

Sevenoaks District Council

Proposed Neighbourhood Plan Areas Consultation Statement

Introduction

This document provides a record of the publication that took place regarding the Ash-cum-Ridley, Edenbridge and Shoreham Proposed Neighbourhood Plan areas and related Neighbourhood Planning bodies. The formal publication period provides members of the public and other key stakeholders an opportunity to submit comments on the proposed neighbourhood plan area and proposed neighbourhood planning body

It sets out the methods used to publicise the publication process along with the main findings from the publication. As this was only a publication process, the response rate was not expected to be high.

The Council publicised the Ash-cum-Ridley, Edenbridge and Shoreham Proposed Neighbourhood Plan Areas for 6 weeks from 28th Jun 2012 and 9th Aug 2012.

This consultation included the following information submitted by the Parish/Town Councils

1. a map identifying the area to be covered;
2. a statement explaining why the area is appropriate to be designated as a neighbourhood area and
3. a statement that the organisation making the application is a relevant body

The Council also published

The name of the proposed neighbourhood area

Details of how to respond to the publicity and make representations

The deadline for the receipt of those responses and representations,

This information was published on the Sevenoaks District Council website and through the Council's on line consultation system, together with posters on local parish/town Council noticeboards;

Comments

Comments were received from the following

Ash-cum-Ridley

- Environment Agency (Observations)
- Kent Wildlife Trust (Observations)

Shoreham

- Crockenhill Parish Council (Observations)
- E Dallimore

- Kent Wildlife Trust (Observations)
- Environment Agency (Observations)

Edenbridge

- Cooper Estates Ltd C/O Phillips Planning Services (Paul Watson)
- Kent Wildlife Trust (Observations)
- Tandridge District Council (Support)
- Environment Agency (Observations)

Summary of objections received and responses

Ash-cum-Ridley no objections were received to the proposed area.

Shoreham an objection was raised and a case was put forward for the designation of 3 areas to reflect the differences in the character of each which are unique to the rest of the Parish. In addition as the three wards have applied to split from each other under the Community Governance Review so then each Ward would have its own Neighbourhood Plan should the wards be granted independence from each other.

The District Council does not support this proposal. Guidance indicates that in parished areas the Parish Council is the relevant body to prepare the plan. The area designation sets out the area for which the parish council are proposing to prepare a neighbourhood plan – which is the current parish boundary. If the parish boundary subsequently changes, so will the neighbourhood area boundary.

It would be premature to amend the boundary of the neighbourhood area at the moment as the parish boundary review won't be determined/published until September/November 2012, and won't take effect until the next Parish elections in May 2015. However, since the neighbourhood area application refers to the parish boundary, if this changes during the preparation of the neighbourhood plan, it will be acceptable for the plan to cover the amended area.

The District Council would advise that the 3 areas investigate the preparation separate chapters within the plan which could cover the 3 areas identified and respond to the unique character of these areas within the Parish.

Edenbridge An objection was raised this requested further details to be provided regarding why the proposed boundaries where chosen.

The Parish Council has responded to this as follows:

The Council considered two geographical areas, the local government wards and the tourist area defined as the Eden Valley. The town of Edenbridge (including Marlpit Hill, Mowshurst and Marsh Green) has a distinct sub-urban character compared with the much more rural character of the remainder of the Eden Valley hinterland. The rural

areas have traditionally been served by other local government entities (Hever & Four Elms, Cowden, Chiddingstone, Penshurst, and Westerham). Thus the ward boundaries were considered the most appropriate neighbourhood boundary.

The District Council supports the view of the Town Council and the use of the ward areas as the most appropriate area for the Neighbourhood Plan.

Further in response to the interest raised by other organisations, the Town Council states that During the development of the plan ETC would be engaging and consulting widely within the community and with a range of interested parties, including Kent Wildlife Trust and adjoining councils, to produce a robust plan for the development and growth of the local area”.

The District Council also supports the Town Council’s intention to consult widely which as stated will ensure the robustness of the Plan.