

COPY FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION

Our Ref: SB/ NH Area
Your Ref: -
Please Contact: E Gingell
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Date: 17th May 2012/ 7th August 2013
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To Whom It May Concern:

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

This is a re-publication of the original application. Comments received during the initial publicity period remain valid.

The attached application to designate a Neighborhood Area for Spring Boroughs was received by Northampton Borough Council on the 8th May 2012 and was deemed in accordance with regulation 5 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012. The decision to designate the area was deferred pending further consultation with local people. The Application requests the designation of a Neighborhood Area for Spring Boroughs 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

Copies of forms on which representations can be made are available to download from www.northampton.gov.uk, collect in the one-stop-shop (Guildhall), the Central Library (Abington Street) or St James' 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 any representation. Representations must be received no later than **5 pm on Friday 4th October** .

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

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 Designated 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 Forum?

The community that wish to prepare a Neighbourhood Plan, where there is no Parish Council, must apply to become a Neighbourhood Forum. A copy of their constitution is made public by Northampton Borough Council and representations are invited. Once the Forum is designated, no other group can become a Neighbourhood Forum in the area. Therefore, the Borough Council look at responses made during this time very carefully before 'designating' the forum, or declining to designate if it does not meet the legal requirements or make up.

The designation will last for a period of five years.

3. Who can join a Neighbourhood Forum?

A Neighbourhood Forum must be open to everyone who lives (resident), works, has a business in the area or is an elected member of either the Borough Council or County Council and have a minimum of 21 members. Each group will have different rules over how people can join the forum and how they can vote. If you would like more information about the forum, you are encouraged to contact the group (contact details form part of the application).

However, you do not have to join a forum if you do not want to.

4. Who will pay for the Neighbourhood Planning process?

It will be up to the community to pay for the preparation of their 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.

Application for the designation of the Spring Boroughs Neighbourhood Area.

Introduction:

Northampton Borough Council supported a bid for grant funding to support a Neighbourhood Plan for the community of Spring Boroughs in November 2011. This bid was successful and Northampton Borough Council was informed of the decision by the Department of Communities and Local Government that in March 2012. This application is for the designation of the Neighbourhood Area and is the first formal stage of creating a Neighbourhood Plan for the community of Spring Boroughs. The designation of the Neighbourhood Area is important in allowing work to start on the Neighbourhood Plan for the area and importantly future consultation.

This application has been prepared by Jennie Crane, Community Minister of the Castle Hill United Reformed Church, with the support of the University of Northampton and the Castle Partnership Planning Sub-group on behalf of the community of Spring Boroughs. It is supported by the Northampton Borough Council ward members for Castle Ward.

In accordance with the *Neighbourhood Planning (General) regulations 2012* this application contains:

- A map of the proposed Neighbourhood Area
- A Statement explaining why this area is considered appropriate to be designated as a neighbourhood area
- A statement that this group meets the requirements as a relevant body in accordance with section 61G of the 1990 Town and Country Planning Act
- The contact details for the Community Minister of Castle Hill United Reformed Church, in lieu of the designation of a Neighbourhood Forum for the area

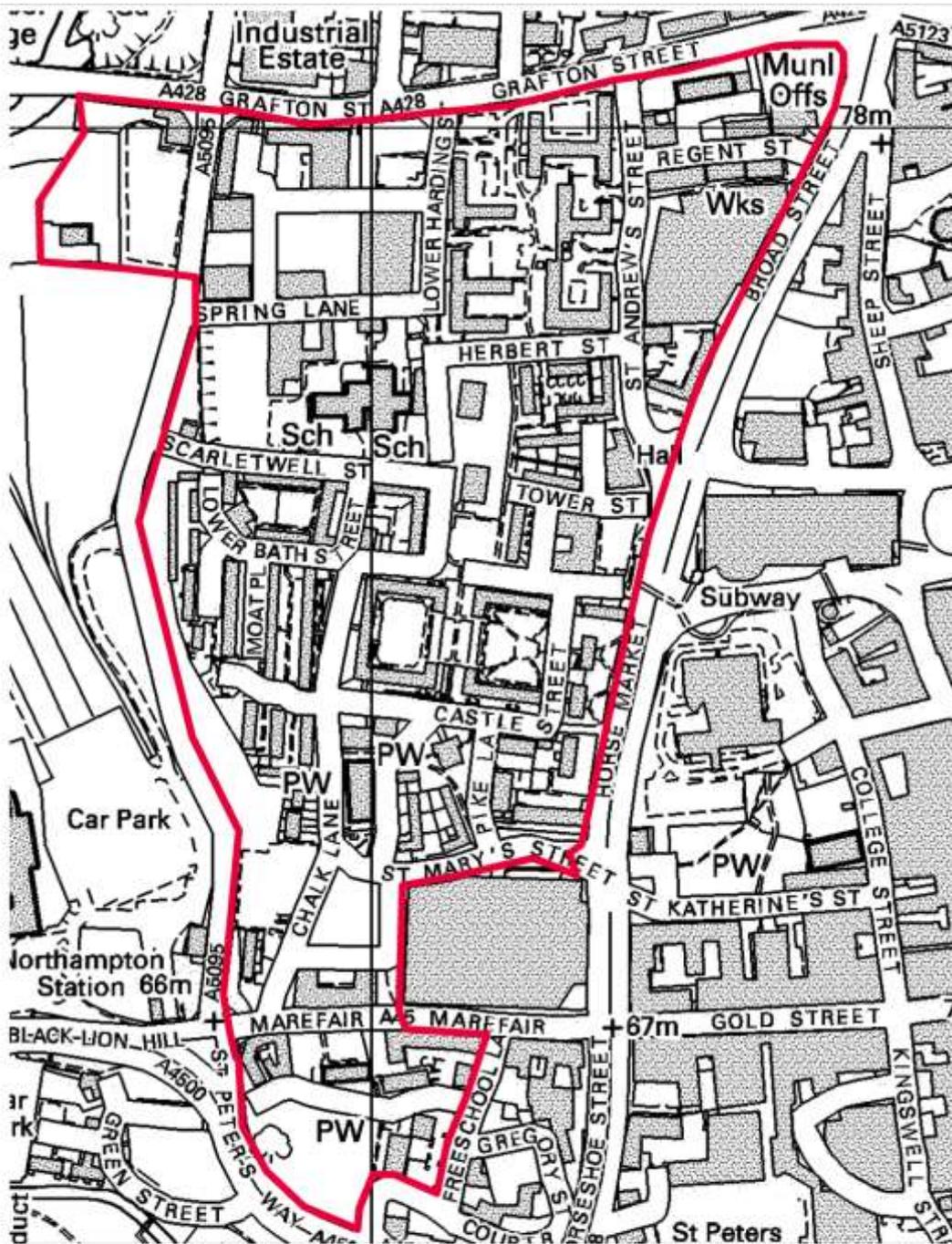
Neighbourhood Area:

The proposed Neighbourhood Area is set out in Figure 1: Spring Boroughs Neighbourhood Plan Area.

The area encompasses the whole of the Pre-Submission Central Area Action Plan Policy area (Policy 25: Spring Boroughs). As part of this application, we would like to extend the area south to include St Peter's Church. The proposed area does not overlap with other development policy areas within the Central Area Action Plan.

We believe that the area is appropriate for the following reasons:

- The area was identified within a bid, submitted jointly by Northampton Borough Council as a Neighbourhood Plan Front Runner Project.
- The area has been defined in the Northampton Central Area Action Plan as a development area requiring change and the policy principle for the Neighbourhood set within this document.
- The area covers the estate of Spring Boroughs, which is part of Castle Ward. The area is a distinct Neighbourhood and there are around 5,000 residents, it sees itself a separate from surrounding residential areas.
- The area is bounded by the main roads of Grafton Street, Broad Street and St Andrew's road to the North, East and West respectively.
- The area includes St Peter's Church which is believed to be important in ensuring that the historic significance of Spring Boroughs can be recognised within the Neighbourhood Plan.



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 From: 28 NH Plan

Title
Area for Designation

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The Neighbourhood Forum:

The proposed area does not contain any land covered by a parish council and therefore a Neighbourhood Forum will need to be designated. The Localism Act allows for groups capable of becoming a Neighbourhood Forum to make this application.

We believe that the organisations that submitted the bid are capable of becoming a Neighbourhood forum, and are therefore an appropriate body to make this application to designate the Neighbourhood Area for the following reasons:

1. The process of setting up a Neighbourhood Forum to take forward a plan is a key part of the learning for this particular plan and area especially due to the difficult relationships that have occurred between different organisations and the Borough Council. The intent to set up a forum to take forward a Neighbourhood Forum was supported by Northampton Borough Council during the submission of the bid in November 2011.
2. The bid submitted to DCLG set out how it is intended that the Neighbourhood Forum will be governed and how it will link with Northampton Borough Councils statutory and other democratic structures. These will be reflected in the bid for a Spring Boroughs Neighbourhood Forum.
3. The Localism Act states that the Neighbourhood Forum must be made up of a minimum of 21 People, who live or work within the area including elected representatives. The organisations that made the bid with Northampton Borough Council are keen that the forum includes significant representation from community organisations within Spring Boroughs including residents. We feel that of the 21 people, at least 10 of these should be residents of the area and see 21 as a minimum number of people that should be involved. We also propose that the University of Northampton chair the forum in its early stages to ensure that this role is independent.
4. We wish to consult on the final constitution of the Neighbourhood Forum over the summer months, using upcoming community events to gather opinions and gauge interest. We are confident that we can submit an application to Northampton Borough Council to become a forum by the end of 2012. We see the designation of the area as a key part of this consultation process to give the community confidence that the principle of the plan is supported by the Borough Council and that they are committed to the Neighbourhood Planning process for the area.

Contact:

The contact for this application is:

Jennie Crane: Community Minister
Castle Hill United Reformed Church
Spring Boroughs
Northampton
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07976979791