



Alcester Parish Neighbourhood plan

Neighbourhood Area Application
September 2013

Produced By
Alcester Town Council

Introduction

Under Section 61G of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 as amended by the Localism Act 2012 (c.20 sch. 9 Para. 2), Alcester Town Council as the 'relevant body', hereby formally submits 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 Plan.

Background

Back in June 2012 Alcester Town Council at its full Council meeting proposed to begin initial workshops to begin the process of collecting views and ideas of the local community in order to begin formulating its Neighbourhood plan, these took place during the following months. In June 2013 it was then proposed to Full Council to put together a Steering Committee to drive the formulation of the Neighbourhood Plan reporting to a Designated Neighbourhood Forum.

Terms of Reference have been drawn up for both the Steering Committee and the Designated Neighbourhood Forum to work to and they will begin work once the Designated Neighbourhood Area has been defined, which is accepted as the first formal step in the process of producing the Neighbourhood Plan.

Under Part 2 Regulation 5 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012, Alcester Town Council hereby submit an application to define their parish boundary as the Neighbourhood Area, and this report will explain why this area is considered appropriate to be designated as a Neighbourhood Area.

The Application

According to Regulation 5 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012, the following information needs to be submitted:

- 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 1990 Town and Country Planning Act (as amended by the Localism Act 2012).

According to the Parish Boundary review as conducted by Stratford-on-Avon District Council, Alcester Town Council are submitting the area identified in that report as Alcester Parish for the Designated Neighbourhood Area, and a map has been attached to this Report to show the area this application relates to.

The Proposed Neighbourhood Area covers all the land within the administrative Boundaries of Alcester Town Council. 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 as published in the parish

Boundary review. Under Sch. 9 of Section 61G (7) of the Localism Act 2012 the Neighbourhood Areas may not overlap and by using Alcester Town Council's Parish Boundary this should avoid any potential overlaps with surrounding parishes in the future. Therefore it is felt that there are no compelling reasons why the Neighbourhood Area as indicated in the attached Map should not be given favourable consideration.

Under Section 61G of the 1990 Town and Country Planning Act (as amended by the Localism Act 2012) 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. As the leading organisation in the formulation of the Neighbourhood Plan, Alcester Town Council, as a Parish Council, are considered the relevant body for the purposes of this process and are therefore authorised under Section 61(G) 2(a) of the 1990 Town and Country Planning Act (as amended by the Localism Act 2012).

Conclusion

For the reasons outlined above, the proposed Neighbourhood Area as shown on the attached Map, is considered to be appropriate and justified and the '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.

