

NORTH SOMERSET COUNCIL DECISION



DECISION OF:
COUNCILLOR MARK CANNIFORD. THE EXECUTIVE
MEMBER FOR BUSINESS, ECONOMY, AND EMPLOYMENT

WITH ADVICE FROM: DIRECTOR OF PLACE

DECISION NO: 22/23 DP 556

SUBJECT: Locking Neighbourhood Area approval

KEY DECISION: No

REASON: Only affects one ward (Hutton and Locking)

BACKGROUND: Locking Parish Council submitted an application to designate a Neighbourhood Area on 12 April 2023. This is a prerequisite to undertaking any form of neighbourhood planning in the parish. The Neighbourhood Area will become the area which can be covered by a future neighbourhood plan. The Parish Council have proposed that the whole of the parish of Locking be designated as the Neighbourhood Area.

North Somerset Council under the Localism Act 2011 and the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 must formally designate the Neighbourhood Area. Locking Parish Council is the relevant body to make this application under 61G of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.

The inclusion of the whole of the Parish of Locking as the Neighbourhood Area is logical and allows the Parish Council to explore any issues which emerge throughout the Parish area in any forthcoming neighbourhood plan, whilst remaining manageable in proportions and procedure.

DECISION:

That the designation of the Locking Neighbourhood Area be made in accordance with Section 61G of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 as amended for the purposes of Neighbourhood Planning in accordance with the application received on the 12 April 2023.

REASONS:

A local planning authority must designate a neighbourhood area if it receives a valid application, some or all of the area has not yet been designated and if the area applied for is the whole of the parish area (Neighbourhood Planning (General) and Development Management Procedure (Amendment) Regulations 2016). The designation of the Neighbourhood Area is a pre-requisite to producing a Neighbourhood Plan and undertaking any other neighbourhood planning in the parish area of Locking. The whole of the Locking Parish area is a logical area to designate and regulations encourage and facilitate a whole parish approach.

OPTIONS CONSIDERED:

Designating a smaller area would preclude the Parish Council from addressing any issues which may emerge in other parts of the Parish during the course of the preparation of a neighbourhood plan. A wider boundary would be likely to be more complex and less manageable as it would affect neighbouring parishes.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

There are no financial implications at this stage

Costs

No costs at this stage.

Funding

No funding at this stage.

LEGAL POWERS AND IMPLICATIONS

This is the first stage which the Parish Council as Qualifying Body need to go through in order to prepare a neighbourhood plan. It is the LPA's responsibility to designate the neighbourhood area under Section 61G of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 as amended for the purposes of neighbourhood planning.

CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

The decision for Neighbourhood Area designation itself does not have direct implications for climate change and environment. Subsequent preparation of a Neighbourhood Plan could have some implications but this will depend on what the plan says, and cannot be considered here.

CONSULTATION

Changes to the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations mean that North Somerset Council no longer consults the local community in respect of the designation of the neighbourhood area where the proposed area is the parish boundary. There are regulations regarding consultation during the making of the neighbourhood plan itself and planning policy officers also (as a matter of course) involve officers from other teams in the preparation of the Parish Council's Neighbourhood Plan as necessary.

RISK MANAGEMENT

The decision for a Neighbourhood Area is not considered to have significant risk. North Somerset Council must designate the neighbourhood area under regulation 5A of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) and Development Management Procedure (Amendment) Regulations 2016.

EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

Have you undertaken an Equality Impact Assessment? No
There are no equality issues involved in designating the Neighbourhood Area.

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

The decision for a Neighbourhood Area is not in itself likely to have significant corporate implications. While subsequent preparation of a Neighbourhood Plan could have some implications this will depend on what the plan says, and cannot be considered here. However at the very least preparation of the plan is likely to give the community of Locking the opportunity to have their say on what they want for the area, which is consistent with the vision for a fairer North Somerset in the North Somerset Corporate Plan 2020-24.

APPENDICES



Application for the
Designation of a Neig



MAP of suggested
Locking NP NA bounc

BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

SIGNATORIES:

DECISION MAKER(S):

Signed: Executive Member for Business,
Economy, and Employment

Date:

WITH ADVICE FROM:

Signed:Director of Place

Date: