

Individual Decision

The attached report will be taken as an
Individual Portfolio Member Decision on:

Tuesday, 11 February, 2014

Ref:	Title	Portfolio Member	Page No.
ID2637	Stratfield Mortimer Designation of Neighbourhood Area	Councillor Hilary Cole	1 - 18



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Individual Executive Member Decision

Title of Report:	Stratfield Mortimer Designation of Neighbourhood Area
Report to be considered by:	Individual Executive Member Decision
Date on which Decision is to be taken:	11 February 2014
Forward Plan Ref:	ID2637

Purpose of Report: To designate a Neighbourhood Area for Stratfield Mortimer for the purposes of producing a Neighbourhood Development Plan.

Recommended Action: That the Portfolio Holder for Planning, Transport (Policy), Culture, Customer Services, Countryside approves the designation.

Reason for decision to be taken: To comply with the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended) and the Localism Act 2011
To enable Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council to undertake a Neighbourhood Development Plan

Other options considered: none

Key background documentation: Planning Policy Task Group Report 13th December 2013
The Localism Act 2011 (Part 6)
Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012
Application to designate a Neighbourhood Area submitted by Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council

Portfolio Member Details	
Name & Telephone No.:	Councillor Hilary Cole - Tel (01635) 248542
E-mail Address:	hcole@westberks.gov.uk
Contact Officer Details	
Name:	Bryan Lyttle
Job Title:	Planning and Transportation Policy Manager
Tel. No.:	01635 519638
E-mail Address:	blyttle@westberks.gov.uk

Implications

Policy:	As stated in the report
Financial:	As yet undetermined – the Parish Council has made provision for £8,000 and applied for additional funding from other sources The Council can apply for funding from DCLG once the Neighbourhood Area has been adopted.
Personnel:	Not consulted as deemed not appropriate
Legal/Procurement:	Not consulted as deemed not appropriate
Property:	Not consulted as deemed not appropriate
Risk Management:	Not consulted as deemed not appropriate

Is this item relevant to equality?	Please tick relevant boxes	
	Yes	No
Does the policy affect service users, employees or the wider community and:		
• Is it likely to affect people with particular protected characteristics differently?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
• Is it a major policy, significantly affecting how functions are delivered?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
• Will the policy have a significant impact on how other organisations operate in terms of equality?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
• Does the policy relate to functions that engagement has identified as being important to people with particular protected characteristics?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
• Does the policy relate to an area with known inequalities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Outcome (Where one or more 'Yes' boxes are ticked, the item is relevant to equality)		
Relevant to equality - Complete an EIA available at www.westberks.gov.uk/eia	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Not relevant to equality	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Consultation Responses

Members:

Leader of Council:	E mail sent 15/01 - Councillor Gordon Lundie
Overview & Scrutiny Management Commission Chairman:	E mail response from Councillor Brian Bedwell - No comment 16/01/14
Ward Members:	E mail sent 15/01 - Councillor Mollie Lock E mail sent 15/01 - Councillor Geoff Mayes
Opposition Spokesperson:	E mail sent 15/01 - Councillor Keith Woodhams
Local Stakeholders:	Application submitted by Parish Council
Officers Consulted:	Jo Naylor, Principal Policy Officer (Communities) Supportive of designation - 29/01/14

Trade Union:

Is this item subject to call-in?	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No: <input type="checkbox"/>
If not subject to call-in please put a cross in the appropriate box:		
The item is due to be referred to Council for final approval	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Delays in implementation could have serious financial implications for the Council	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Delays in implementation could compromise the Council's position	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Considered or reviewed by Overview and Scrutiny Management Commission or associated Task Groups within preceding six months	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Item is Urgent Key Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Report is to note only	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Supporting Information

1. Background

- 1.1 Under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended), the Council has a statutory duty to assist communities in the preparation of neighbourhood development plans and orders and to take plans through a process of examination and referendum.
- 1.2 Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council is the relevant body to undertake neighbourhood planning in the area in accordance with section 61G of the 1990 Town and Country Planning Act and section 5C of the 2012 Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 and has applied (Appendix A) for the entire parish to be designated the "Neighbourhood Area".
- 1.3 The application to designate Stratfield Mortimer as an area for a Neighbourhood Plan was advertised and a six week consultation undertaken.

2. Results of the Consultation

- 2.1 Following the consultation the Council received only one request to modify the proposed Neighbourhood Area. This request was considered in a report taken to the Planning Policy Task Group (Appendix A) and following due consideration rejected.
- 2.2 The responses made to the consultation have been included in Appendix D

3. Equalities Impact Assessment Outcomes

- 3.1 There is no decision to be made as the application is to designate a Neighbourhood Area only and therefore no Equality Impact Assessment has been undertaken.

4. Conclusion

- 4.1 Given the responses received to the consultation on the designation of the Stratfield Mortimer Neighbourhood Area and the criteria for determining such an application it is recommended that the proposed Stratfield Mortimer Neighbourhood Area be approved.

Appendices

Appendix A – Planning Policy Task Group Report 13th December 2013

Appendix B – Application to designate Neighbourhood Area

Appendix C – Map of Neighbourhood Area

Appendix D – Response to consultation

Title of Report:	Stratfield Mortimer Designation of Neighbourhood Area
Report to be considered by:	Task Group
Date of Meeting:	13th December 2013
Forward Plan Ref:	

Purpose of Report: To inform members of the results of the recent consultation into the designation of a Neighbourhood Area for Stratfield Mortimer

Recommended Action: That the Portfolio Holder for Planning Transport (Policy), Culture, Customer Services, Countryside and the Portfolio Holder for Partnerships, Equalities, Communities, Community Safety, Hungerford and Eastern Area Visions

Reason for decision to be taken: To comply with the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended) and the Localism Act 2011
To enable Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council to undertake a Neighbourhood Development Plan

Other options considered: none

Key background documentation: The Localism Act 2011 (Part 6)
Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012
Application to designate a Neighbourhood Area submitted by Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council

The proposals will help achieve the following Council Strategy principle:

CSP7 - Empowering people and communities

The proposals contained in this report will help to achieve the above Council Strategy priorities and principles by:

Portfolio Member Details	
Name & Telephone No.:	Councillor Please select
E-mail Address:	Please select @westberks.gov.uk
Date Portfolio Member agreed report:	
Contact Officer Details	
Name:	Bryan Lyttle
Job Title:	Planning and Transportation Policy Manager
Tel. No.:	01635 519638
E-mail Address:	Blyttle@westberks.gov.uk

Implications

Policy:	As stated in the report
Financial:	As yet undetermined – the Parish Council has made provision for £8,000 and applied for additional funding from other sources.
Personnel:	Not Consulted as deemed not appropriate
Legal/Procurement:	Not Consulted as deemed not appropriate
Property:	Not Consulted as deemed not appropriate
Risk Management:	Not Consulted as deemed not appropriate

Is this item relevant to equality?	Please tick relevant boxes		Yes	No
Does the policy affect service users, employees or the wider community and:				
• Is it likely to affect people with particular protected characteristics differently?			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
• Is it a major policy, significantly affecting how functions are delivered?			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
• Will the policy have a significant impact on how other organisations operate in terms of equality?			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
• Does the policy relate to functions that engagement has identified as being important to people with particular protected characteristics?			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
• Does the policy relate to an area with known inequalities?			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Outcome (Where one or more 'Yes' boxes are ticked, the item is relevant to equality)				
Relevant to equality - Complete an EIA available at www.westberks.gov.uk/eia			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Not relevant to equality			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Executive Report

1. Introduction

1.1 Under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended), the Council has a statutory duty to assist communities in the preparation of neighbourhood development plans and orders and to take plans through a process of examination and referendum.

1.2 The Localism Act 2011 (Part 6 chapter 3) sets out the LPA responsibilities as:

Designating the area of the NDP

Advising or assisting communities in the preparation of a neighbourhood plan

Checking a submitted plan meets the legal requirements

Arranging for the independent examination of the plan

Determining whether the neighbourhood plan meets the basic conditions and other legal requirements

Subject to the results of the referendum/s bringing the plan into force

1.3 Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council is the relevant body to undertake neighbourhood planning in the area in accordance with section 61G of the 1990 Town and Country Planning Act and section 5C of the 2012 Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 and has applied (Appendix A) for the entire parish to be designated the "Neighbourhood Area".

2. Consultation

2.1 All of the information submitted by Stratfield Mortimer was correct and in accordance with the legislation.

2.2 The application to designate Stratfield Mortimer as an area for a Neighbourhood Plan was published in the Reading Chronicle and on the West Berkshire consultation database for a period of six weeks (11th October – 22nd November). In addition emails advertising the consultation were sent to everyone of the objective database including Parish Councils, Members, Statutory consultees (including all District/ Unitaries and Counties neighbouring West Berkshire) and members of the public.

2.3 The Council received just 10 responses which are set out in appendix C.

3. Consultation Responses

3.1 Of all the responses only that submitted on behalf of T A Fisher (a Mortimer based property company) questions the validity of the proposed Neighbourhood Area, stating:

"It seems to us the search area identified in the link on your web site is unduly large particularly having regard to sustainability matters. We would suggest the eastern limit for the study area should be the Reading/Basingstoke railway line".

4. Determining the application for Neighbourhood Area

- 4.1 In determining the application, the Local Planning Authority must consider;
- a) How desirable it is to designate the whole of the parish area as a neighbourhood area, and
 - b) How desirable it is to maintain the existing boundaries of areas already designated as neighbourhood areas (as areas designated must not overlap) as well as;
 - c) Whether they should designate the area as a business area.
- 4.2 With regards to the designation of the Stratfield Mortimer Neighbourhood Area 4.1 B does not apply as this is the first application for designation in West Berkshire in addition the Council has not received any correspondence from the neighbouring authorities.
- 4.3 Stratfield Mortimer is designated as a Rural Service Centre in the West Berkshire Core Strategy, it is not wholly or predominantly business in nature and it is therefore not appropriate for the area to be designated as a business area.
- 4.4 Representation has been made (see 3.1) that the designation should be limited to just the part of the parish that lies to the west of the Reading / Basingstoke railway line in the interests of sustainability.
- 4.5 In the application the Parish Council state that the sole intention “is to develop a Neighbourhood Development Plan for the area. A Neighbourhood Plan will enable the Parish to guide future development and ensure that Mortimer remains an excellent place in which to live and work”. The statement goes on “though much of the population and most businesses are concentrated in the south west of the Parish, the farmed and wooded areas and commons are an integral part of the parish and we therefore wish the designated area to be the whole Parish”.
- 4.6 This notion that the wooded areas and commons are an integral part of the Parish is also recognised by the response from the Woodland Trust.
- 4.7 Given that the stated aim of the Neighbourhood Development Plan is to guide future development and ensure that Mortimer remains an excellent place to live and work, there is no justification for a modification to the proposed Neighbourhood Area.

5. Recommendation

- 5.1 Given the responses received to the consultation on the designation of the Stratfield Mortimer Neighbourhood Area and the criteria for determining such an application it is recommended that the proposed Stratfield Mortimer Neighbourhood Area be approved.

Appendices

Appendix A – Application to designated Neighbourhood Area

Appendix B – Map of Neighbourhood Area

Appendix C – Response to consultation

Consultee

Local Stakeholders: As listed in 2.1

Officers Consulted:

Trade Union:

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Application to designate a Neighbourhood Area

This application is made by Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council to
The Head of Planning & Countryside Planning and Countryside Services
West Berkshire Council
Market Street
Newbury
RG14 5LD

1. Parish Clerk details

Mrs J.E. Kirk (MILCM)
Parish Council Office
27 Victoria Road
Mortimer Common
Reading
RG7 3SH

the.clerk@stratfield-mortimer.gov.uk

2. Relevant body

I confirm that Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council is the relevant body to undertake neighbourhood planning in the area in accordance with section 61G of the 1990 Town and Country Planning Act and section 5C of the 2012 Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012.

3. Name of Neighbourhood Area

The neighbourhood area will formally be known as:
Stratfield Mortimer Parish

4. Extent of the Area

The area is exactly the same as the entire area of the Civil Parish of Stratfield Mortimer. A map showing the area, denoted by the blue Parish boundary, is attached (Stratfield Mortimer Parish.pdf).

6. Intention of Neighbourhood area

The sole intention is to develop a Neighbourhood Development Plan for the area. A Neighbourhood Plan will enable the Parish to guide future development and ensure that Mortimer remains an excellent place in which to live and work.

7. Statement

Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council is the suitable body under the Localism Act to lead the development of a Neighbourhood Plan and there is a strong desire in the community to

contribute to the future development of the parish. The reasons why this area should be considered to be appropriate for designation as a Neighbourhood Area are given below.

Stratfield Mortimer Parish is a rural parish in the south-east part of the West Berkshire Council district. In the West Berkshire Core Strategy (2006-2026) Mortimer is designated as a rural service centre in the East Kennet Valley and, along with Burghfield Common, will be the focus of development in this area. The Parish of Stratfield Mortimer currently has an electoral roll of 2990. Though much of the population and most businesses are concentrated in the south-west of the Parish, the farmed and wooded areas and commons are an integral part of the Parish and we therefore wish the designated area to be the whole Parish.

Stratfield Mortimer has excellent primary schools, thriving shops and local businesses, good transport links and a very wide range of community activities and involvement. The vision of the first Parish Plan, adopted in 2004 was:

“Stratfield Mortimer will conserve its rural heritage and retain its distinctive character. It will continue to have a thriving small business economy with a substantial commuter population. Changes and improvements that enhance the Quality of Life of the whole community are to be encouraged. Developments of whatever kind or scale will be in harmony with their setting and enrich the Parish”

This reinforced by the Parish Plan update in 2009:

“The views of the community expressed this time through public consultation and the questionnaires are very similar to those expressed five years ago. Stratfield Mortimer is essentially a rural parish and wants to retain its character and sense of community. Some new trends and ideas are also apparent. In line with the country as a whole, green issues are now to the forefront of more people’s minds and most excitingly, community involvement has come to take even greater precedence.”

Stratfield Mortimer has also had a Village Design Statement since 2007, produced as a result of the Parish Plan.

From the above it will be seen that Stratfield Mortimer is a forward looking community that engages with its residents to provide ongoing developments that meet the ethos of a modern rural community. It is therefore considered appropriate and desirable to take the opportunity presented by the new Neighbourhood Plans to fully engage with the people of Stratfield Mortimer in developing a way forward for the Parish.

With the above in mind the ideas behind developing a Neighbourhood Plan were outlined in the February 2013 issue of the Parish Council Newsletter, delivered to every dwelling and business within the Parish (copy attached). A presentation of the concept and stages of developing a Neighbourhood Plan was then given at the Annual Parish meeting, attended by about 100 parishioners in April 2013 (copies of the presentation and of the minutes are attached). The view of the Annual Parish Meeting was unanimous support for development of a Neighbourhood Plan, reflecting the strong community involvement of the last ten years

The meeting and the presentation were subsequently reported to the whole Parish in the June 2013 issue of the Newsletter.

8. Declaration

I hereby apply to designate a neighbourhood area as described in this document and the accompanying plan.

Name: Mrs Jayne Kirk (Clerk, Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council) Date 02.09.2013:

Attachments:

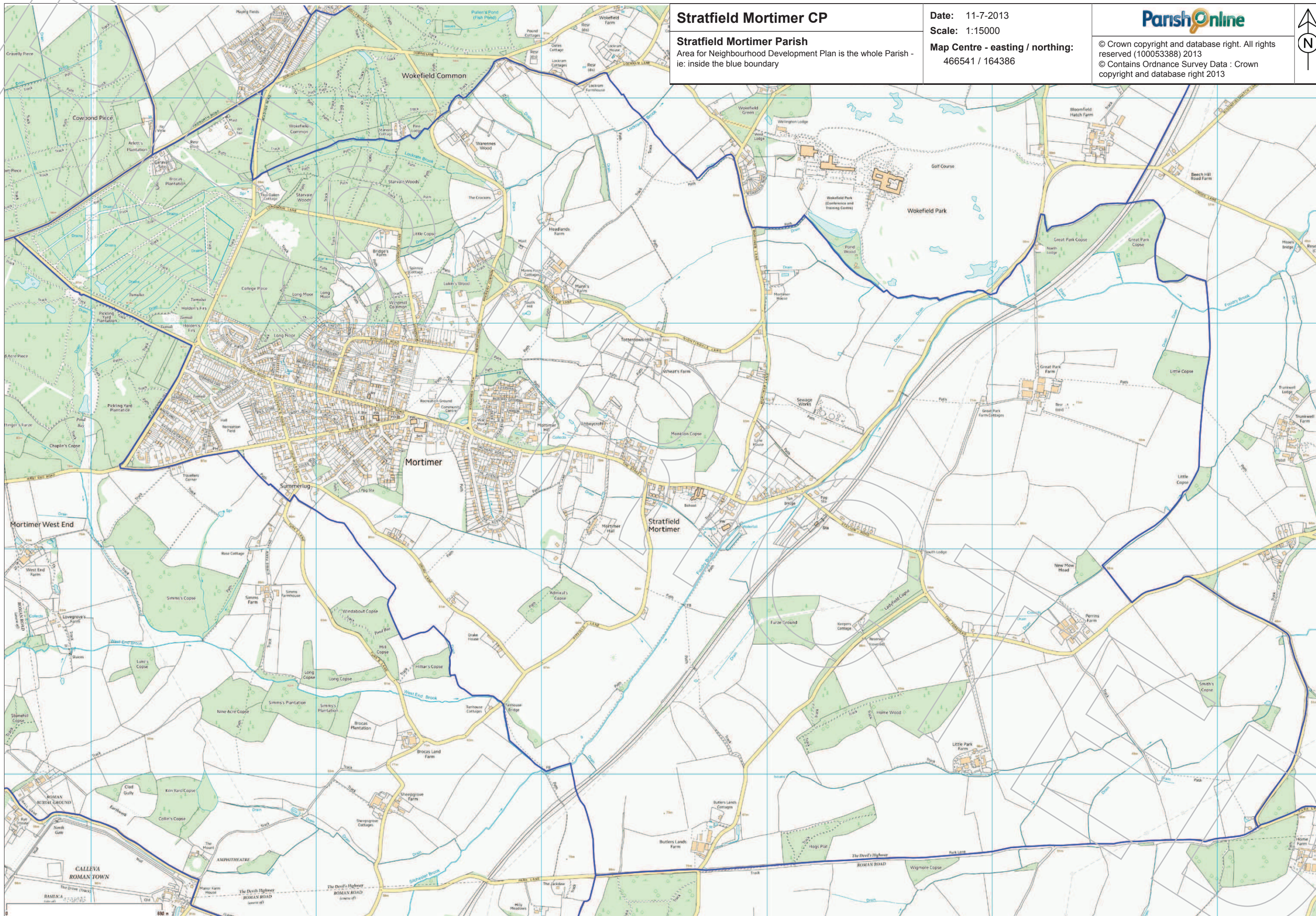
Map of area – Stratfield Mortimer Parish

SMPC Newsletter February 2013 (has article on Neighbourhood Plans)

Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting April 2013

Neighbourhood Plan presentation given at the Annual Parish Meeting

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Stratfield Mortimer CP

Stratfield Mortimer Parish
 Area for Neighbourhood Development Plan is the whole Parish - ie: inside the blue boundary

Date: 11-7-2013

Scale: 1:15000

Map Centre - easting / northing:
 466541 / 164386



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NOT FOR PUBLICATION

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Appendix D

	Name		Support / Reject	Comment	Response
1	Canal and River Trust		No Comment		Noted
2	Network Rail		No Objection in principle	Would like to be kept informed	Noted
3	The Englefield Estate		Support	Looking forward to working with the Parish	Noted
4	T A Fisher	Local Property Development Company	Wish for area to be changed	Would like the area designated to be limited to just land to the West of the Reading/Basingstoke railway line on sustainability grounds	The Parish Council have applied for the entire parish to be designated as the Neighbourhood Area. There is no justified reason to exclude part of the parish from the designation.
5	Environment Agency		No Comment		Noted
6	Natural England		No Comment	Would like to be kept informed	Noted
7	English Heritage		No objection to proposal	Offer of heritage assistance	Noted and comments to be passed on to Parish Council
8	Highways Agency		No comments at this time	Concern with proposals that have the potential to impact with the safe and efficient operation of the Strategic Road Network	Noted
9	Woodlands Trust		Support	Note Ancient Woodland In the Parish	Noted and comments to be passed on to Parish Council
10	Vale of White Horse		No comment		Noted

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