

APPROVAL of Steeple Claydon Parish Council Neighbourhood Area application

Background

1. A Neighbourhood Development Plan is being prepared by Steeple Claydon Parish Council, which commenced early 2015.
2. The Plan is in its early stages, work has started on gathering information and getting a group of people together to produce the plan. It is not yet confirmed whether there will be allocated sites for development.

Content

3. The Plan is being led by Steeple Claydon Parish Council with support from a consultant and AVDC planning officers. To progress the Neighbourhood Development Plan, the parish must apply to AVDC to designate the parish as a Neighbourhood Area. The proposed Neighbourhood Area follows the existing parish boundary.
4. The decision on whether to accept and designate a Neighbourhood Area has been delegated by Cabinet to the Forward Plans Manager, after consultation with the relevant local Members and the Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning. This report seeks agreement for confirming the Neighbourhood Area.

Representation and Response

5. The Neighbourhood Area Application which has been consulted upon is attached to this report. Two representations have been made, by Gladman Developments and a member of the public.
6. Gladman Developments make no specific comments on the application for Neighbourhood Area designation but highlight a site they are promoting and what in their view are key requirements in national guidance and legislation that a neighbourhood plan should have regard to. They reiterate the Basic Conditions tests that will be part of the neighbourhood plan examination and potential Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) that may be required from the Pre Submission stage depending on the neighbourhood plan that comes forward. No objection is made to the neighbourhood area itself. AVDC will work with the parish council as the plan is prepared to advise on the neighbourhood plan meeting the Basic Conditions. AVDC will confirm through a Screening Assessment in due course whether an SEA is required following further engagement with the parish council on the neighbourhood plan.
7. The member of the public's comment relates to whether the parish council are the appropriate body for developing the neighbourhood plan and if they have neutrality. A parish council is the appropriate body for areas that are parished. The neighbourhood plan process includes consultation, an independent examination and a referendum to ensure all the community has the chance to have their input.

Process of Consultation

8. Following the introduction of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 and the Localism Act 2011, in a parished area like Steeple Claydon, it can only be the Parish Council that can be the 'relevant body' for a Neighbourhood Development Plan. Because of this, Steeple Claydon Parish Council have submitted to Aylesbury Vale District Council an application to designate a Neighbourhood Area under Regulation 5 of the 2012 Regulations.
9. A four week consultation commenced 26 February 2015 to 26 March 2015. The following consultation processes were undertaken to publicise the Neighbourhood Area application:

- (a) Neighbourhood Area application published on AVDC and Steeple Claydon Parish Council website
- (b) Neighbourhood Area application posted on the Parish notice board
- (c) Details of Neighbourhood Area application issued in a press release stating where the Neighbourhood Area can be inspected.

Approval

10. In accordance with the above, I approve the Neighbourhood Area application

A. Kirkham

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Andy Kirkham, Planning Manager (Forward Plans)

Date: 16/04/2015

In consultation with Cllr Mrs Carole Paternoster, Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning, Forward Plans

Date: 16/04/2015

C. M. Paternoster

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