

Local Plan Panel Meeting	
Meeting Date	27 November 2019
Report Title	Application for designation of the Parish of Hernhill as a neighbourhood area.
Cabinet Member	Cllr Mike Baldock, Cabinet Member for Planning
SMT Lead	Emma Wiggins
Head of Service	James Freeman
Lead Officer	Aaron Wilkinson, Planner
Key Decision	No
Classification	Open
Recommendations	It is recommended that Members agree that the application complies with the initial requirements of the Regulations and recommend to the Cabinet that Officers proceed to the first stage in the designation process which is for the Council to publicise the application.

1 Purpose of Report and Executive Summary

- 1.1 Hernhill Parish Council has applied to the Council requesting that the Parish of Hernhill be designated as a neighbourhood area for the purpose of the creation of a neighbourhood development plan (neighbourhood plan).

2 Background

- 2.1 The first step towards creating a neighbourhood plan is for a relevant body (which as a Parish Council, the applicant is) to submit an application to its local planning authority to designate an area as a neighbourhood area.
- 2.2 As per Part 2, Regulation 5 of The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended) - 'Application for designation of a neighbourhood area', the application must include:
- a) a map which identifies the area to which the application relates;
 - b) a statement explaining why this area is considered 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 1990 Act.
- 2.3 At Appendix I, a map identifying the area to which the application relates has been submitted (the whole Parish). At Appendix II, the application includes a statement that the area is considered appropriate due to it having a defined boundary as a Parish within Swale Borough. It also includes a statement that, as a Parish Council, the applicant is a relevant body.

- 2.4 As such, Officers consider the application to comply with these initial requirements. The next step in the designation process, as per Regulation 6, is for the Council, as the local planning authority, to publicise the application for comment on our website, and in any other such manner as is likely to bring the application to the attention of people who live, work or carry out business in the area to which the application relates, for a minimum of 6 weeks.
- 2.5 As well as the website, Officers consider it would be reasonable to inform the surrounding Parish Councils of the application, as well as Canterbury City Council and Ashford Borough Council due to their boundaries being so close to the Parish. It is likely that some people from these areas work or carry out business in the Parish of Hernhill. Additionally, site notices will be placed at locations within the Parish such as the primary school/village hall, pubs and church. Officers consider 6 weeks to be an appropriate timeframe for consultation.
- 2.6 Following this period of consultation and considering any comments received, the Council will then need to decide whether it considers the area applied for appropriate for designation as a neighbourhood area.

3 Proposals

- 3.1 The proposals therefore, are that Members agree that the application complies with the requirements of Part 2, Regulation 5 of The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended) - 'Application for designation of a neighbourhood area' and recommend to the Cabinet that Officers proceed to the first stage in the designation process which is for the Council to publicise the application as set out above.

4 Alternative Options

- 4.1 Members could disagree that the application meets the requirements set out above, although a sound reason for doing so would need to be given. The Council would then need to decline to consider the application.
- 4.2 Members could also consider other means of publicising the application should you so wish.

5 Consultation Undertaken or Proposed

- 5.1 None undertaken thus far, but agreement with the recommendations would, following the Cabinet's agreement, result in a period of consultation as set out above.

6 Implications

Issue	Implications
Corporate Plan	The proposals would align with: Priority 1: Delivering regeneration; and

	Priority 2: Delivering improved quality of life.
Financial, Resource and Property	None identified at this stage.
Legal, Statutory and Procurement	None identified at this stage.
Crime and Disorder	None identified at this stage.
Environment and Sustainability	In the long term, any neighbourhood plan would be subject to a Sustainability Appraisal.
Health and Wellbeing	None identified at this stage.
Risk Management and Health and Safety	None identified at this stage.
Equality and Diversity	None identified at this stage.
Privacy and Data Protection	None identified at this stage.

7 Appendices

- 7.1 The following documents are to be published with this report and form part of the report:
- Appendix I: Map identifying the area for designation.
 - Appendix II: Application for designation.

8 Background Papers

- 8.1 None.