

Ms Sarah James
Principal Planning Officer
Policy and Spatial Planning
Solihull MBC
Council House
Manor Square
Solihull
B91 3QB



21st November 2012

Dear Ms James

Application for Designation of a Neighbourhood Area

The Parish Council, as a relevant body, is to work closely with the local community in the preparation and submission of a Neighbourhood Plan in accordance with the Localism Act 2011.

Currently, the intended timetable is to launch an early draft of the Plan at the Annual Parish Meeting on 16th April 2013 and to have the final version ready for submission by late 2013. This could well be over ambitious and is, therefore, subject to change.

Please find enclosed the formal Application for the Designation of Hampton-in-Arden as a Neighbourhood Area.

Yours sincerely

Julie Richardson

Julie Richardson
Clerk to Hampton-in-Arden Parish Council

Hampton-in-Arden Parish Council

Hampton-in-Arden Parish Council

Hampton-in-Arden Neighbourhood Plan – *our plan our future*

APPLICATION FOR DESIGNATION OF A NEIGHBOURHOOD AREA

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Executive Summary

Introduction

The parish of Hampton-in-Arden covers an area that includes the village of Hampton-in-Arden and part of the village of Catherine-de-Barnes. The parish is broadly bounded by the A45 and A456 trunk roads to the north, by a tributary of the river Blythe to the east, by another tributary of the Blythe to the south and by the Grand Union canal, Hampton Coppice and the M42 motorway to the west.

Hampton has been a settlement since Saxon times and is mentioned in the Domesday book of 1086. It was an important settlement in the original Forest of Arden and was on the salt route from Droitwich to Coventry. The Charity of George Fentham, set up in 1698 and managed by successive generations of trustees has had a significant impact on the village ensuring a range of excellent facilities through generous financial support.

The village of Hampton-in-Arden derives its special character from its rural setting and its historic roots, central to which is its parish church, sited on a hill-top and its collection of historical buildings many of which sit in the village's conservation area.

The publication of a Village Design Statement described the qualities and features of Hampton-in-Arden and acts as a point of reference to ensure that local knowledge of the village's character can be taken account of when changes to the village's landscape are proposed.

According to the 2001 Census Hampton-in-Arden had a population of 1,787. The village has a range of facilities for parishioners including a primary school with nursery unit, a library, doctors' surgery, a number of shops including a post office and pharmacy together with excellent sporting and recreational facilities. There are rail links and a bus service including access to "ring and ride".

The Hampton-in-Arden Parish Plan was published in January 2010 and sets out a vision of what is important for the community. The Plan identifies many key issues and services and explores how they can be safeguarded and developed in the future. The plan identifies issues that are at the heart of the community and describes how they might be developed in the next few years. The new Localism Act is now an ideal opportunity to revisit the Parish Plan and to work with the local community and Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council to replace it with a Neighbourhood Plan.

Objective

The development of a Neighbourhood Plan for Hampton-in-Arden is being facilitated by the Parish Council with help from volunteers across the community. The Parish Council believes that this is a real opportunity for the community to have some ownership on future planning policy for the parish. Through the creation of the Plan, local people will have the opportunity to help shape future policies for land use and the scale of development and what it should look like.

The Neighbourhood Plan will cover the parish of Hampton-in-Arden and, subject to passing the formal tests, a local referendum and assessment, it will become part of the local planning framework. Its policies will apply until 2026.

Process

In September 2012 the Parish Council agreed to support the preparation and submission of a Neighbourhood Plan in accordance with the Localism Act 2011. In October 2012 a Neighbourhood Plan Working Group comprising members of the Parish Council Planning Sub-Committee was established with delegated authority to develop the plan and ensure democratic accountability. The Working Group will make every effort to see that the whole community has real opportunities to engage in the Plan and that the Plan is developed in conformity with strategic and national planning policy. Particular note will be taken of the Solihull Local Plan when formally approved.

The Working Group will meet regularly, meetings will be open to the public and their agendas and minutes together with other useful information will be made available on a dedicated part of the Parish Council website and in the Parish Office.

Community engagement

It is intended that the Plan will be launched at the Parish Council Annual General Meeting in April 2013. The Neighbourhood Plan will draw extensively on the findings of the Parish Plan published in 2010. A number of themes emerged from the Parish Plan and these can be summarised as follows:

- the urgent need to provide affordable homes for both low cost sale and rent for families, older and young people
- the need to publicise planning guidelines and planning applications
- the need to promote village shops and restaurants
- the need to facilitate expansion of education and leisure facilities particularly for young people
- the need to promote Neighbourhood Watch schemes and publicise better security in homes

To fulfil its commitment to openness, transparency and community involvement, the Working Group will undertake a further parish-wide resident's survey of all households, and will ask local businesses to complete a separate survey in order to gather local views on the needs of the community and their aspirations for development. The results of these will inform the proposed meetings and events by which the community will help draft the content of the Plan.

Funding

The Parish Council is aware that Solihull MBC has limited funds available for assisting with the preparation of the Neighbourhood Plan and that this is restricted to officer time supporting and advising the community in taking forward the Plan and to cover costs for the examination and any other further steps including organising the referendum. It is further understood that other costs such as printing, surveys, public meetings etc, are a matter for the Parish Council and possible sources of grants towards these costs are being explored. In the meantime the initial costs of preparing the Plan will be met by the Parish Council.

Outcome

The intention is that the Neighbourhood Plan will be substantially drafted by late 2013, although some aspects of the formal processes remain unclear to the Working Group.

Solihull MBC will consider whether the Neighbourhood Plan for Hampton-in-Arden conforms with its adopted strategic policies and, in agreement with the Parish Council, will put it forward for independent assessment.

Subject to a successful referendum, Solihull MBC will have a legal duty to 'make' the Neighbourhood Plan for Hampton-in-Arden and bring it into force.

Application

The following are included with Hampton-in-Arden's application for designation as a neighbourhood area:

1. A map (attached) which identifies the area to which the area application relates.
2. A statement explaining why this area is considered appropriate to be designated as a neighbourhood area (see 2 below).
3. A statement that the body making the area application is a relevant body for the purposes of 61G of the 1990 Town and Country Planning Act (see 3 below).

2. Statement to be designated as a neighbourhood area

The parish of Hampton-in-Arden is considered appropriate to be designated as a neighbourhood area for the following reasons:

- The Hampton-in-Arden Neighbourhood Plan is being developed to help deliver the local community's ambitions and needs for the plan period 2013 to 2026.
- The Plan will provide a vehicle to guide, promote and enable balanced and sustainable change and growth within the designated area.
- The designated area includes the whole of the civil parish of Hampton-in-Arden

3. Statement that the body making this application is a relevant body

In accordance with Section 61G of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, the body making the application to designate Hampton-in-Arden as a neighbourhood area is Hampton-in-Arden Parish Council, a parish council established in pursuance of the Local Government Act 1972.

The application for designation includes all of the area covered by the Parish Council.



Birmingham International Sta

Middle Bickenhill

Shrubbery

The Mill Farm

Elmdon

Coventry Road

A 45

A 45(T)

Stonebridge

Dunstan Farm

PO

Wyckhams Close

Works

Pit (dis)

Pasture Farm

Diddington Hill

Diddington Hall

The Jungle

Radio Beacon

Bickenhill

Grange Farm

Hazel Farm

104

101

98

Golf Driving Range

Castle Hills

Radio Beacon

Nursery

Heath Farm

Home Farm

Mouldings Green Farm

Meriden Mill Farm

Hampton Coppice

Woodhouse Farm

Four Winds

Shadowbrook Lane

96

Meriden Road

Patrick Farm

Patrick Bridge

HAMPTON IN ARDEN CP

Hampton in Arden

86

Grand Union Canal Walk

Bunts Wood

Hampton Lane Farm

Aspbury's Copse

The Limes

Eastcote Lane

21

87

SOLIHULL

Catherine-de-Barnes

Solihull Road

Walford Hall Farm

Aspbury's Copse

102

94

Hook End

Siden Hill Wood

Weir

Sand Pit

Field Farm

Hampton Lane Sch

Inn

Friday Lane

The Woodlands

Sewage Works

101

Northfields Farm

Hook End

Arden House

Manor Nurseries

The Rookery

Brick Kiln Hole Wood

Bogay Hall

123

127

101

101

Windmill Farm

101