

MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL

RECORD OF DECISION OF THE HEAD OF PLANNING

Decision Made: 10 December 2015

Neighbourhood Plan Area Application

Issue for Decision

To consider Bearsted parish as a Neighbourhood Plan Area.

Decision Made

The neighbourhood area submitted by Bearsted Parish Council to Maidstone Borough Council on 10 September 2015 is **approved**.

Reasons for Decision

Consultation

Consultation commenced on Friday 16 October 2015 and ended at 5pm on Friday 27 November 2015. The consultation was advertised as follows:

1. Parish newsletter distributed to all households in the parish at start of consultation period
2. Neighbourhood Plan Area application (including a map) posted on Maidstone Borough Council's website and on Bearsted Parish Council's website
3. All Councillors and adjoining Parish Councils were made aware of the consultation via email

Representations Received During Consultation

One representation was received in support of the application. No objections were received.

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

Bearsted Parish Council will be preparing the neighbourhood plan and are considered a relevant body¹ under the Localism Act 2011. 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). Bearsted Parish Council is keen to promote community involvement with the plan, which it is hoped will provide a sound framework for the future sustainable planning of the village and its surrounding areas.

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.

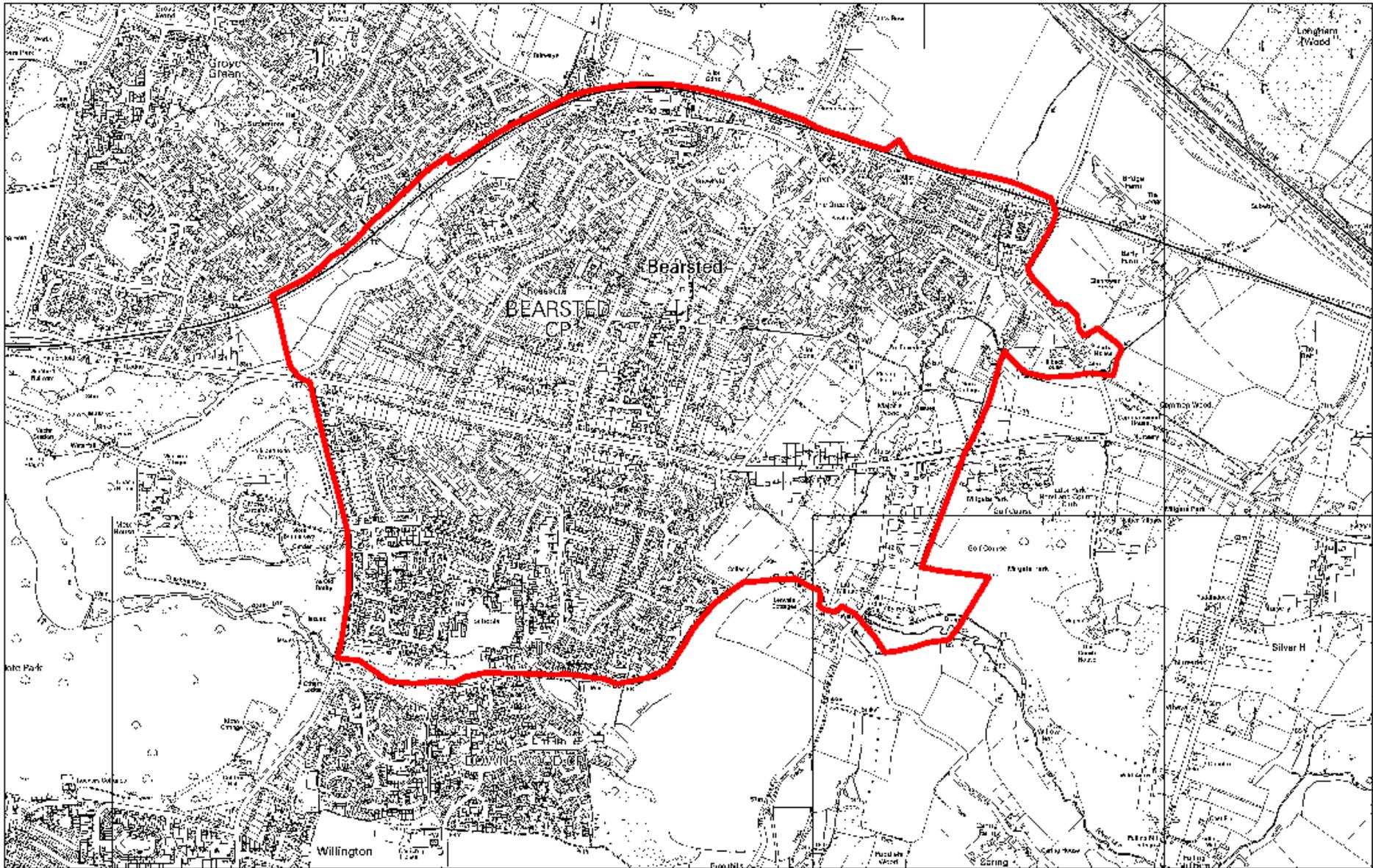
Background Papers

None



Signature: _____
Rob Jarman, Head of Planning and Development

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).



BEARSTED PARISH



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