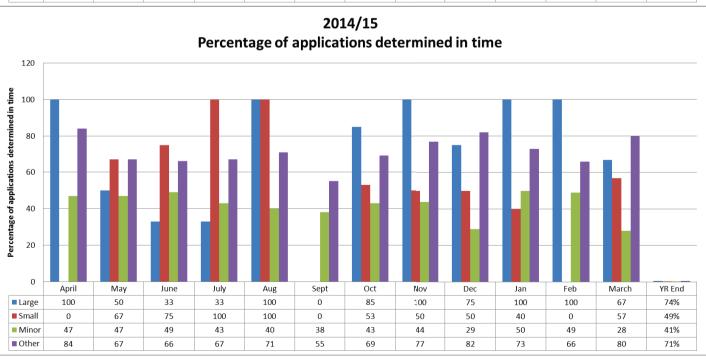
**Report Author:** Tony Pierce – Interim Development Control Manager

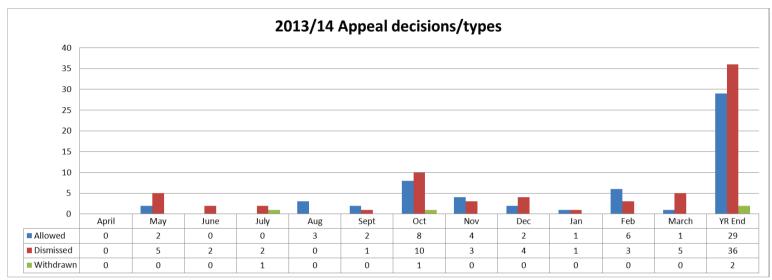
Telephone: (01954) 713165

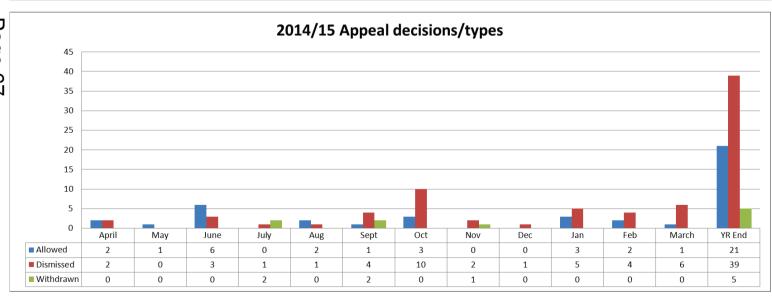


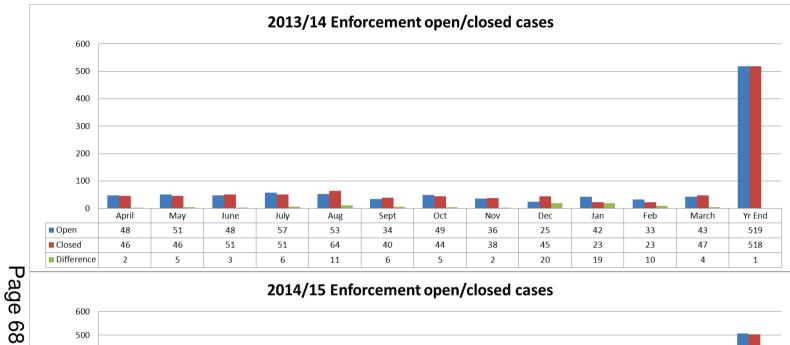


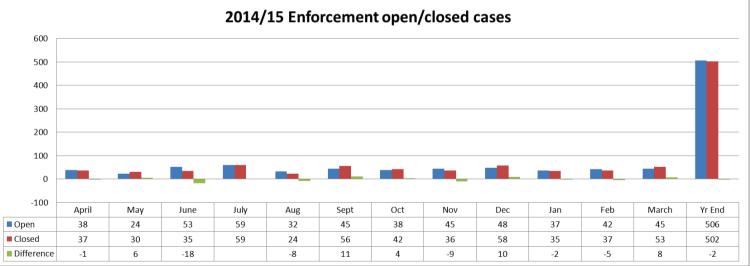


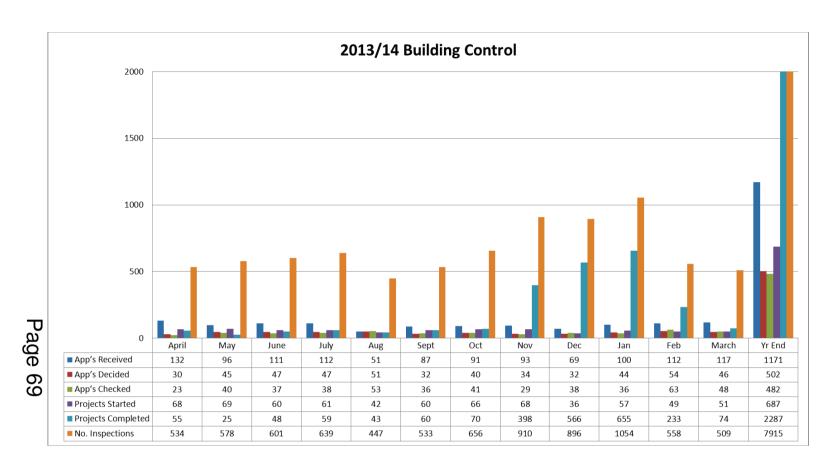












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# Agenda Item 6

# Planning Portfolio Holder – Work Programme 2015-16

	Date of meeting  Democratic  Services deadline	Title of Report	Key or Non-Key?	Reason Key Specify no(s) listed below	Purpose of Report, ie For Recommendation / Decision / Monitoring	Lead Officer / Report Author	Date added to Corporate Forward Plan (contact: Maggie Jennings
	8 September 2015  DS Deadline 5pm – Thur 27 Aug because of the Bank Holiday	Local Plan issues					
Daga 71	8 September 2015  DS Deadline 5pm – Thur 27 Aug because of the Bank Holiday	Service Plan					
	8 September 2015  DS Deadline 5pm – Thur 27 Aug because of the Bank Holiday	Towards a Paperless Planning Service				Tony Pierce	

Updated: 31 July 2015

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8 September 2015  DS Deadline 5pm – Thur 27 Aug because of the Bank Holiday	Review of Planning Delegations			Tony Pierce	
8 September 2015  DS Deadline 5pm – Thur 27 Aug because of the Bank Holiday	Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document – Consultation– Timing will depend on examination	Key	Decision	Jo Mills / David Roberts	10 September 2014
October 2015 tbc					
10 November 2015  DS Deadline 5pm – Fri 30 Oct	Pre-application Advice Service – Review	Key	Monitoring / Decision	Jane Green / John Koch	

#### **Key Decisions**

- 1. it is likely to result in the Council incurring expenditure which is, or the making of savings which are, significant having regard to the Council's budget for the service or function to which the decision relates, or
- 2. it is likely to be significant in terms of its effects on communities living or working in an area of the District comprising two or more wards. In determining the meaning of 'significant' for the purposes of the above, the Council must have regard to any guidance for the time being issued by the Secretary of State in accordance with section 9Q of the 2000 Act (guidance)).