

HAMBLETON DISTRICT COUNCIL

Report To: Cabinet
15 July 2014

Subject: **EASINGWOLD NEIGHBOURHOOD AREA DESIGNATION**

Easingwold Ward
Portfolio Holder for Environmental and Planning Services: Councillor B Phillips

1.0 PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND:

- 1.1 The Localism Act 2011 provided a new statutory regime for Neighbourhood Planning. Regulations came into force on 6 April 2012 making legal provisions in relation to that regime and a first step in the process is the designation of a Neighbourhood Area.
- 1.2 On 25 March 2014 an application was submitted to this Council by Easingwold Town Council for designation of their parish as a Neighbourhood Area to enable them to proceed with formal Neighbourhood Plan preparation (See letter and map at Annex A).
- 1.3 We are under a general duty to support Neighbourhood Plan preparation and several meetings have been held with the Town Council, involving the Ward Members.
- 1.4 The application for Neighbourhood Area designation was publicised on 18 April 2014 and now the Council must consider any representations submitted by 30 May 2014 before making a decision on designation of the area.
- 1.5 The application was publicised on Hambleton's website and a public notice advert was placed in the Easingwold Advertiser newspaper. In addition the Town Council put a notice with a copy of the application and map on their website.
- 1.6 The Council should support the application as it is validly made, the area provides for a logical Plan making boundary and there have been no representations submitted objecting to its designation. If Council decides not to support the application it must give reasons.

2.0 LINK TO COUNCIL PRIORITIES:

- 2.1 The Council Plan 2011-15 aims 'to encourage our residents to become more involved in making decisions which impact on local communities'. Although Neighbourhood Planning is not mentioned as a priority action, this Neighbourhood Area designation would undoubtedly allow the Easingwold residents and businesses to decide on future development plan making.

3.0 RISK ASSESSMENT:

- 3.1 There are no risks associated with this report.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

- 4.1 There is no cost associated with Neighbourhood Area designation other than a small cost for advertising the decision in a local newspaper - and for the not insignificant officer time involved. However, the Council will incur much larger costs with the subsequent preparation of the Neighbourhood Plan (e.g. for the examination and referendum) but this is expected to be covered by the Department of Communities and Local Government grants to the Council, which currently total £30,000 for each Neighbourhood Plan, made in 3 payment stages. Following designation of a Neighbourhood Area, £5,000 will be received

by the District Council, which recognises the officer time supporting and advising the community in taking forward a Neighbourhood Plan. The second payment (of £5,000) is not until this Council publicises the Neighbourhood Plan prior to examination. The third payment of £20,000 is made on successful completion of the Examination.

4.2 As previously agreed (Cabinet November 2012 - CA46) for Huby and Appleton Wiske's Plans some of this grant should be used to fund the Neighbourhood Plan Group's submitted expenses (e.g. for consultation materials and events) up to £3,000.

4.3 When the Neighbourhood Plan is adopted there will also be an impact on this Council's Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) receipts as 25% (rather than 15%) of payments for eligible developments in the Easingwold parish will go to the Town Council to spend on their infrastructure projects. However, the CIL income expected to be lost by this Council from Local Development Framework developments in the Easingwold parish is currently considered to be negligible as the main residential developments and the new superstore will have had planning permission granted before the Neighbourhood Plan's expected adoption towards the end of 2015.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS:

5.1 The legal requirements under Part 2 of The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 have been complied with. The next step requires the Council to publish details (area name, map and applicant) of the Neighbourhood Area designation decision on our website and in such other manner we consider likely to bring it to the attention of local residents, workers and businesses.

6.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES:

6.1 There are no Equality and Diversity issues associated with this report.

7.0 HEALTH AND SAFETY ISSUES:

7.1 There are no Health and Safety issues associated with this report.

8.0 RECOMMENDATIONS:

8.1 It is recommended that Cabinet agrees:

- (1) the designation of a Neighbourhood Area for Easingwold parish and publicises the necessary information; and
- (2) Government grant funding be passed on to Easingwold Town Council to cover their submitted costs of plan preparation up to £3,000.

MICK JEWITT

Background papers: The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012.
Public Notice advert in Easingwold Advertiser and HDC website notice.
Supporting Communities in Neighbourhood Planning 2013-15, DCLG, March 2013.

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Application for Neighbourhood Area designation from Easingwold Town Council

Easingwold Town Council

Easingwold Library, Market Place,
Easingwold, York YO61 3AN

Telephone: 01347 822422
Email: clerk@easingwold.gov.uk
Website: www.easingwold.gov.uk



Clerk: Mrs C Armitage

25 March 2014

Sent by email

Hambleton District Council
Civic Centre
Stone Cross
Northallerton
North Yorkshire
DL6 2UU
FAO: Mr G Banks

Dear Mr Banks

Subject: Neighbourhood Plan Designated Area for Easingwold

At the Easingwold Town Council meeting held on 21st January 2014 **it was Resolved** to create a Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group for Easingwold and representative members of both the Council and Members of the Public were appointed.

The Council wishes to make a formal application to have the Easingwold Parish area designated as a "Neighbourhood Area". A map is enclosed of the relevant area.

The Town Council is a parish council responsible for the area within the Easingwold parish boundary.

The proposed Designated Neighbourhood Area is an appropriate area for the Neighbourhood Plan as it is the whole of the administrative area of Easingwold Parish Council, served by the current Parish Councillors. It is a long established, well recognised and clearly defined area which includes both the Town centre and its surrounding rural countryside.

The Town Council currently has responsibility to comment upon planning applications within this proposed area.

We kindly request that you process this application of Easingwold Town Council's Designated Neighbourhood Plan Area. Please contact me if further information is needed.

Yours sincerely

Claire Armitage
Town Clerk

