



Stratford-upon-Avon neighbourhood plan

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Neighbourhood Area Application

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Stratford-upon-Avon Town Council

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Services



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Introduction

In August 2012, under Section 61G of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, Stratford upon Avon Town Council as the 'relevant body', formally submitted an application to Stratford-on-Avon District Council as the local planning authority, for the designation of a neighbourhood area pursuant to the preparation of a Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP).

This application included an area covering the parishes of Stratford-upon-Avon and Old Stratford and Drayton.

Since August 2012 Stratford-upon-Avon Town Council has been engaged in detailed discussions with the local planning authority over the boundary of the neighbourhood area in light of emerging changes to its administrative boundary.

Following a period of public consultation, under Part 4 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 the local planning authority has undertaken a review of the parish boundaries of Stratford-upon-Avon, Old Stratford and Drayton, Luddington, Snitterfield, Wilmcote.

As a consequence it has been recommended that the parish of Old Stratford and Drayton be abolished and redistributed into the adjoining parishes.

This revised neighbourhood area application is informed by this process/recommendation.

Background

On 3 May 2011 Stratford upon Avon Town Council at its full council meeting, passed a motion to instigate proceedings and put in place a neighbourhood steering group to lead on the formulation of a NDP for the town of Stratford.

In accordance with the terms of reference adopted by Stratford upon Avon Town Council, an application is hereby submitted under Regulation 5 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012.

Over the last 2 years a team of dedicated volunteers representing many different groups and organisations within the town have been working tirelessly in the preparation of the NDP.

The designation of a neighbourhood area is seen as the first formal step in the process of producing the NDP¹.

¹ More information about the Stratford Neighbourhood Development Plan can be found at www.ourstratford.org.uk

The Application

Regulation 5 requires the submission of the following:

- (a) a map which identifies the area to which the area application relates;
- (b) a statement explaining why this area is considered appropriate to be designated as a neighbourhood area; and
- (c) a statement that the organisation or body making the area application is a relevant body for the purposes of section 61G of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended).

(a) Neighbourhood Area Map

A map identifying the area to which this application relates is attached.

(b) Justification for Designation

The proposed neighbourhood area covers the administrative boundary of Stratford-upon-Avon Town Council and a proportion of the boundary of the former parish of Old Stratford and Drayton.

Consideration was given to the possibility of excluding certain areas within the administrative boundary of Stratford Town Council, such as Tiddington and Alveston, but this was dismissed on the basis that those communities would not be in a position to promote their own NDP because they fall within a parished

area. Instead these areas will be covered in the NDP with particular regard being given to the issues and pressures facing those communities.

Old Stratford and Drayton Parish Council, as it existed, were involved in the initial discussions about the formulation of the NDP. At an early stage they voted in favour of joining Stratford-upon-Avon Town Council in formulating a joint NDP.

Their main reasons for choosing to join Stratford Town Council were based on geography, the existing interconnection and relationship between the two parishes and the lack of resources for Old Stratford and Drayton to formulate their own plan. Many of the issues facing the town and the responses to those pressures affect the parish of Old Stratford and Drayton. It is for this reason that it was felt appropriate that the two parishes jointly formulate a NDP.

However, following the recent boundary review the neighbourhood area has been amended to align itself with the newly defined parish of Stratford-upon-Avon Town Council which incorporates a significant proportion of the former Old Stratford and Drayton parish.

Schedule 9, Section 61G(7) of the Localism Act 2011 states that neighbourhood areas may not overlap. There are no known overlaps with other relevant bodies promoting other neighbourhood areas.

In determining the application for designation, the local planning authority must have regard to the desirability of designating the whole of the area of a parish council as a neighbourhood and the desirability of maintaining the boundaries of already designated neighbourhood areas.

Overall it is felt that there are compelling reasons why the neighbourhood area as indicated on the attached map should be given favourable consideration.

(c) Statement in relation to the 'Relevant Body'

Under Section 61G of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, a relevant body is defined as a parish council or an organisation or body which is, or is capable of being designated a neighbourhood forum.

This application for designation of a neighbourhood area is submitted by Stratford upon Avon Town Council, which as a Parish Council is considered to be a relevant body for the purposes of this exercise and is therefore authorised under Section 61G (2a).

Conclusion

For the reasons outlined above the proposed neighbourhood area as show on the attached plan is considered to be appropriate and justified.

Under Section 61G of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, Stratford upon Avon Town Council is a considered to be a 'relevant body' for the purposes of this application.

The Town Council therefore respectfully requests that the District Council processes this application in accordance with Regulation 6 of The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012.