

Neighbourhood Area Application Decision Notice

Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012

Neighbourhood Area Approved

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

Qualifying Body: Bungay Town Council

Application Date: 26th January 2016

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

The application for the designation of the Parish of Bungay as a Neighbourhood Area, for the purposes of neighbourhood planning is **approved**.

Date of Decision: 13th April 2016

Signed:



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



Waveney District Council
Serving the Community

Consideration

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

Yes. Bungay Town Council submitted the area designation application.

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 Bungay Town Council is the relevant body to make the application.

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

Yes. The Neighbourhood Area comprises the whole parish of Bungay following the parish boundary. There are no other existing boundaries of areas already designated as Neighbourhood Areas.

Has the application been properly publicised?

Yes. Waveney District Council undertook a six week consultation between 5th February and 18th March 2016. The consultation was publicised on Waveney District Council's website in accordance with Regulation 6 of The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012. Bungay Town Council was provided with a site notice to copy and to display in appropriate locations in the parish.

Were any comments received during the consultation period?

Yes.

Summary of comments received:

There were 10 responses to the consultation. One respondent was against the area designation as submitted and 9 supported the area designation.

The reason given for objecting to the boundary was that the part of Bungay that is north of Falcon Bridge, consisting of Ditchingham Dam, Falcons Meadow, the new Maltings development, Bungay Maltings Sports Ground and Pinhow Street should be included in the Neighbourhood Plan.

One person who supported the Neighbourhood Area also made the comment that Earsham and Ditchingham should be part of the plan.

The main issue is therefore whether the area submitted by Bungay Town Council for the purposes of producing a Neighbourhood Plan is appropriate. It is acknowledged that there would be some merit for the inclusion of parts of Ditchingham in the area boundary due to the perceived connections that exist with Bungay town centre as a service area. However, it is also acknowledged that there is no desire by either Earsham or Ditchingham Parish Councils to be included in the area boundary.

Bungay Town Council did approach Ditchingham and Earsham Parish Council's to consider a joint Neighbourhood Plan and a public consultation event was held in January to gauge whether there would be support for a joint plan. However, following this event and further discussions with each Parish Council it was decided that in light of limited support to go ahead with a joint plan, Bungay would produce a single parish neighbourhood plan.

General advice was received from Suffolk County Council, Historic England and Natural England for the neighbourhood planning group to consider as the Neighbourhood Plan is developed in relation to infrastructure, the historic environment and the natural environment. None of these consultees objected to the application.

(All responses to the consultation can be viewed at: - 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 the parish 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 should not designate the Neighbourhood Area for Bungay Parish as submitted.

Recommendation:

That following consideration of the application by the Local Plan Working Group at its meeting held on 13th April 2016 and the Broads Authority at their Development Control Committee held on 1st April 2016, 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 Parish of Bungay as a Neighbourhood Area is **Approved**.

