



CRANBROOK & SISSINGHURST PARISH COUNCIL

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THE OLD FIRE STATION,
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William Benson,
Chief Executive,
Tunbridge Wells Borough Council,
Town Hall,
Royal Tunbridge Wells,
Kent, TN1 1RS.
12/02/2016

RE: Cranbrook and Sissinghurst Parish Neighbourhood Development Plan/ Neighbourhood Area Designation Application.

LOCALISM ACT (SCHEDULE 9) AND TOWN & COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990
(SECTIONS 61F & 61G) AND NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING GENERAL REGULATIONS
2012

Dear William Benson,

Cranbrook and Sissinghurst Parish Council (CSPC) as the "relevant body", hereby formally submits an application to Tunbridge Wells Borough Council as the Local Planning Authority, for the designation of a Neighbourhood Area (NA) pursuant to the preparation of a Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP).

At its full Council meeting in July 2015, CSPC resolved to form a Neighbourhood Development Plan Committee (NDPC) in order to begin the process of procuring an NDP for Cranbrook and Sissinghurst. At the NDPC's first meeting on December 21st 2015 it was decided to submit the NA designation application in the New Year. A June target has subsequently been set for appointing an expert consultant to lead the public engagement. The NDPC is formed of 7 Parish Councillors; 7 members of the public will be invited to join the committee following this submission.

The NDPC would like to work closely with TWBC from the outset and partner the NDP procurement process with prominent bodies of related expertise such as the High Weald AONB Unit, CPRE, The National Trust, WKPS, CCAAC and so on. CSPC recognises the very real need for planning policies which promote *truly sustainable development* to build on the highest aspirations embodied in NPPF.

An application is hereby submitted under Regulation 5 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012. The designation of a Neighbourhood Area is seen as the first formal step in the process of producing the NDP. Application Regulation 5 requires submission of the following:

- a) A map which identifies the area to which the application relates;
- b) A statement explaining why this area is considered appropriate to be designated as a Neighbourhood Area and
- c) A statement that the organisation or body making the area application is a relevant body for the purposes of section 61G of the Town & Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended).

(a) Neighbourhood Area Map

Please find attached a map identifying the area to which this application relates.

(b) Justification for Designation

The proposed Neighbourhood Area covers the administrative boundaries of CSPC. Schedule 9, Section 61G(7) of the Localism Act 2011 states that neighbourhood areas may not overlap. There are no known overlaps with other relevant bodies promoting other neighbourhood areas. In determining the application for area designation, the local planning authority must have regard to the desirability of designating the whole of the area of a parish council as a neighbourhood and the desirability of maintaining the boundaries of already designated neighbourhood areas.

(c) Statement in relation to the Relevant Body

Under Section 61G of the Town & Country Planning Act 1990, a relevant body is defined as a parish council or an organisation or body which is, or is capable of being designated a neighbourhood forum. The application for designation of a neighbourhood area is submitted by CSPC, which is considered to be a relevant body for the purpose of this exercise and is therefore authorised under Section 61G (2a).

Conclusion.

For the reasons outlined above, the proposed neighbourhood area as shown on the attached plan is considered to be appropriate and justified. Under section 61G of the Town & Country Planning Act 1990, CSPC is considered to be a "relevant body" for the purposes of this application. CSPC therefore respectfully requests that Tunbridge Wells Borough Council processes this application in accordance with Regulation 6 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012.

Yours sincerely, and with thanks



Tim Kemp (Chairman)

Neighbourhood Development Plan Committee
Cranbrook and Sissinghurst Parish Council

c.c. Jane Lynch & Kelvin Hinton