

Decision under Delegated Powers

Officer Requesting Decision

Paul Gilding, Principal Planning Officer, Plans Policies and Place Making

Officer Making the Decision

Rob Mitchell, Chief Executive

Recommendation

That the Council approves the application from Cossington Parish Council for designation of the whole of the parish, identified on the Neighbourhood Area application map, as a Neighbourhood Area. The decision is to take immediate effect.

Reason

So that Cossington Parish Council may continue the process of preparing a Neighbourhood Plan for the area covered by its Parish boundary in accordance with the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended).

Authority for Decision

Section 8.3 (page 8-16 – point 7) of the Council's constitution includes a delegation to the Head of Paid Service, in consultation with the Lead Member for Planning, Inward Investment and Tourism Strategy, to agree and formally designate the Neighbourhood Area that would be covered by a Neighbourhood Plan or Neighbourhood Order.

Decision and Date



17/3/2020

Background

The Localism Act (2011) provides the legal basis for neighbourhood planning and establishes neighbourhood plans as part of the statutory development plan alongside the Council's local plan.

The first stage for a group preparing a neighbourhood plan, as set out in the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended), is to determine the boundary of the neighbourhood plan area and submit to the Borough Council for designation.

Under the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations which came in to force on the 1st October 2016, the designation needs to be made as soon as possible once the local planning authority is satisfied that the application is valid and complete. The requirement for the authority to consult on the application has been removed by these Regulations where the whole of a parish is to be designated and it is not covered by another designated Neighbourhood Area.

Cossington Parish Council has submitted an application for the whole of the parish of Cossington to be designated as a Neighbourhood Area. The application was received by the local authority on the 24th February 2020; however, the accompanying map was omitted. This map was received on the 28th February 2020. The application states that the area formed by the parish boundary is considered appropriate to be designated as a neighbourhood area as it is self-contained, has meaningful boundaries, reflects the existing local sense of community and is generally meaningful and coherent for policy making purposes. The application letter and boundary map are attached to this delegated decision.

The application is considered valid and complete, and the area is not covered by any other Neighbourhood Area. Therefore, the Borough Council must now issue a decision to designate the boundary of Cossington parish as a Neighbourhood Area to enable the Parish Council to continue with the preparation of a Neighbourhood Plan.

Financial Implications

The cost of preparing Neighbourhood Plans falls largely to the parish or town council preparing it. However, Charnwood Borough Council must arrange and pay for the Examination and Referendum required as part of the proposal (as set out in Cabinet Resolution Minute 121 03/13) and meet the costs of officer time supporting the process of preparing the plan and advising on evidence and content of the plan. An amount of £20,000 per Neighbourhood Plan is currently available from MHCLG which can be claimed on successful completion of an examination, once a date for the Referendum has been set.

Grants of up to £9,000 are also available to Town and Parish Councils from Locality and those facing more complex issues can apply for specific packages of technical support where needed, and may also be eligible for further funding of an extra £8,000. An independent report, "Neighbourhood Planning in Charnwood Borough", found that financial resources were not a barrier to Town and Parish Councils who wished to prepare Neighbourhood Plans in Charnwood.

Risk Management

Risk Identified	Likelihood	Impact	Risk Management Actions Planned
A lack of adequate staff resources to	Unlikely	Significant	Resources will be managed effectively and will be prioritised to match the demand from

Risk Identified	Likelihood	Impact	Risk Management Actions Planned
<p>ensure appropriate support is available to help town and parish councils prepare their neighbourhood plans.</p> <p>Changes to MHCLG funding impact on the ability to finance Neighbourhood Plan regulatory processes.</p>	Unlikely	Significant	<p>competing neighbourhood plans and existing workloads.</p> <p>Staff resources spent on Neighbourhood Plans will be backfilled using MHCLG grant money where existing activity is at risk of delay.</p> <p>MHCLG have committed the funding support program until March 2020. Funding will be applied for where possible at the relevant stages of the Neighbourhood Plan preparation. If funding was to be removed the Borough Council would have to fund the Examination and Referendum.</p>

Key Decision: No

Background Papers: Paper 1: Cossington Parish Council letter requesting designation as a neighbourhood area

Paper 2: Boundary map

**COSSINGTON PARISH COUNCIL
9 BENNETTS LANE
COSSINGTON
LEICESTERSHIRE
LE7 4UP**

TELEPHONE No. 01509 814342 / 07739 808871

**CHAIRMAN – Mrs P Weston-Webb
Clerk to the Council – Emma Crowe**

Eileen Mallon
Strategic Director for Housing,
Planning & Regeneration and
Regulatory Services,
Charnwood Borough Council
Council Offices
Southfield Road
Loughborough
LE11 2TX

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE CHARNWOOD BOROUGH COUNCIL
24 FEB 2020
PREPARED TO:
COPIES TO:

19th February 2020

Dear Ms Mallon

Re: Neighbourhood Plan for Cossington Parish Council – application for designation as Neighbourhood Area

I am writing to inform you that Cossington Parish Council has taken the decision to develop a Neighbourhood Plan and we are therefore applying for the Parish to be designated as a 'Neighbourhood Area' in accordance with Part 2 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012.

We can confirm that Cossington Parish Council is a relevant body for the purposes of Section 61G of the 1990 Town and Country Planning Act which specifically includes Parish Councils.

The area to be covered by the Neighbourhood Plan is the whole of the Parish of Cossington. A map confirming the area to be designated is attached. It is considered that the entire Parish is appropriate to be designated as a neighbourhood area as it is self-contained, has meaningful boundaries, reflects the existing local sense of community and is generally meaningful and coherent for policy making purposes. We trust that as the whole of the Parish is the area that is the subject of this application it will be dealt with by delegated authority and without the need for a formal six-week consultation. This is required through

the Neighbourhood Planning (General) and Development Management Procedure (Amendment) Regulations 2016.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require further information and I look forward to working with the District Council and other partners in its development.

Yours sincerely



**Mrs Penny Weston-Webb
Chairman of Cossington Parish Council**



