

EAST HERTS COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE – 5 SEPTEMBER 2017

REPORT BY THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

REQUEST FOR AREA DESIGNATION FOR NEIGHBOURHOOD
PLANNING: THUNDRIDGE, THUNDRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL

WARD(S) AFFECTED: THUNDRIDGE

Purpose/Summary of Report

- To enable the consideration of an application for the designation of a Neighbourhood Area

RECOMMENDATION FOR EXECUTIVE THAT:

(A)	The application for the designation of a Thundridge Neighbourhood Area, submitted by Thundridge Parish Council, be supported.
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1.0 Background

1.1 Thundridge Parish Council submitted an application for the designation of a Neighbourhood Area to the Council on 6th February 2017. Agreement to the designation of a Neighbourhood Area is required by the District Council as Local Planning Authority (LPA) before a Neighbourhood Plan can be formulated.

1.2 The application was made in the form of a letter from Thundridge Parish Council with an attached plan setting the area to which the application relates. The letter and plan form **Essential Reference Paper 'B'** to this report.

2.0 Consultation

2.1 The Council has undertaken the appropriate consultation with regard to the application submission.

- 2.2 No comments have been received in response to the area designation application.
- 3.0 Considerations
- 3.1 Two main areas of consideration to be taken into account when determining an application for the designation of a Neighbourhood Area are set out in Schedule 9 of the Localism Act 2011. One of these is that the authority determining the application must have regard to the desirability of maintaining the existing boundaries of neighbourhood plan areas already designated.
- 3.2 No weight needs to be given to this consideration in this case as no other Neighbourhood Areas overlap with the proposed Thundridge Neighbourhood Area.
- 3.3 The other area of consideration is the desirability of designating the whole of the parish as the Neighbourhood Area.
- 3.4 In this case, the area proposed only covers part of Thundridge Parish which includes the villages of Thundridge, High Cross and Wadesmill and the surrounding rural area excluding land within that part of the Parish which the District Council has identified to fulfil the land requirements for the proposed development to the North and East of Ware (District Plan Policy WARE2).
- 3.5 The Area has been proposed by Thundridge Parish Council and does not preclude the remainder of the Parish being included within a Neighbourhood Plan for Ware/Wareside in the future.
- 3.6 No comments were received during the consultation and as Neighbourhood Plans can be developed alongside the emerging District Plan, it is proposed that the proposal be fully supported.
- 3.7 The District Council encourages Neighbourhood Plans to be developed in a positive and proactive manner in order to support the strategic objectives of the emerging District Plan. It is the District Council's role to advise and support Neighbourhood Plans as they progress. It is also recognised that it is within the Parish Council's interests to work with and alongside the emerging District Plan.

4.0 Conclusion

4.1 Neighbourhood Planning is now an integral part of the planning system with legislative backing through the Localism Act. The LPA is charged with determining applications for the designation of Neighbourhood Areas. In this case, designation of Thundridge Neighbourhood Area, for neighbourhood planning purposes is supported.

5.0 Implications/Consultations

5.1 Information on any corporate issues and consultation associated with this report can be found within **Essential Reference Paper 'A'**.

Background Papers

None

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