

# Neighbourhood Area Application Decision Notice

Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012

## Neighbourhood Area Approved

**Name of Neighbourhood Area:** Beccles Area Neighbourhood Development Plan

**Qualifying Body:** Beccles Town Council

**Application Date:** 9<sup>th</sup> April 2015

Decision under Regulation 7 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012:

The application for the designation of Beccles and surrounding parishes of Ringsfield, Weston, Shadingfield, Sotterley, Willingham, Ellough, Barsham and Shipmeadow as a Neighbourhood Area, for the purposes of neighbourhood planning is **APPROVED**.

Date of Decision: 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2015

Signed:



Philip Ridley  
Head of Planning and Coastal Management  
Suffolk Coastal and Waveney District Councils  
Town Hall  
High Street  
Lowestoft  
Suffolk  
NR32 1HS

## Consideration



Waveney District Council  
Serving the Community

Is the organisation making the area application the relevant body under Section 61G (2) of the 1990 Act?

Yes. Beccles Town Council submitted the area designation application on behalf of itself and on behalf of Ringsfield and Weston Parish Council, Shadingfield, Sotterley, Willingham and Ellough Parish Council and Barsham and Shipmeadow Parish Council.

Has the application been submitted in accordance with Regulation 5 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012?

Yes. The application was accompanied by a map identifying the proposed Neighbourhood Area, a statement explaining why the area is considered appropriate to be designated as a Neighbourhood Area and a statement that Beccles Town Council is the relevant body with the agreement of the Parish Council's of Ringsfield and Weston, Shadingfield, Sotterley, Willingham and Ellough and Barsham and Shipmeadow to make the application.

Is the Neighbourhood Area considered appropriate? Section 61G (4)

Yes. The Neighbourhood Area comprises the whole parish of Beccles and the whole of the surrounding parishes of Ringsfield, Weston, Shadingfield, Sotterley, Willingham, Ellough, Barsham and Shipmeadow. There are no other existing boundaries of areas already designated as Neighbourhood Areas that cover or overlap any of the area that forms part of this application.

Has the application been properly publicised?

Yes. Waveney District Council undertook a six week consultation between 8<sup>th</sup> May 2015 and 19<sup>th</sup> June 2015. The consultation was publicised on Waveney District Councils and the Broads Authority websites in accordance with Regulation 6 of The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012. Beccles Town Council and each Parish Council were provided with site notices to display in appropriate locations in the town and parishes.

Were any comments received during the consultation period?

Yes. There were 7 representations made on the application as a result of the consultation.

Summary of comments received:

There were no objections to the proposed area designation however there were comments about the complexity of developing a neighbourhood plan covering such a large area and also concerns about

the exclusion of Worlingham Parish from the proposed area designation. As the content of the plan is not yet known representations focussed on providing general advice and offers of support in the future development of the neighbourhood plan. The issues of whether to include Worlingham parish as part of the area designation was addressed by the Councils before the submission of the application, each making the decision that a joint plan was not an approach they wished to take.

(All responses to the consultation can be viewed at: - [www.waveney.gov.uk/neighbourhoodplanning](http://www.waveney.gov.uk/neighbourhoodplanning))

## Are any modifications required to the Neighbourhood Area? Section 61G (6)

No. The matters the Council is required to take into consideration at this time are: -

‘The desirability of designating the whole of the area of a parish council as a Neighbourhood Area; and The desirability of maintaining the existing boundaries of areas already designated as Neighbourhood Areas’.

There are no reasons not to designate the whole of the area of Beccles and the surrounding parishes and there are no other existing boundaries of areas already designated as Neighbourhood Areas.

For the reasons set out above there are no valid reasons why Waveney District Council and the Broads Authority should not designate the Neighbourhood Area for Beccles and the surrounding parishes as submitted.

### Recommendation:

That following consideration of the application by the Local Plan Working Group at it’s meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> July 2015 and the Broads Authority at their Development Control Committee held on 26<sup>th</sup> June 2015 and consideration of their recommendations by the Head of Planning and Coastal Management in conjunction with the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Rural Affairs, designation of the Beccles and surrounding parishes of Ringsfield, Weston, Shadingfield, Sotterley Willingham, Ellough, Barsham and Shipmeadow as a Neighbourhood Area is **APPROVED**.

