

Hockley Heath Parish Council



Application for Designation of a Neighbourhood Area

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Introduction

The parish of Hockley Heath was formed in 2009 after the abolition of the former Hockley Heath Parish and as part of a Reorganisation Order. While being part of Solihull Metropolitan Borough, it has boundaries with Warwick District Council and Stratford on Avon District Council, both in the county of Warwickshire. Hockley Heath Parish falls within the Dorridge and Hockley Heath Ward of Solihull MBC.

Hockley Heath Parish has its northern boundary with the M42. The southern boundary is at the limit of the boundary of Solihull MBC where it meets Warwick District Council and Stratford Upon Avon District Council. The majority of the population in the parish reside in the village of Hockley Heath itself which is in the south of the parish.

The origin of the village owes its existence and development to its position on the A3400 between Birmingham and London and to its position on the Stratford upon Avon canal.

The 2011 census shows the population of the parish to be 2,038 with 794 dwellings.

Aims

In 2013, Hockley Heath Parish Council, working with the local residents association, developed a draft Village Plan. This plan was the result of a comprehensive questionnaire delivered to all residents of the village. The draft village plan was submitted to Solihull Council for comment and is referred to by SMBC in their statutory documentation. The plan (which covered only the village of Hockley Heath) has been used since 2013 to shape many of the decisions of the parish council. However, since the Localism Act 2011, it is recognised that the draft village plan has no legal standing in planning strategy and a Neighbourhood Plan which covered the whole of the parish would be more appropriate.

With the Localism Act 2011 and the opportunity to develop a Neighbourhood Plan, Hockley Heath Parish Council are looking to work with the Hockley Heath Residents Association and other volunteers to develop a Neighbourhood Plan which would cover the whole of Hockley Heath Parish.

The Neighbourhood Plan will cover the period 2014 to 2028 in line with the SLP.

Objectives

The Neighbourhood Area, subject to SMBC approval, will be the whole parish of Hockley Heath as identified on the attached plan.

The keys policies to be considered in the plan would be:

Infrastructure: Education provision; community leisure facilities; retail/commercial outlets; public transport

Housing: type; tenure; density and appearance of dwellings to include affordable homes and senior living.

Environment: canal system and opportunities surrounding it; rural landscape; protection of green belt.

Transport: the A3400 and its arterial significance; increased use minor roads.

Economy: Enabling increased access to employment opportunities.

Funding

The Parish Council agreed to work to develop a Neighbourhood Plan at its meeting on 18th February 2016 and has allocated funds to the development of the Neighbourhood Plan preparation. When the Neighbourhood Plan application is approved by Solihull Council, the parish council will be able to apply for a grant from the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) delivered via Locality. SMBC also has resources to cover officer time and administration costs.

Application

The application for the designation of Hockley Heath Parish as a Neighbourhood Area includes:

1. A map defining the area of the application (see attachment)
2. A statement explaining why this area is considered appropriate to be designated as a Neighbourhood Area
3. A statement that the body making the area application is a relevant body for the purposes of 61G of the Town and Country planning Act.

Statement to be designated as a Neighbourhood Area

Hockley Heath Parish Council believes that it is appropriate that the complete and well established parish is designated as a Neighbourhood Area. This is exemplified by the previous village plan where volunteers worked together to form a united picture and the Parish Council understands that the residents, businesses and workers in the village and settlement wish the issues and interests to be co-ordinated.

Statement that the body making this application is a relevant body

In accordance with section 61G of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, the body making the application to designate Hockley Heath as a Neighbourhood Area is Hockley Heath Parish Council, as a parish council established in pursuance of the Local Government Act 1972.

Map showing Hockley Heath Parish Council boundary – outlined in red.

