

Report seeking approval to designate the Sedgeberrow Neighbourhood Area

Report to: Holly Jones, Director of Planning and Infrastructure
Councillor Tony Rowley, Portfolio Holder for Planning, Infrastructure and Urban Design

Report by: Reiss Sadler, Planning Officer (Policy)

1. Executive Summary

1.1. An application for the designation of a Neighbourhood Area for Sedgeberrow was received on 5 November 2019. It was submitted by Sedgeberrow Parish Council, follows the parish boundary, and there is not an existing designation. Approval is therefore sought from the Director of Planning and Infrastructure, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder, to approve the application and designate Sedgeberrow Neighbourhood Area.

2. Recommendation

2.1. That the application is approved and the Sedgeberrow Neighbourhood Area be designated for the purposes of producing a Neighbourhood Plan.

3. Introduction and Background

3.1. The designation of a Neighbourhood Area is the first formal stage in the Neighbourhood Planning process, setting the boundary to which the eventual Neighbourhood Plan will apply to and impact upon.

3.2. Regulation 5A, a 2016 addition to the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012, removes the requirement for consultation on Neighbourhood Area applications made by Town and Parish Council's that follow the parish boundary where no such designation already exists, in whole or in part.

3.3. Delegated authority was given by Council on 14 December 2016 to the Director of Planning and Infrastructure, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder, to approve Neighbourhood Area applications made by Town and Parish Council's that follow the parish boundaries where there is no existing Neighbourhood Area designation.

4. Sedgeberrow Neighbourhood Area Application

4.1. An application for the designation of a Neighbourhood Area was received from Sedgeberrow Parish Council on 5 November 2019. The application comprised of a formal request for the designation of the Sedgeberrow Neighbourhood Area and a map which identifies the area to which the Neighbourhood Area application relates.

4.2. The Sedgeberrow Neighbourhood Area application follows the parish boundary, and no designated Neighbourhood Area exists in any part of the proposed area.

5. Implications and Impact

5.1. How does it meet Council priorities?

Neighbourhood Planning is one of the central themes of Localism, and the preparation and adoption of Neighbourhood Plans supports the Council's three priorities for 2016-2020.

5.2. What are the financial / resource implications?

Funding totalling £20,000 is available for Wychavon to claim from MHCLG for each Neighbourhood Plan following a successful examination and a referendum date being set. It is considered that providing support for the Neighbourhood Planning process can be met by existing staffing resources and budgets.

5.3. What are the risks?

As a statutory process, failure to determine a Neighbourhood Area application runs the risk of the Town or Parish Council being unable to process with the Neighbourhood Plan. It is possible for a Local Planning Authority not to approve a Neighbourhood Area application but it must show why the proposed area does not support the aim and objectives of the eventual Neighbourhood Plan.

5.4. Is a Diversity Impact Assessment required?

Diversity Impact Assessments are a way of examining whether different communities or groups are or will be adversely affected by a current or proposed service, policy or project. It helps identify ways of reducing or eradicating any adverse impacts by developing an action plan for minimising the impact of the service, policy or project. A Diversity Impact Assessment screening has been undertaken which shows that the subject matter of this report does not require an assessment.

6. Conclusion

6.1. An application for the designation of a Neighbourhood Area for Sedgeberrow was received on 5 November 2019. It was submitted by the Parish Council and follows the parish boundary, and there is not an existing Neighbourhood Area designation. In line with Regulation 5A of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 and the delegated authority obtained from Council on 14 December 2016, approval is sought from the Director of Planning and Infrastructure, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder, to approve and designate the Sedgeberrow Neighbourhood Area application.

7. Appendices

Appendix 1 – Sedgeberrow Neighbourhood Area Application Map