

## **MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL**

### **RECORD OF DECISION OF THE HEAD OF PLANNING**

Decision Made: 14<sup>th</sup> January 2013

#### **Neighbourhood Plan Area Application**

##### **Issue for Decision**

To consider Marden parish as a Neighbourhood Plan Area.

##### **Decision Made**

The neighbourhood area submitted by Marden Parish Council to Maidstone Borough Council on 15<sup>th</sup> August 2012 is **approved**.

##### **Reasons for Decision**

###### Consultation

Consultation commenced on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> November 2012 and ended at 5pm on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 Marden 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

One representation received supporting the proposed neighbourhood plan 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

Marden Parish Council will be preparing the neighbourhood plan and is considered a relevant body<sup>1</sup> under the Localism Act 2011. The Parish Council states that the parish is appropriate as a Neighbourhood Plan Area because the parish boundary is well established and understood by local residents to be a clearly defined area.

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

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<sup>1</sup> 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)).

