

Report to	-	Cabinet
Date	-	1 July 2013
Report of the	-	Director of Services
Subject	-	Sedlescombe Parish Council's Neighbourhood Plan

Recommendation: It be **RESOLVED:** That the designation of the Parish of Sedlescombe as a Neighbourhood Area for the purposes of neighbourhood planning be confirmed.

Head of Service: Tim Hickling
Lead Cabinet Member: Councillor Osborne

Overview

1. Neighbourhood planning is part of the Government's initiative to empower local communities to take forward planning at a local level. This is outlined in Section 116 of the Localism Act. Sedlescombe Parish Council has submitted an application to Rother District Council for the Parish to be designated as a 'Neighbourhood Area' as its first step in producing a Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP).
2. This report presents the consideration of this application, outlining the consultation process which has been undertaken. It recommends designation of the Parish of Sedlescombe as the appropriate Neighbourhood Area for the purpose of Neighbourhood Plan production.

Proposal

3. Sedlescombe Parish Council initially met with officers to discuss the potential for producing a Neighbourhood Plan for the Parish. Subsequently, the Parish Council passed a resolution on the 18 February 2013 for the creation of a Neighbourhood Area covering the whole of the parish area to enable the production of its plan.
4. Sedlescombe Parish Council is a relevant body for the purposes of designation of a Neighbourhood Area under Section 61 G of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended). In accordance with Regulation 5 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012, the Parish Council submitted as part of its application:
 - a. a map identifying the area;
 - b. statement explaining why it is considered an appropriate neighbourhood area; and
 - c. a statement that the organisation making the application is a relevant body.

These are available on the District Council's website [here](#). The map is attached as Appendix A.

Consideration

5. There is a requirement upon the District Council, as Local Planning Authority, to advertise appropriately any such application "as soon as is practicable" and to bring such application to the attention of those who may be affected.
6. The application was duly publicised in accordance with Regulation 6 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012, and representations invited. A copy of the Notice is attached as Appendix B to this report. The opportunity to comment was also highlighted on the Parish Council's website.
7. The consultation period ran for a period of 7 weeks from the 22 March 2013 to 10 May 2013. No representations were made to the Council.
8. In the absence of any objections, and given that the Parish Council is clearly a relevant body for the purposes of the Act and is taking positive steps in proceeding with the neighbourhood planning process, the only issue is the appropriateness of the proposed geographic coverage.
9. While the application focused on the then identified need for housing at Sedlescombe in the submitted Core Strategy, the Parish Council has clarified that it intends to address all provision for housing in the Parish. This is not considered a material change, but a reasonable response of the current flux regarding the Core Strategy.
10. The Parish Council has also advised that it does not intend to consider employment allocations on Marley Lane. As these serve a wider area, this is reasonable; they will be addressed by this Council, in consultation with relevant councils, as part of the site allocations work.

Conclusion

11. It is considered that the Parish boundary is a sensible and supportable Neighbourhood Area and that the application to designate the whole of the Parish as a Neighbourhood Area should be approved. Details will need to be published on the Council's website (Regulation 7).
12. It is noted that there is a requirement on this Council to support the on-going Neighbourhood Plan process. It must, in due course, assess general conformity of the Plan with its own strategic planning policies, be responsible for its examination and for organising the referendum. Following adoption of the Neighbourhood Plan, it will become a part of the adopted Development Plan for the area.

Anthony Leonard
Director of Services

Risk Assessment Statement

The Council must consider applications in line with relevant Regulations. It also has a duty to provide advice and support to the neighbourhood planning process. This can be a time-consuming activity, against a backcloth of heavy workload. However, the District Council will receive a grant from Government intended to cover the additional burden associated with this work.

Sedlescombe Neighbourhood Area



Public Notice



**Town & Country Planning Act 1990
The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012**

**Application for the designation of the Parish of Sedlescombe as a
Neighbourhood Area**

In accordance with Regulation 6 of the above Regulations, Notice is hereby given that Sedlescombe Parish Council has applied to Rother District Council for designation of the Parish as a neighbourhood area for the purposes of preparing a neighbourhood plan.

Details of the application, including a map of the area, can be viewed on the District Council's website at www.rother.gov.uk/neighbourhoodplans, at the Town Hall, London Road, Bexhill and at the Council's Community Help Point, 6 Market Square, Battle during normal working hours.

Representations on whether Sedlescombe Parish would be an appropriate neighbourhood area should be made by email to planningstrategy@rother.gov.uk or by post to:

Mr. T Hickling
Head of Planning
Rother District Council
Town Hall
Bexhill on Sea
East Sussex
TN39 3JX

Comments must be received by 4.30pm on Friday 10th May 2013.

Please note that this is not a consultation on the Plan, but only on the identification of the area for which the Parish Council wish to prepare a neighbourhood development plan.

Friday 22nd March 2013