

ABINGDON-ON-THAMES TOWN COUNCIL
WEDNESDAY 28 APRIL 2021
AGENDA ITEM 19: REPORT OF THE TOWN CLERK
NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

1. The Neighbourhood Plan is a key feature of the Forward Plan supporting the achievement of the council's key objectives and especially key objective 2, "To develop a resilient, sustainable town which will provide a home for residents now and in the future."
2. Work in relation to the Abingdon Neighbourhood Plan has been gathering pace over the last few months. The work has been undertaken by a steering group made up of a cross-section of the local community, including Cllr Grace Clifton representing the Town Council, and supported by Richard Eastham of FERIA Urbanism (as the Council's consultant). The first stage of the work will shortly be completed and a report published.
3. As part of this work, it is necessary to submit the proposed neighbourhood area to the Vale of White Horse District Council as the local planning authority. It is proposed that the designated neighbourhood plan area be coterminous of the parish boundaries of Abingdon.
4. There are occasions when neighbourhood plan areas extend beyond a parish boundary. However, in the case of Abingdon this would not be possible because all areas beyond the parish boundary are already part of a neighbourhood plan area, the five neighbouring parish councils having either adopted or, as with Abingdon, working on a neighbourhood plan. It is also possible for the Town Council to ask for only part of the town to be designated as the neighbourhood plan area; this is not the proposal.
5. I have consulted with the Steering Group in relation to this matter and received no objection to the proposal.
6. Should members agree on the proposed neighbourhood plan area, then it will then be submitted to the Vale of White Horse District Council for approval. I would not anticipate any problems with this application.

Recommended that an application be made to the Vale of White Horse District Council that the Abingdon Neighbourhood Plan area be designated as co-terminous with the of the parish (town) boundary for Abingdon.

Nigel Warner
Town Clerk
23 April 2021