



East
Northamptonshire
Council

Planning Policy Committee – 21 October 2013

Barnwell and Chelveston cum Caldecott: Applications for Designation of Neighbourhood Areas

Purpose of report

Two applications to designate Neighbourhood Areas have been received from both Barnwell and Chelveston cum Caldecott Parish Councils. This report is presented for Members' information and to seek support for consultation to commence.

Attachment(s)

Appendix 1: Neighbourhood Area application by Barnwell Parish Council

Appendix 2: Neighbourhood Area application by Chelveston cum Caldecott Parish Council

1.0 Background

- 1.1 The Localism Act 2011 gave Town and Parish Councils the powers to produce Neighbourhood Plans. Neighbourhood planning is central to the Government's decentralisation, localism and Big Society agenda. The Plans are community-led, but the local planning authority provide advice, make decisions at key stages and carry out certain technical procedures, as part of the preparation process.
- 1.2 The Neighbourhood Plan (General) Regulations ("the Regulations") came into force in April 2012 and set out the steps (legal requirements) that Town and Parish Councils must complete if they wish to prepare Neighbourhood Plans.
- 1.3 In order to encourage and support neighbourhood planning, new funding was also announced by Locality on 1 May 2013 to support neighbourhood planning. Through this, communities can now apply for direct support and/ or grants of up to £7,000 to help them develop a Neighbourhood Plan (see <http://locality.org.uk/news/launch-neighbourhood-planning-fund/>).

2.0 Barnwell and Chelveston cum Caldecott Parish Councils: applications and next steps

- 2.1 Applications to designate Neighbourhood Areas under Regulation 2(5) have recently been submitted by both Barnwell and Chelveston cum Caldecott Parish Councils (appendices 1 and 2). These applications each consist of :
 - a) a statement describing the area proposed for designation as a Neighbourhood Area (Section 5(1)(a));
 - b) a statement explaining why this area is considered appropriate to be designated as a Neighbourhood Area (Section 5(1)(b));
 - c) a statement that the organisation or body making the application is a relevant body for the purposes of section 61G of the 1990 Town and Country Planning Act (Section 5(1)(c)); and
 - d) a map which identifies the area to which the application relates;

- 2.2 The two proposed Neighbourhood Areas cover:
- The entire parish of Barnwell;
 - The entire parish of Chelveston cum Caldecott, with the exception of an 8.1ha field to the north of Chelveston Brook on the periphery of the Parish (due to transfer to Stanwick Parish under the current Community Governance Review).
- 2.3 Members should also note that there is no legal or procedural requirement to present the initial Neighbourhood Area applications to Committee for approval, prior to consultation commencing. However, officers consider that this approach provides best practice.
- 2.4 The Regulations require Neighbourhood Area applications to be consulted on for a minimum of 6 weeks. It is anticipated that the consultation will take place over 6 weeks, from **Friday, 25 October 2013** till **Monday, 9 December 2013** (inclusive). The relevant documentation will be publicised on the District Council's website and, as the Regulations require, *"in such other manner as they [East Northamptonshire Council] consider is likely to bring the area application to the attention of people who live, work or carry on business on the area to which the application relates"*.
- 2.5 The two applications are proposed to be advertised for consultation as follows:
- On East Northamptonshire Council, Barnwell Parish Council and Chelveston cum Caldecott Parish Council websites (relevant neighbourhood planning web pages);
 - Notices and documentation at public libraries within the District and any relevant Parish Noticeboards (e.g. at Barnwell, Chelveston, Caldecott and/ or Chelston Rise);
 - Advert in Nene Valley News;
 - Letter to Ward Councillors, County Councillors and neighbouring Town/ Parish Councils, Northamptonshire County Council Highways and Planning Teams, and statutory bodies, e.g. English Heritage; Highways Agency, and Environment Agency.
- 2.6 Following the 6-week consultation, any responses will be considered by the Planning Policy Committee and amendments may be suggested to either or both of the proposed boundaries. The Council must ensure that any final Neighbourhood Area is coherent, consistent and appropriate in planning terms¹.
- 2.7 Once Neighbourhood Areas have been agreed and designated, the next stage will be for the two Parish Councils to engage with their communities and prepare the Plans. That process will include a requirement for them to undertake formal 6 week consultations on their initial Draft Plans. Any changes will be made and revised Neighbourhood Plans prepared, which will then be submitted to the District Council, who will provide a check to ensure that these have been prepared correctly and then initiate a further 6 week formal consultation period for each Plan.
- 2.8 Once each Neighbourhood Plan has been prepared, the District Council will facilitate and fund the independent examination for each. Providing that the Examiner recommends that the relevant Neighbourhood Plan is taken forward then a referendum will be called for which the District Council again will be responsible for facilitating and funding. The Plan requires the support of a majority of those who vote in the referendum. If the referendum indicates community support, the Neighbourhood Plan is normally then adopted by the District Council. Once each Plan has been adopted by the District Council it becomes a part of the statutory development plan against which relevant planning applications will be determined.

¹ Unless there are valid reasons, the Council will designate a final proposed Neighbourhood Area. If the Council considers the area not to be appropriate it must issue a refusal notice, explaining why, and designate a revised plan area to include some or all of the originally proposed area.

3.0 Conclusion

3.1 Applications have been received from the Parish Councils of Barnwell and Chelveston cum Caldecott for two proposed Neighbourhood Areas, prior to work commencing on their Neighbourhood Plans. This report has been provided for Members' information and to seek Members' support for consultation to commence on the proposed Areas.

4.0 Equality and Diversity Implications

4.1 There are no equality and diversity implications at this stage.

5.0 Legal Implications

5.1 At this stage there are no legal implications.

6.0 Risk Management

6.1 There are no risks at this stage.

7.0 Financial Implications

7.1 ENC will be required to fund the examination and referendum and provide professional planning advice throughout the preparation process.

8.0 Corporate Outcomes

8.1 The relevant corporate outcomes are:

- Regeneration and Economic Development
- Sustainable Development
- Strong communities
- High quality built environment
- Strong strategic partnerships
- A proactive and listening Council

9.0 Recommendations

9.1 Member support is sought for consultation to commence for the proposed Barnwell and Chelveston cum Caldecott Neighbourhood Areas.

(Reason – to enable work to commence on these two Neighbourhood Plans)

Legal	Power: Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 Localism Act 2011, Section 61G of The Town And Country Planning Act 1990				
	Other considerations: None				
Background Papers: N/A					
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Date: 14 October 2013					
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