

MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL

RECORD OF DECISION OF THE HEAD OF PLANNING

Decision Made: 14th January 2013

Neighbourhood Plan Area Application

Issue for Decision

To consider Staplehurst parish as a Neighbourhood Plan Area.

Decision Made

The neighbourhood area submitted by Staplehurst Parish Council to Maidstone Borough Council on 25th June 2012 is **approved**.

Reasons for Decision

Consultation

Consultation commenced on Monday 26th November 2012 and ended at 5pm on Sunday 6th January 2013. The consultation was advertised as follows:

1. News release on Facebook and twitter.
2. Letter distributed to all households in the parish at start of consultation
3. Neighbourhood Plan Area application (including a map) posted on Maidstone Borough Council's website and on Staplehurst parish council's website
4. Poster advertising the consultation on all notice boards in the parish
5. Ward members and adjoining ward members were made aware of the consultation via email

Representations Received During Consultation

Two representations were received in support of the proposed neighbourhood area

Considerations

1. Does the proposed plan area follow existing, established administrative or planning boundaries?

YES – the proposed plan area follows the existing parish boundary
2. Does it exclude areas which in planning terms it would be more appropriate to include (for example where planning designation or development location straddles a parish boundary)

NO

3. Does it overlap with another approved neighbourhood area (this is not permitted)

NO

Conclusion

Staplehurst Parish Council will be preparing the neighbourhood plan and is considered a relevant body¹ under the Localism Act 2011. The Parish Council states that the parish is appropriate as a Neighbourhood Plan Area because it is essential that the outlying areas of the parish are included in the plan. These areas are considered an integral part of the community and will be equally affected by key issues covered in the plan, such as infrastructure.

No objections were received during consultation and the proposed plan area (see map below) meets the criteria set out above. The plan area is considered acceptable in planning terms and the parish council has followed due process in line with the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations, Part 2, S. 5(1).

Alternatives considered and why rejected

The decision to approve the neighbourhood plan area has been made for the reasons stated above. The alternative is to reject the application but the council is satisfied that due process has been followed and no representations were made during the consultation to suggest the geographic area of the parish should not form the Neighbourhood Plan Area.

Background Papers

None

R. L. Jarman

Signature: _____
Rob Jarman, Head of Planning

¹ For the definition of “relevant body” see section 61G (2) of the 1990 Act (inserted by paragraph 2 of Schedule 9 to the Localism Act 2011 (c.20).

