

TELFORD & WREKIN COUNCIL

CABINET - 18 OCTOBER 2012

DESIGNATION OF A NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN AREA FOR MADELEY

REPORT OF ASSISTANT DIRECTOR: BUSINESS, DEVELOPMENT & HOUSING

LEAD CABINET MEMBER – CLLR CHARLES SMITH

PART A) – SUMMARY REPORT

1. SUMMARY OF MAIN PROPOSALS

- 1.1 The Localism Act introduced legislation to allow Parishes to produce a Development Plan for their neighbourhood. Madeley Parish Council is one of four Parish/Town Councils in the Borough currently preparing Neighbourhood Plans.
- 1.2 Madeley Parish has established a Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group (MNPSG) and in line with the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations has applied to Telford & Wrekin Council to designate Madeley Parish as a Neighbourhood Area. On the basis of the information set out in this Report it is recommended that the Council support the designation as shown on the plan in Appendix A.
- 1.3 Once the Parish have prepared their Plan, this will be submitted to the Council to consider, and be the subject of a local examination and local referendum. If supported through these stages, the Plan would then be adopted as part of the Development Plan for the Borough.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 **That Cabinet support the Neighbourhood Area application by Madeley Parish Council and approve the designation of the area shown in Appendix A as a Neighbourhood Area.**

3. SUMMARY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

COMMUNITY IMPACT	Do these proposals contribute to specific Priority Plan objective(s)?	
	Yes	Co-operative Council: - Involving local people more in planning and running services - As a Council, supporting our community better and encouraging people to do more to help their own communities
	Will the proposals impact on specific groups of people?	
	Yes	Designation of the Madeley Parish as a neighbourhood plan area will help engage all parts of the community in planning.
TARGET COMPLETION/ DELIVERY DATE	The process would commence following Cabinet approval.	
FINANCIAL/ VALUE FOR MONEY IMPACT	Yes	The costs associated with the introduction of Neighbourhood Plans are met by the Local Authority and funding up to a maximum of £30,000 per scheme is available from the CLG in 2012/13 to offset the additional costs of designations and examinations completed by March 2013. It is unlikely that the Madeley neighbourhood planning examination will be completed by this date and there is no confirmation that CLG funding will be available for future years. JAC 18/09/12

LEGAL ISSUES	Yes	<p>The Localism Act 2011 provided a framework for a new statutory regime to establish Neighbourhood Planning. The 2012 Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations (SI 2012/637) (“the Regulations”) add more detail to that framework. Part 2 of the Regulations makes provision in relation to the procedure for designating a neighbourhood area, including the content of the application and what the local planning authority must do to publicise such an application (regulations 5 and 6). Part 3 of the Regulations makes provision in relation to the procedure for designating an organisation or body as a neighbourhood forum, which authorises them to act in relation to the related neighbourhood area. In particular, provision is made as to the content of an application and what the local planning authority must do to publicise an application.</p> <p>In considering the Madeley Parish Council application, TWC in its capacity of Local Planning Authority has been mindful of the provisions of the Regulations, has taken internal legal advice on the progress of the application as and when necessary and therefore in the view of Legal services any risk of successful challenge to the process on procedural grounds is minimal.</p>
OTHER IMPACTS, RISKS & OPPORTUNITIES	Yes	<p>The development of Neighbourhood Plans does pose some potential risks to the preparation of the Borough Plan including potential duplication or inconsistency with Borough Policy. This is being mitigated by regular Officer engagement with the Parish ensuring early discussion of any potential issues. Opportunities include a strengthening of local engagement in the planning process and in the development of Shaping Places and acceptance of development proposed in the area. A successful frontrunner plan will raise the profile of the Council locally and nationally.</p>
IMPACT ON SPECIFIC WARDS	Yes	Cuckoo Oak, Madeley and Woodside.

PART B) – ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

4. INFORMATION

- 4.1 The Localism Act (2011) introduced Neighbourhood Planning as a mechanism to increase local engagement in plan making. In February 2011 Telford & Wrekin Council successfully bid with Madeley Parish Council for the Parish to become one of the Government’s Frontrunners in Neighbourhood Planning
- 4.2 The development of a Neighbourhood Plan involves a number of stages:
- Designation of the Neighbourhood Plan area
 - Establishing a local working/steering group
 - Identification of the issues that the Neighbourhood Plan needs to address
 - Developing the Plan’s vision and objectives and proposals to meet these including a proposals map
 - Undertaking a sustainability appraisal of the Plan’s proposals
 - Effective local consultation on the Plan
 - Submission of the Plan to the Council for consideration
 - Examination whereby an examiner, appointed by the Council, examines the Plan to establish if it meets all statutory obligations
 - Referendum; a yes/no vote on the local implementation of the plan

4.3 Telford & Wrekin Council's role in the Neighbourhood Plan process is to:

- Give assistance and advice on the content of the plan and process
- Agree and formally designate the Neighbourhood Area
- Check the plan is in general conformity with relevant legislation and regulations and conforms with national planning policy and the strategic policies of Telford & Wrekin Councils Development Plan
- Arrange and pay for an independent examination
- Arrange and pay for a referendum of the Neighbourhood Plan
- Subject to the outcome of the previous stages, adopt the Neighbourhood Plan as part of Telford & Wrekin Councils Development Plan

Over the past few months the MNPSG has begun to scope the issues the plan will address. This has involved discussions and engagement with a number of Council and external stakeholders, including local residents, the Council's Estates & Investment Team, the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) and the Severn Gorge Countryside Trust. The Council has no dedicated officer resource for neighbourhood planning but officers from the Housing & Development Planning Unit liaise regularly with the Parish to advise on planning matters and to coordinate input from other parts of the Council. This is important to avoid inconsistency between National/Borough Policy and service priorities and the parish plan proposals.

4.4 The proposed neighbourhood plan area for Madeley reflects the boundaries of the parish and is shown in Appendix A. Under part 2 of the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations (2012), the Council is required to publicise the request for designation for 6 weeks, to consider the responses received and determine whether or not to support designation.

4.5 A legal notice, together with the correspondence submitted by the Parish Council requesting designation, were advertised locally and publicised via a range of methods including the Telford & Wrekin Council Website, the Madeley Parish newsletter and local information packs. The period of consultation ended on 14 September 2012 and no representations have been submitted to the Council.

4.6 It is recommended that Madeley Parish's request to designate the neighbourhood area is supported. No concerns with this boundary area have been raised, its correlation with the parish area will assist with any future referendum and it provides a good model for future neighbourhood plan proposals.

4.7 Subject to the neighbourhood area being approved, the MNPSG will continue to engage with local people and stakeholders, including Telford & Wrekin Council services to produce the neighbourhood plan. Members will be kept informed of this process with reports being brought to Cabinet at key stages of the process.

5. **IMPACT ASSESSMENT – ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

N/A

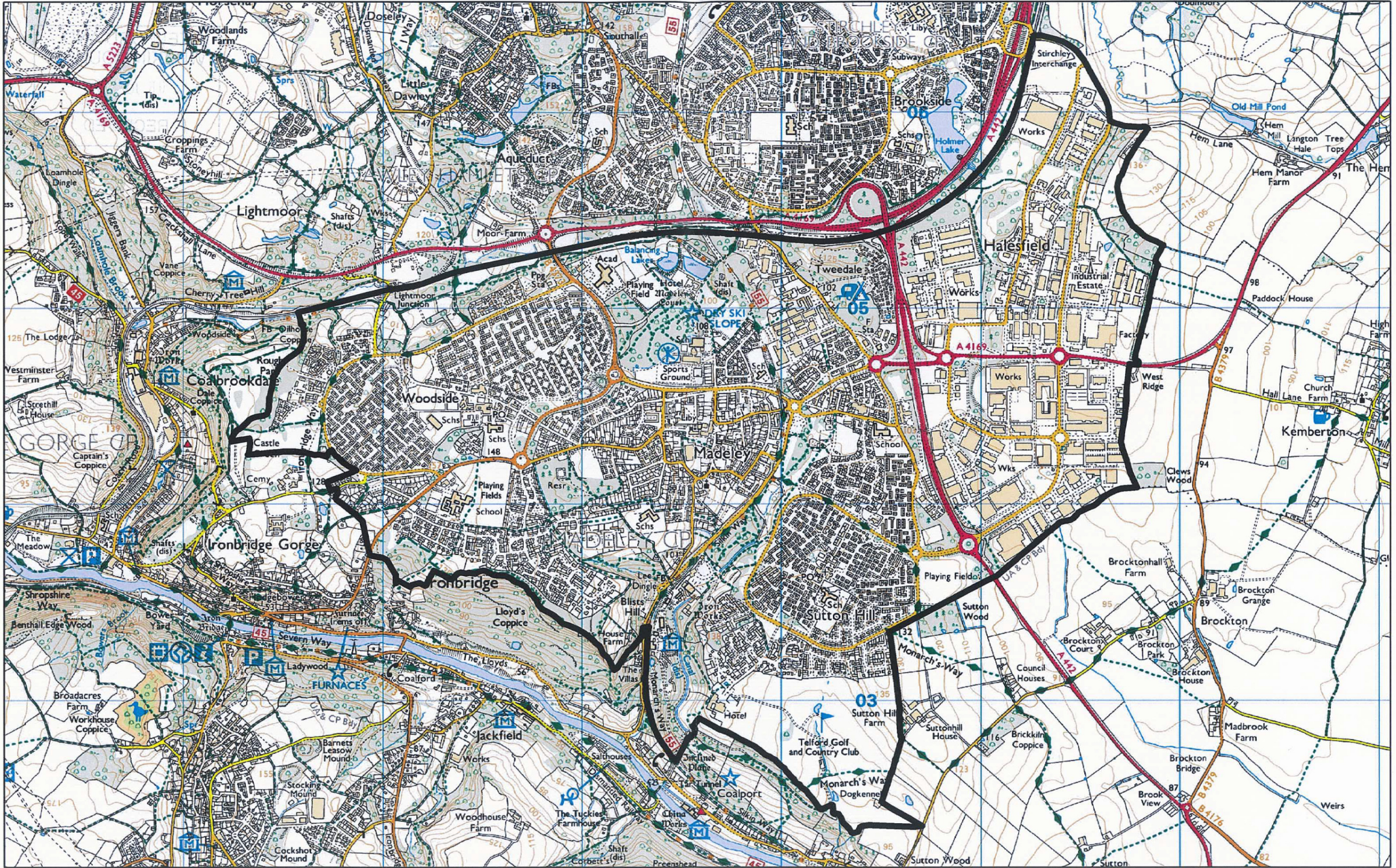
6. **PREVIOUS MINUTES**

N/A

7. **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

N/A

Appendix A



Title: Madeley Parish Council Boundary

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Drawn By: S. Donohue

Date: 6th July 2012

Scale: 1:17,000 @A3

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