



Our Ref: NH/Duston  
Your Ref: -  
Please Contact: Ellie Gingell  
Direct Line 01604 838306  
Date: 29<sup>th</sup> May 2013  
E-mail: Egingell@northampton.gov.uk

To Whom It May Concern:

**Application to designate a Neighbourhood Area: Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012**

The attached application to designate a Neighbourhood Area for “*Growing Together*” (Lings, Lumbertubs, Blackthorn and the surrounding area) was received by Northampton Borough Council on the 21<sup>st</sup> May 2013 and is deemed to have been made in accordance with regulation 5 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012.

The Application requests the designation of a Neighborhood Area for “*Growing Together*” for the purposes of Neighborhood Planning. Anyone wishing to make representations about this proposed Neighborhood Area may do so.

Representations should be made in writing to:

Planning Policy,  
Northampton Borough Council,  
FREEPOST MID17237,  
Northampton,  
NN1 1WJ, Or email: [neighbourhoodplanning@northampton.gov.uk](mailto:neighbourhoodplanning@northampton.gov.uk)

Copies of forms on which representations can be made are available to download from [www.northampton.gov.uk](http://www.northampton.gov.uk), collect in the one-stop-shop (Guildhall), the Central Library (Abington Street) or Weston Favell Library. The form includes a map of the proposed area. Although representations do not have to be made using the form, it may assist in ensuring that all relevant information is contained with your response.

Representations must be received no later than **5 pm on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> July 2012.**

If you have any additional questions or require assistance is making a representation please do not hesitate to contact Ellie Gingell, Senior Planning Officer either by telephone (01604 838306) or email [neighbourhoodplanning@northampton.gov.uk](mailto:neighbourhoodplanning@northampton.gov.uk).

Yours sincerely,  
Eleanor Gingell  
Senior Planning Officer



## **Frequently asked Questions:**

### **1. What is a Neighbourhood Plan and who can write one?**

A Neighbourhood Plan is a new type of plan which will focus on local areas rather than the Borough as a whole. Neighbourhood Plans will be prepared by communities, although the Borough Council will provide technical advice and support or fulfil certain legal requirements such as publicising the application or plan.

The plan making process must be led by the local Parish Council, or a Neighbourhood Forum.

Policies included in Neighbourhood Plans must be related to the use of land in the area, or to spatial matters (i.e. aspects that affect how a place works).

### **2. Who decides the Neighbourhood Area?**

The community that wish to prepare a Neighbourhood Plan decide the area that they wish their plan to cover. This is submitted to Northampton Borough Council who publicise the area on their website and through other means, such as a Newspaper Advert or letter. The Borough Council look at responses made during this time and then 'designates' the area, either as suggested by the community or amended to reflect representations or planning reasons.

### **3. Is it compulsory to produce a Neighbourhood Plan?**

No. Every community will have the right to produce a Neighbourhood Plan but it is recognised that not all areas will want to. It will be up to each community to decide if a Neighbourhood Plan would benefit their area, and this will depend on local circumstances.

### **4. Who will pay for the Neighbourhood Planning process?**

It will be up to the community to pay for the preparation of a Neighbourhood Plan. The Borough Council will pay for the independent examination and referendum.

### **5. Can a Neighbourhood Plan stop development?**

A Neighbourhood Plan must be in general conformity with the Council's development plan documents, plans and strategies from other public bodies, utility and service providers. Neighbourhood Planning cannot prevent development where this has been identified in the emerging Joint Core Strategy, Central Area Action Plan (CAAP), or emerging Northampton Related Development Areas Development Plan Document (NRDA DPD).

However, Neighbourhood Planning can influence where new development is located, and the design, layout and materials used. Neighbourhood Planning can help to ensure that new development is sympathetic to the surrounding area and meets the needs of the local community. The Government is very clear that it will not be possible to use Neighbourhood Plans to stop development.

### **6. What weight (importance) will be given to a Neighbourhood Plan?**

Once adopted, Neighbourhood Plans hold considerable legal status. Planning decisions will be taken in accordance with Neighbourhood Plans and the other plans and strategies which make up the "Local Plan", unless material considerations indicate otherwise.