



Planning Policy Committee – 12 February 2014

Barnwell, Chelveston cum Caldecott and Raunds Neighbourhood Plans: Neighbourhood Plan area boundaries

Purpose of report

This report provides a summary of the main issues arising from the statutory consultations regarding the designation of Neighbourhood Plan area boundaries for the emerging Barnwell, Chelveston cum Caldecott and Raunds Neighbourhood Plans, and seeks Members' approval to designate these three Neighbourhood Area boundaries.

Attachment(s)

- Appendix 1 – Schedule of representations: consultation regarding Barnwell, Chelveston cum Caldecott and Raunds Neighbourhood Plan area boundaries
Appendix 2 – Amended Raunds Neighbourhood Area boundary

1.0 Introduction

1.1 An initial formal stage in preparing area-based Neighbourhood Plans consists of a statutory 6 week consultation, inviting interested parties (i.e. statutory consultees, local businesses, community groups, residents etc) to make representations to East Northamptonshire Council about the boundary for the area that a Neighbourhood Plan should cover. For the emerging Barnwell, Chelveston cum Caldecott and Raunds Plans, the respective Parish and Town Councils proposed the following Neighbourhood Plan area boundaries:

- 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);
- The entire parish area of Raunds together with those parts of Ringstead parish that lie to the east of the A45.

1.2 The Planning Policy Committee (21 October 2013) supported consultation to commence on the proposed Neighbourhood Areas for Barnwell and Chelveston. The previous Planning Policy Committee (16 September 2013) supported consultation to commence on the proposed Neighbourhood Area for Raunds.

2.0 Barnwell, Chelveston cum Caldecott and Raunds Neighbourhood Plan boundary consultations – Number of representations received through the consultation process

2.1 The statutory consultation for the Barnwell, Chelveston cum Caldecott and Raunds Neighbourhood Plan boundaries took place over 6 weeks (25 October – 9 December 2013, inclusive) in accordance with Regulation 6 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012. This consultation invited comments as to whether there is any reason why the District Council should **not** make designations in respect of the proposed Barnwell, Chelveston cum Caldecott and Raunds Neighbourhood Areas.

2.2 Representations were received from the following:

- Stanwick Parish Council – 1 comment, regarding proposed Barnwell, Chelveston cum Caldecott and Raunds Neighbourhood Areas;
- Higham Ferrers Council – 1 comment, regarding proposed Chelveston cum Caldecott Neighbourhood Area;
- Oundle Town Council – 1 comment (objection), regarding proposed Barnwell Neighbourhood Area.

3.0 Barnwell, Chelveston cum Caldecott and Raunds Neighbourhood Plan boundary consultations – Summary of representation received

- 3.1 Stanwick Parish Council responded on 26 November 2013, stating that it does not wish to comment upon the three proposed Neighbourhood Areas.
- 3.2 Higham Ferrers Town Council responded similarly regarding the proposed Chelveston cum Caldecott Neighbourhood Area, but noted that cross boundary issues between Higham Ferrers and Chelveston cum Caldecott should be approached in a collaborative way.
- 3.3 Oundle Town Council has objected to the proposed Barnwell Neighbourhood Area designation, citing that this is premature until the current Community Governance Review regarding proposed changes to the Oundle and Barnwell Parish areas has been finalised. The Town Council argues that the area of land that they have proposed to be transferred from Barnwell Parish to Oundle Parish should not be included in the Barnwell Neighbourhood Area designation.

4.0 Implications of emerging Parish boundary review (“Community Governance Review”)

- 4.1 The initial Community Governance (Parish) Review consultation regarding proposed boundaries took place during 2013, with a view to implementing any boundary changes with effect from May 2015. It should be noted that the Community Governance Review (CGR) is a totally separate process to the Neighbourhood Planning process and relates to administrative boundaries of parishes, as opposed to development plan boundaries. Under the CGR, East Northamptonshire Council has already considered representations regarding potential boundary changes; recently subject to consultation (closing date 2 February 2014). The following of the proposed changes are relevant (<http://www.east-northamptonshire.gov.uk/parishreview>):

- **Raunds/ Ringstead** – Amendments to the boundary between Raunds and Ringstead near the roundabout on the A45;
- **Chelveston-cum-Caldecott/ Stanwick/ Higham Ferrers** – Amendment to Chelveston-cum-Caldecott’s boundary in three areas. Chelveston Cliffs would be transferred from Higham Ferrers to Chelveston-cum-Caldecott. The boundary with Stanwick would also be amended so that Chelveston-cum-Caldecott gains an area in the north-east but loses an area in the north-west.

- 4.2 Those representations received from Higham Ferrers Town Council and Oundle Town Council reflected the implications of the current Community Governance Review (of parish boundaries). The need for a collaborative approach to neighbourhood planning was highlighted, while the CGR itself has given rise to issues regarding the definition of appropriate Neighbourhood Area boundaries in all three cases (Barnwell, Chelveston cum Caldecott and Raunds).

- 4.3 **Barnwell** – Oundle Town Council’s objection in respect of the proposed Barnwell Neighbourhood Plan area boundary is directly related to the Parish Review. While the Town Council has argued that the part of Barnwell Parish which it proposes for transfer to Oundle Parish should be excluded from the Barnwell Neighbourhood Area designation, Members should note that this proposal was rejected by ENC at the draft recommendations stage although the final recommendations will not be made by

ENC until 23 April 2014.

- 4.3 **Chelveston cum Caldecott** – The Parish Council has taken account of the emerging Parish Review in putting together its proposed Neighbourhood Area boundary. While neighbouring Stanwick Parish Council is currently considering the possibilities of neighbourhood planning, as yet that Parish Council has not made any formal application. These circumstances were reflected in the decision by Chelveston cum Caldecott Parish Council to exclude those areas which may be subject to change through the Parish Review from its draft Neighbourhood Area. It should also be noted that the area within Higham Ferrers (Chelveston Cliffs) (ref. para. 4.1) is already designated within the Higham Ferrers Neighbourhood Plan boundary area and therefore cannot be designated in a subsequent Neighbourhood Plan, without prior agreement and change to the Higham Ferrers Neighbourhood Plan boundary (which would require a boundary re-consultation for that area).
- 4.4 **Raunds** – Members should note that the proposed Parish Review amendments to the Raunds/ Ringstead Parish boundary differ slightly to the Raunds Neighbourhood Area proposal. The Parish Review consultation proposes that a 1.05ha triangular parcel of land, to the west of public footpath NR2/ North of the A45 (Grid reference 499706/274403) should be transferred from Raunds to Ringstead Parish with effect from May 2015. By contrast, the draft Raunds Neighbourhood Area boundary has included this land within the Neighbourhood Plan area.
- 4.5 The Local Planning Authority has the power to amend proposed Neighbourhood Area boundaries following the public consultation period and therefore in January 2014, officers contacted Raunds Town Council and Ringstead Parish Council by email and telephone, suggesting the **exclusion** of this plot of land from the Raunds Neighbourhood Plan area, given that it lies well away from the town in open countryside, so it is extremely unlikely that this amendment would affect any Neighbourhood Plan proposals for Raunds. Raunds Town Clerk and Ringstead Parish Clerk both agreed that this is a minor issue and (on behalf of their respective Town and Parish Councils) that they would be happy for East Northamptonshire Council to propose this minor amendment to the Raunds Neighbourhood Area boundary. This minor amendment would also enable the Neighbourhood Area boundary to follow the man-made boundary of the A45, which provides a clear physical boundary for the plan area at this point.

5.0 Conclusions

- 5.1 This report is presented to Members, for information, as a summary of representations received during the recent statutory consultation regarding the designation of Neighbourhood Plan area boundaries for the emerging Barnwell, Chelveston cum Caldecott and Raunds Neighbourhood Plans. No objections were received regarding the proposed Chelveston cum Caldecott and Raunds Neighbourhood Area designations.
- 5.2 Officers have considered Oundle Town Council's objection and proposed revision to the Barnwell Neighbourhood Plan area boundary, together with potential changes to Neighbourhood Area boundaries arising from the emerging Parish Review. To define an appropriate area in each case, the Local Planning Authority must ensure the Neighbourhood Areas are coherent, consistent and appropriate in planning terms.
- 5.3 **Barnwell** – As part of the Parish Review, East Northamptonshire Council (ENC) considered, but has rejected at the draft recommendations stage, a proposal that would have significantly increased the area covered by the parish of Oundle by taking in parts of Ashton, Barnwell, Benefield, Glapthorn and Stoke Doyle. Oundle Town Council's proposal was not supported locally and ENC did not think that the expansion was justified although this has been consulted upon and final recommendations will be made to ENC on 23 April. Accordingly, no changes to the draft Neighbourhood Area boundary are proposed, given that Oundle Town Council's

Parish Review proposals have not been taken forward.

5.4 **Chelveston cum Caldecott** – The proposed Neighbourhood Area boundary for Chelveston cum Caldecott was drafted so as to exclude those parts of the Parish area which were proposed for transfer to Stanwick Parish. Given that Stanwick Parish Council has not objected, it is considered most appropriate to agree the boundary, as proposed by Chelveston cum Caldecott Parish Council. Accordingly, no changes to the draft Neighbourhood Area boundary are proposed.

5.5 **Raunds** – A small change to the Neighbourhood Area boundary is proposed, to bring a small area into line with the emerging Parish Review. Raunds Town Clerk and Ringstead Parish Clerk have both agreed that such a change is logical and appropriate. One change to the draft boundary is therefore proposed; to **exclude** the 1.05ha triangular parcel of land to the west of public footpath NR2/ North of the A45 (Grid reference 499706/274403) from the Neighbourhood Area (**Appendix 2**).

6.0 Equality and Diversity Implications

6.1 There are no equality and diversity implications.

7.0 Legal Implications

7.1 The consultations under Regulation 6 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 represent the first statutory stage in preparing Neighbourhood Plans for Barnwell, Chelveston cum Caldecott and Raunds. The consultation took place over a 6-week period, in accordance with Regulation 6. The three Neighbourhood Plans must be prepared in accordance with all of the relevant Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012.

8.0 Risk Management

8.1 The proposed Barnwell, Chelveston cum Caldecott and Raunds Neighbourhood Area boundaries may all be affected by the outcome of the current Community Governance (Parish) Review which is also taking place. It must be noted that should Barnwell Parish Council, Chelveston cum Caldecott Parish Council or Raunds Town Council wish to change their Neighbourhood Area boundary again, this would require a further statutory period of consultation in order to endorse any new Neighbourhood Plan area boundary.

8.2 There is a potential risk that the Community Governance Review could lead to communities delaying the preparation of Neighbourhood Plans and a consequent loss of local enthusiasm and goodwill. The Neighbourhood Area designations, as proposed through this report, have been made in order to try to minimise this risk.

9.0 Financial implications

9.1 There are no financial implications associated with this report.

10.0 Corporate Outcomes

10.1 The relevant Corporate Outcomes are:

- Good quality of life – prosperous, sustainable, healthy
- Effective partnership working
- Strong community leadership
- Effective management
- Knowledge of our customers and communities

11.0 Recommendation

11.1 The summary of representations received during the recent 6-weeks Regulation 6 consultations, regarding the proposed Barnwell, Chelveston cum Caldecott and Raunds Neighbourhood Plan area boundaries, is presented to Members for information.

11.2 Members are asked to endorse each of the three Neighbourhood Area boundaries, as follows:

- **Barnwell** – The Neighbourhood Area boundary put forward in the formal notice of application for the designation of this Neighbourhood Area (25 October 2013)
- **Chelveston cum Caldecott** – The Neighbourhood Area boundary put forward in the formal notice of application for the designation of this Neighbourhood Area (25 October 2013)
- **Raunds** – Amended Neighbourhood Area boundary, as shown in Appendix 2.

(Reason – to enable Barnwell Parish Council, Chelveston cum Caldecott Parish Council and Raunds Town Council to progress with the preparation of their respective Neighbourhood Plans).

Legal	Power: Localism Act 2011; Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004; Town and Country Planning Act 1990; Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012				
	Other considerations: None				
Background Papers: Planning Policy Committee Minutes, 16 September 2013; 21 October 2013					
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Date: 03 February 2014					
CFO		MO		CX	

(Committee Report Normal Rev. 22)

Appendix 1: Barnwell, Chelveston cum Caldecott and Raunds Neighbourhood Plans: Schedule of representations received regarding

Date	Respondent Name	Email or letter	Representation regarding:	Consultation responses received (verbatim)	East Northamptonshire Council response	Action
26/11/2013	Stanwick Parish Council	Email	Barnwell, Chelveston cum Caldecott, Raunds	Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Designation of the Neighbourhood Planning Boundaries as detailed below. The Parish Council does not wish to comment.	Noted	No further action
27/11/2013	Higham Ferrers Town Council	Email	Chelveston cum Caldecott	The Council have now considered the consultation on the designation of the boundary for the Chelveston-cum-Caldecott Neighbourhood Plan Boundary. They have agreed the following comments:- The Council have no objections to the proposed boundary. As you are aware the Neighbourhood Plan process is already in place for Higham Ferrers and the Council therefore believe that any cross boundary issues between Higham Ferrers and Chelveston-cum-Caldecott should be approached in a collaborative way.	Noted	No further action
02/12/2013	Oundle Town Council	Email/ letter	Barnwell	Oundle Town Council objects to the proposal for the Barnwell Neighbourhood Plan be to based upon the existing Barnwell parish boundary because Oundle Town Council has proposed revisions to the boundary between the parishes of Barnwell and Oundle and feels that until the consultation process on the boundary review sought has been concluded and a decision made as to whether the current parish boundaries are to be maintained or not it would be premature to confirm the extent of the Barnwell Neighbourhood Plan area. If the parish boundaries are altered in the way that Oundle Town Council has proposed that area of land which is currently in Barnwell parish but which would be incorporated into Oundle parish should not be included in the Barnwell Neighbourhood Plan.	The emerging Parish Review (boundaries) has given consideration to Oundle Town Council's proposed boundary expansion (taking in parts of Ashton, Barnwell, Benefield, Glapthorn and Stoke Doyle). However, the Review process concluded that this was not supported locally and did not think that the expansion was justified.	No further action. Refer Oundle Town Clerk to ENC's "Parish Review" web page for current position/ progress with the boundary review http://www.east-northamptonshire.gov.uk/parishreview

Appendix 1: Barnwell, Chelveston cum Caldecott and Raunds Neighbourhood Plans: Schedule of representations received regarding

proposed Neighbourhood Plan Area designations

Appendix 2 – Amended Raunds Neighbourhood Area Boundary

