

# Application for the designation of the Growing Together Neighbourhood Area

## Introduction

Northampton Borough Council supported a bid for DCLG Neighbourhood Planning Front Runner funding to support a Neighbourhood Plan for the community of the Growing Together Area in November 2011. This bid was successful and Northampton Borough Council was informed of the decision by the Department of Communities and Local Government 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 communities within the Growing Together area. The designation of the Neighbourhood Area is important in allowing work to formally start on the Neighbourhood Plan.

This application has been prepared by Peter Strachan, Programme Co-ordinator for the Lottery funded Growing Together Big Local programme, with the support of the growing Together Community Partnership, staff at Blackthorn Good Neighbours and officers at Northampton Borough Council. It is supported by the Northampton Borough Council elected Members for Brookside and Talavera Wards.

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 Programme Co-ordinator for the Growing Together Big Local programme, who is the support officer for the Growing Together Community Partnership - the larger of the two constituent bodies of Neighbourhood Forum for the area.

## Neighbourhood Area

The proposed Neighbourhood Area is set out in Figure 1: Growing Together Neighbourhood Plan Area.

The area encompasses the whole of the pre-May 2013 electoral ward of Lumbertubs, but excluding the non-residential commercial area of the Weston Favell District Centre. The area includes the six residential estates of Blackthorn, Cherry Lodge, Goldings, Lings, Lumbertubs and Overstone Lodge and the open spaces within the former electoral Ward.

We believe that the area is appropriate for the following reasons

- Part of the area was identified within a bid, submitted jointly by Northampton Borough Council, as a Neighbourhood Plan Front Runner Project.

- The area (to be designated) is that also designated as an investment area for the National Lottery funded Big Local programme, funded initially by £1 million of Lottery money and seeking to attract significant additional funding. As such, it has been the focus of intensive community consultation. It also has its own all-resident Community Partnership, supported by a Youth Forum and an Advisory Group consisting of elected Councillors and partner public service organisations.
- The area means that consultation for the Big Local programme, which has identified a number of community aspirations relating to the use of open land within the Area, including recreational areas and the regeneration of currently unused “brownfield” sites can inform the plan and minimise consultation fatigue.
- The commercial area of the Weston Favell District Centre is excluded as the Growing Together programme focuses on the living environment for local residents and consultation has not identified any issues concerned with the District Centre.

## **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 Growing Together Community Partnership and its Advisory Group together form a suitable basis for setting up a Neighbourhood Forum to take forward the development of a Neighbourhood Plan. The forum is comprised of 21 members drawn from all Community Partnership members (which includes local residents and businesses), both elected NBC Members and Advisory Group co-optees (e.g. Police, Wildlife Trust who work within the area).

## **Contact**

The contact for this application is:

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Area: Growing Together  
Date: 14th May 2013  
Scale: 1:1000  
From: Planning Policy  
From: Neighbourhood Planning

Title  
**Blackthorn, Goldings, Lings and Lumbertubs**

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