

THUNDRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL

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East Herts District Council,

7th February 2017.

Wallfields,

Pegs Lane,

Hertford,

Herts

Dear Ms Pattison,

THUNDRIDGE: NEIGHBOURHOOD AREA DESIGNATION APPLICATION

Please find attached the above application, with a map detailing the area to be included within the designated area.

If there are any issues which require clarification, please do not hesitate to contact me

Yours sincerely



Belinda Irons

THUNDRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL
THUNDRIDGE PARISH NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Neighbourhood Area Application

6th February 2017

Introduction

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

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING (GENERAL) REGULATIONS 2012

Thundridge Parish Council, as a "relevant body", hereby formally submits an application to East Herts District Council as the local planning authority, for the designation of a Neighbourhood Area pursuant to the preparation of a Neighbourhood Development Plan (NOP).

Background

On 6th February 2017, Thundridge Parish Council at its full Council meeting passed a motion to instigate proceedings to establish a Neighbourhood Planning Group to lead on the formulation of a NOP for the Parish of Thundridge. An application is hereby submitted under Regulation 5 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012.

The designation of the Neighbourhood Area is seen as the first formal step in the process of producing the NOP. Regulation 5 requires the submission of the following documents 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

The proposed area covers the substantive part of the administrative boundary of Thundridge Parish Council, and includes the villages of Thundridge, High Cross and Wadesmill and the surrounding rural area excluding land within part of the Parish which East Herts District Council has identified to fulfil the land requirements for the proposed Ware North and East proposed development. Schedule 9 of the Localism Act 2011, and Section 61G of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, state that neighbourhood areas may not overlap. There are no known overlaps with other relevant bodies with the exclusion stated above, being advised by East Herts Council. 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 and the desirability of maintaining the boundaries of already designated 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:

- The draft East Herts District Plan {Policy DPS8)states that the District Council will give positive support to development brought forward through Neighbourhood Development Plans;
- Thundridge, Wadesmill and High Cross are categorised as Group 2 villages in the draft District Plan, where Parish Councils are encouraged to produce a Neighbourhood Plan to develop a shared vision for the village and deliver the sustainable development they need {Policy VILL 2);
- High Cross has experienced significant housing development in the recent past when it was categorised as Group 1, and there is a need to re-assess the amount and types of dwelling required to provide for local housing needs;
- Thundridge Parish has two designated employment areas in the draft District Plan {Policy VILL 5): there is a need to assess the opportunities for job creation and the stimulation of the local economy.
- There is a need to protect, manage and enhance the quality of the surrounding rural landscape.

Statement in relation to the 'Relevant Body'

Under Section 61G of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, a relevant body is defined as a parish council or an organisation or body which is, or is capable of being designated as, a neighbourhood forum.

This application for designation is submitted by Thundridge 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, Thundridge Parish Council is considered to be a "relevant body" for the purposes of this application. The Parish Council therefore respectfully request East Herts District Council to process this application in accordance with Regulation 6 of the Neighbourhood Planning {General) Regulations 2012.

Signed

A black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of Belinda Irons.

Belinda Irons

Clerk to Thundridge Parish Council