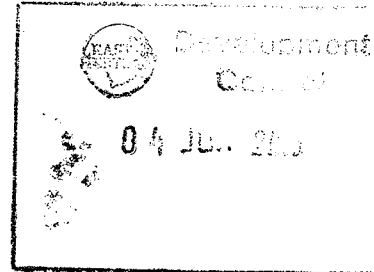


**MUCH HADHAM PARISH COUNCIL**  
**MUCH HADHAM PARISH NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN**



**Neighbourhood Area Application**

3 June 2015

**Introduction**

**LOCALISM ACT 2011 (SCHEDULE 9) AND TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990 (SECTIONS 61F & 61G)**

**NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING (GENERAL) REGULATIONS 2012**

Much Hadham Parish Council, as a "relevant body", hereby formally submits an application to East Hertfordshire Council, as the local planning authority, for the designation of a Neighbourhood Area pursuant to the preparation of a Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP).

**Background**

On 2 June 2015, Much Hadham Parish Council at its full Council meeting passed a motion to instigate proceedings to establish a Neighbourhood Planning Steering Group to lead on the formulation of a NDP for the parish of Much Hadham. An application is hereby submitted under Regulation 5 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012.

The designation of the Neighbourhood Area is the first formal step in the process of producing the NDP. Regulation 5 requires the submission of the following as part of the application:

- (a) A map which identifies the area to which the application relates;
- (b) A statement explaining why the area is appropriate to be designated as a Neighbourhood Area; and
- (c) A statement that the organisation or body making the area application is a relevant body for the purposes of section 61G of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended).

**Neighbourhood Area Map**

A map is attached showing the area to which this application relates.

**Justification for Designation**

In determining the application for designation, the local planning authority must have regard to the desirability of designating the whole of the area of a parish council as a neighbourhood. In East Herts, parish councils are recognised as qualifying bodies able to produce a Neighbourhood Plan.

The proposed area covers the administrative boundaries of Much Hadham Parish Council, and includes the villages of Much Hadham, Green Tye and Perry Green and the surrounding rural area. There are no known overlaps with other relevant bodies promoting other neighbourhood areas

It is believed that there are compelling reasons why the neighbourhood area indicated on the attached map should be given favourable consideration. These are as follows:

1. Much Hadham village is categorised as a Group 1 village in the draft District Plan, whereby Parish Councils are encouraged to produce a Neighbourhood Plan to develop a shared vision for such villages and deliver the sustainable development they need (Policy VILL 1);

2. The inclusion of the smaller villages of Green Tye and Perry Green, both within the parish of Much Hadham but categorised as Group 3 villages, is necessary and desirable. These villages rely on Much Hadham village for the provision of facilities such as the primary school, the doctors' surgery, the post office and village shop and, in turn, provide employment opportunities at St Elizabeth's, the Henry Moore Foundation and the wider rural economy. These factors are vital considerations for all of the villages and rural areas within the Much Hadham parish and it is appropriate that they are considered within a single neighbourhood plan
3. There is a need to protect, manage and enhance the Much Hadham Conservation Area and the quality of the surrounding rural landscape, all of which falls within the proposed neighbourhood area
4. The Much Hadham Parish Plan, published in 2011, covered the same geographic area now proposed as the neighbourhood area.

**Statement in relation to the "Relevant Body"**

This application for designation is submitted by Much Hadham Parish Council, which is considered to be a relevant body under the terms of Section 61G (2a) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.

**Conclusion**

For the reasons outlined above, the proposed neighbourhood area, as shown on the attached map, is considered to be appropriate and justified. Under Section 61G of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, Much Hadham Parish Council is considered to be a "relevant body" for the purposes of this application. The Parish Council therefore respectfully request East Hertfordshire Council to process this application in accordance with Regulation 6 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012.

John Ingham

Clerk to Much Hadham Parish Council