

# DELEGATED DECISIONS 21 APRIL 2015 ROOM 4, CIVIC OFFICES AT 5.00 PM SCHEDULE

ITEM	SUBJECT	DECISION MAKER	PAGES
1.	Community Right to Bid – Field 13 Emberton	Councillor E Gifford (Cabinet member for Community Services)	2 to 13
2.	Draft Playing Pitch Strategy	Councillor E Gifford (Cabinet member for Community Services)	14 to 16
3.	Sherington Neighbourhood Plan Plan Area Designation	Councillor Legg (Cabinet member for Public Realm Public Realm)	17 to 23

# COMMUNITY RIGHT TO BID – THE NOMINATION OF FIELD 13, HULTON DRIVE, EMBERTON

Responsible Cabinet Member:	Councillor E Gifford – Cabinet member for
	Community Services
Report Sponsor:	Paul Sanders (Assistant Director, Community
	Facilities) - 01908 253639
Author and contact:	Paul Davey (Community Solutions Project Officer) -
	01908 254038

# Executive Summary:

The Council is required by the Localism Act to maintain processes to give people the chance to bid to buy and take over the running of public or private assets that are of value to the local community. *Field 13*, Hulton Drive, has been nominated by Emberton Parish Council as an Asset of Community Value under the Community Right to Bid. The Council is required to decide whether to approve such nominations and to maintain and manage lists of such assets in line with the statutory framework.

# 1. Recommendation(s)

1.1 That Field 13, Hulton Drive be published on the Council's website as an 'asset of community value'.

# 2. Issues

# <u>Context</u>

The Community Right to Bid (CRtB) is part of the Localism Act (2011) and came into force in September 2012. The CRtB aims to ensure important assets remain in public use and stay part of community life and the Council is required to maintain and manage lists such of assets in line with the statutory framework. This report seeks to:

- 2.1 To invite the Council to decide whether to approve the nomination
- 2.2 The Council adopted an approach to managing the CRtB process on 26 February 2013.
- 2.3 If the nomination is approved, the Council will add Field 13, Hulton Drive to the 'assets of community value' list and respond to Emberton Parish Council within 8 weeks of receiving the application and publish details. Once listed, entries will be made in the local land charges register and at the Land Registry.

### Ownership and Management

The owner of the site is Milton Keynes Council. The site is leased to a Mr. Brian Reynolds of Hungary Hall Farm, Weston Underwood, MK46 5LB.

Nomination for listing for an asset of community value

- 2.4 A nomination was received from Emberton Parish Council on 18 February 2015.
- 2.5 Regarding whether or not the main use of the land and/or building furthers the social wellbeing or social interests of the local community at the present time and whether it is realistic to think that this can continue into the near future (even if the type of social use or benefit might change), Emberton Parish Council wrote that:

"Current use of grass land is for the grazing of sheep and this open space together with its surrounding open space (playing field owned by the parish council) provides residents with a sense of well-being. The Parish Council believes that this land will continue to be used in its current purpose but would also hope that this land could be integrated into the boundary of the existing playing field. The playing field has on numerous occasions been used for fun days, fetes and sports days, benefitting not only residents but also visitors to the area. In 2012 the Parish Council hosted an event for the whole of the village to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. Emberton School has on occasions used the field for its sports day as well as a football team from Emberton and Olney and two senior cricket teams from Wellingborough and Woollaston. In the past the Parish Council has looked into the possibility of incorporating a running track into the playing field but lack of space has prevented this happening. With a lot of hard work and grants, this could become a reality."

A copy of the nomination was sent to the leaseholder by First Class post on 20 Feb 2015 with a request that they reply by noon on 18 March 2015 indicating whether they have any objections to the listing.

# Stakeholder Engagement and Representations

2.6 An engagement exercise was carried out with key stakeholders within the locality including ward and parish councillors, and officers in Planning, Legal, and Property services. The opinion of Property services was that the site is not of significant community value and that it is believed to have been identified within recent 'land categorisation' work as being of potential development value. This was caveated by input from the Planning and Transport team, which said that although it had been identified as land with development potential, this land is protected as open space though through Local Plan policy Open Countryside (S10) and Areas of Attractive Landscape (S12) and so unlikely to ever get developed.

No other input affecting the listing of the site was received.

# Summary and Council's response

The decision taker is required to have regard to the following factors in deciding whether the property should be listed as an asset of community value – namely, whether an actual current use that is not ancillary use furthers the social wellbeing or social interests of the local community and it is realistic to think this can continue; or there has been in the recent past and it is realistic to think this could resume within the next five years. Emberton Parish Council would like to see this site remain in public use for community social benefit into the future.

2.7 If the property is listed as an asset of community value, then if the owner of Field 13, Hulton Drive, Emberton wishes to sell the site or grant a lease for 25 years or more, a six week or (if a community interest group expresses an interest within six weeks) a six-month moratorium period will be triggered during which Field 13 cannot be sold or so let other than to a community interest group.

- 2.8 This period will give Emberton Parish Council some time to develop a proposal and raise the required capital to bid for the property during the moratorium period.
- 2.9 A landowner can ask the Council to review the inclusion of Field 13 in the list and there will be a process for an appeal to an independent body.
- 2.10 The full process is summarised in the attached flow charts in Annex A.
- 2.11 The owner of listed land can claim compensation for the effects of it being listed and, according to published guidance, HM Government will meet the cost of compensation over £20,000 per year for an unlimited number of assets. This Council meets the cost of compensation up to £20,000.

## 3 Implications

3.1 Resources and Risk

The CRtB legislation will be implemented within existing resources. The Council has received New Burdens Grant to offset any future claims up to £20,000.

The fact that a property has been listed under the Localism Act 2011 as an asset of community value can be treated as a material factor by the planning authority. The existence of any planning application is not relevant to the decision making process as to whether Field 13 should be listed as an asset of community value.

Ν	Capital	Y	Revenue	Ν	Accommodation
Ν	IT	Y	Medium Term Plan	Y	Asset Management

3.2 Carbon and Energy Management

None

3.3 Legal

Adoption of the approach should facilitate compliance with the relevant legislation. As mentioned above the Localism Act 2011 requires the Council to decide whether the application to nominate *Field 13* as an asset of community value should be approved or not.

3.4 Other Implications

As set out within the report

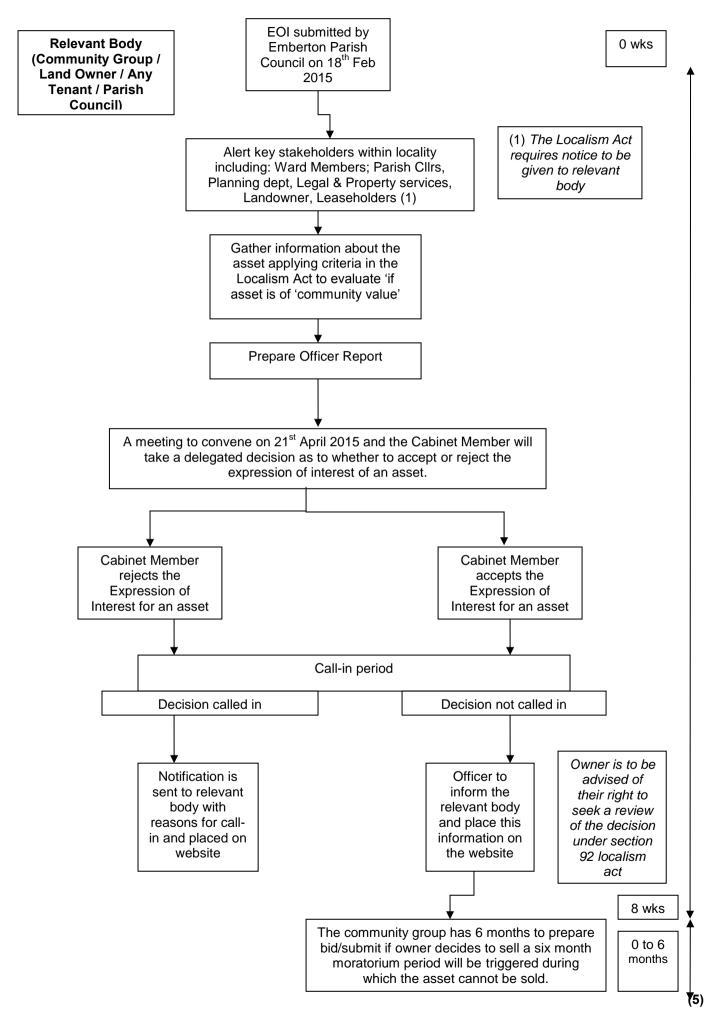
Ν	Equalities/Diversity	Y	Sustainability	Y	Human Rights
Ν	E-Government	Υ	Stakeholders	Ν	Crime and Disorder

Background Papers: Original decision to invite Community Asset Transfers

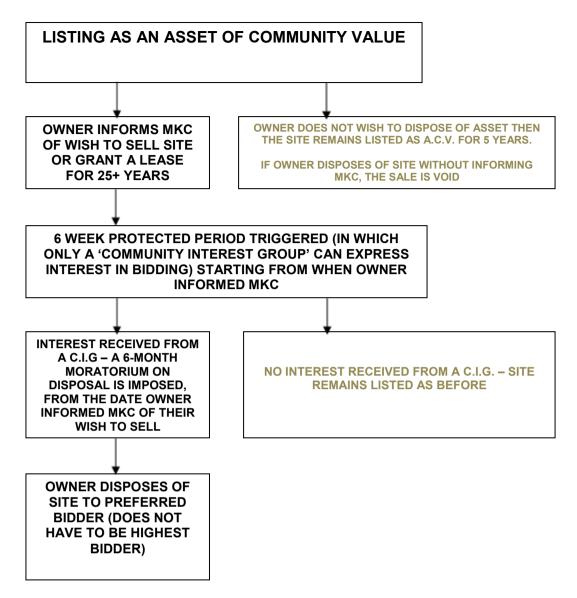
- Annex A Flow Charts for Decision Process for Field 13, Hulton Drive, Emberton
- Annex B Boundary Plan of Field 13, Hulton Drive, Emberton

Annex C – Community Right to Bid submission and consultation feedback

Flowchart for Community Right to Bid: Field 13, Hulton Road. Emberton



# POST DELEGATED DECISION FLOWCHART



### The definition of a "community interest group" is:

- The local parish council OR
- One of the following, if they have a "local connection with the land", i.e. their activities are wholly or partly concerned within the local authority's area or a neighbouring authority's area:
  - A charity
  - A company limited by guarantee which does not distribute surplus to its members
  - An industrial and provident society which does not distribute surplus to its members
    - A community interest company.

#### ANNEX B: OUTLINE OF NOMINATED AREA (FIELD 13) GRAZING LAND, HULTON DR EMBERTON



#### \*area being nominated is the hatched section of the above site

This is a copy of the title plan on 1 DEC 2014 at 16:11:06. This copy does not take account of any application made after that time even if still pending in the Land Registry when this copy was issued.

This copy is not an 'Official Copy' of the title plan. An official copy of the title plan is admissible in evidence in a court to the same extent as the original. A person is entitled to be indemnified by the registrar if he or she suffers loss by reason of a mistake in an official copy. If you want to obtain an official copy, the Land Registry web site explains how to do this.

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# Asset Nomination form

# For including land on the List of Assets of Community Value

Community Right to Bid - Assets of Community Value Regulations 2012

Please ensure that you provide adequate and accurate information to enable Milton Keynes Council to make a decision on your nomination. You may attach photos, maps, plans and other documents to help us correctly identify the asset and to support your nomination.

DEFINITIONS – What is an Asset of Community - MKC's Approach.

Athough the Localism Act notes that 'social interests' includes 'cultural, recreational and sporting interests', social well-being applies to a much broader set of activities and includes a broad range of assets such as:

Allotments Children's centres Cinemas **Community centres** Day care centres Health centres Markets Nurseries and schools Libraries Pubs Parks and open spaces Public toilets **Residential care homes** Sports and leisure centres Surgeries and hospitals **Swimming pools** Theatres, museum or heritage sites Village shops Youth centres

For information and guidance on the Right to Bid please visit: <u>http://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/leisure-tourism-and-culture/community-right-to-bid</u> or call 01908 254038.

Completed forms should be sent either via email to <u>paul.davey@milton-keynes.gov.uk</u> or by post to:

Community Asset Transfer Team Community Facilities Unit 502 Saxon Court Avebury Boulevard Milton Keynes MK9 3HS

# 1. About your Organisation

a) Contact Details	
Name of your organisation:	EMBERTON PARISH COUNCIL
Address:	63 OLNEY ROAD
	EMBERTON BUCKS
Name of Contact Person:	MK46 5BU MRS KAREN GOSS
Phone:	
Email:	

# b) Eligibility for applying

To be eligible to nominate a community asset for listing, you must be a voluntary or community body:

- A neighbourhood forum
- An unincorporated body whose members include at least 21 members and does not distribute any surplus it makes to its members
- A charity
- A company limited by guarantee which does not distribute surplus to members
- An industrial and provident society which does not distribute surplus to members
- A Parish Council
- A community interest company

Also please demonstrate how a 'local connection' exists: namely how your organisation's activities are wholly or partly concerned with the local authority's area.

In the case of an unincorporated body, company limited by guarantee and an industrial and provident society, these have a 'local connection' if any surplus generated is applied for the benefit of the borough, or a neighbouring borough.

In the case of an unincorporated body it has a local connection if the body has 21 local members, namely persons who are on the register of local government elections for Milton Keynes.

1. If you are an incorporated organisation please describe the legal form of your organisation including registration number(s) where applicable (e.g. company limited by guarantee, charitable organisation, community interest company etc.)

Organisation Type:	

Registration Number(s):

2. If your organisation carries out activities for profit please describe below how you use the surplus that is generated.

3. If you are an unincorporated organisation please describe below what provisions are made for community benefit in your constitution:

EMBERTON PARISH COUNCIL HAS THE POWER AND DUTY TO PROVIDE THE COMMUNITY WITH PROVISIONS TO ENHANCE THE HEALTH AND WELL BEING OF RESIDENTS SUCH AS THE PROVISION OF A PLAYING FIELD AND SPORTING FACILITIY.

4.	Please describe how your organisation has a local connection to the area where the asset
	has been identified:

THE IDENTIFIED ASSET IS IN THE PARISH BOUNDARY AND IS DIRECTLY BEHIND LAND OWNED BY THE PARISH COUNCIL

a) Please give your reasons why Milton Keynes Council should include the land on its List of Assets of Community Value

In order to list land or buildings the Council must be of the opinion that:

- 1. An actual current use of the building or other land (which is not ancillary use) furthers the social wellbeing or social interests of the local community and
- 2. It is realistic to think that there can continue to be non-ancillary use of the building or other land which will further (whether or not in the same way) the social wellbeing or social interests of the local community.

# OR

- 3. There is a time in the recent past when an actual use of the building or other land (that was not an ancillary use of the building or other land) furthered the social wellbeing or social interests of the local community and
- 4. It is realistic to think there is a time in the next five years (where there could be nonancillary use of the building or other land) that would further (whether or not in the same way as before) the social wellbeing or social interests of the local community

Please provide information below which supports your nomination with regard to the criteria set out above.

Current use of grass land is for the grazing of sheep and this open space together with its surrounding open space (playing field owned by the parish council) provides residents with a sense of well-being. The Parish Council believes that this land will continue to be used in its current purpose but would also hope that this land could be integrated into the boundary of the existing playing field. The playing field has on numerous occasions been used for fun days, fetes and sports days, benefitting not only residents but also visitors to the area. In 2012 the Parish Council hosted an event for the whole of the village to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. Emberton School has on occasions used the field for its sports day as well as a football team from Emberton and Olney and two senior cricket teams from Wellingborough and Woollaston. In the past the Parish Council has looked into the possibility of incorporating a running track into the playing field but lack of space has prevented this happening. With a lot of hard work and grants, this could become a reality.

b) Description of the nominated land including its proposed boundaries – please include with your application a site plan which has been prepared to Land Registry or Ordnance Survey standard, with the nominated land clearly and neatly outlined.

GRASS LAND

ASSET IS DEFINED AS THE AREA HATCHED IN RED ON THE ATTACHED PLAN

c) Names of current occupants of nominated land

OWNER IS MILTON KEYNES COUNCIL. LAND IS RENTED TO MR BRIAN REYNOLDS, A FARMER IN WESTON UNDERWOOD.

The postal address for Mr Brian Reynolds is Hungry Hall Farm, Weston Underwood, Bucks, MK46 5LB.

d) Names and addresses (or last known address) of all those holding a freehold or leasehold interest in the nominated land

# Wards Affected:

All Wards.

# PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Responsible Cabinet Member:

Report Sponsor:

Author and contact:

Councillor L Gifford, (Cabinet Member for Community Services)

Paul Sanders, Assistant Director, Community Facilities

Jill Dewick, Leisure & Community Officer Tel: (01908) 253621

# Executive Summary:

This report proposes the adoption of the Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS), as an action from the adopted Sport and Active Communities Strategy (S&ACS) adopted in March 2014.

On 12 August 2014 a delegated decision approval was given to go out to full 12 week consultation.

Comments received back during the consultation period have been incorporated into the new strategy document at Annex A. These comments whilst confirming some of the priorities and highlighting any omissions did not change the overall findings of the original draft report.

# 1. **Recommendation(s)**

1.1 That the Playing Pitch Strategy be adopted in line with the overall Sport and Active Communities Strategy.

# 2. **Issues**

- 2.1 When the Sport and Active Communities (S&AC) Strategy was updated, Sport England (SE) were finalising a new guidance for playing pitch research. To ensure that the Playing Pitch section of the strategy was up to date and fit for purpose, it was agreed to wait until the SE methodology was ready. A full assessment of each playing field within MK was then undertaken in line with the new SE guidance.
- 2.2 Officers engaged with all the relevant governing bodies for football, rugby and cricket in the form of a steering group who met and agreed the consultation requirements and who also consulted with their own clubs and members. Sport England was also represented on this steering group and has been engaged fully in the whole process.
- 2.3 Other consultations were undertaken with meetings with Parish Councils, sports groups and clubs as well as an on-line survey.

- 2.4 Following the delegated decision in August 2014 on the draft strategic report, a full 12 week consultation was undertaken. This was circulated to all clubs, governing bodies, all Ward Councillors and Parish Councils and the Parks Trust.
- 2.5 Comments received have been incorporated into the strategy and changes made where appropriate. Consultation comments are at Annex B.
- 2.6 The final consultation did not change the overall findings of the draft strategy and the issues and challenges remain as: the quality of existing sites, how to improve their attractiveness and usefulness to sport and the requirements for the expansion of Milton Keynes. Priorities for investment have been identified for an initial period of 5 years with some longer term proposals. These priorities will form part of the action plan for the main S&AC Strategy and the Local Investment Plan and for the new emerging Plan:MK.

### 3. **Options**

3.1 Option 1

To adopt this report as the new Playing Pitch Strategy for Milton Keynes. This will ensure that Milton Keynes has an up to date and relevant strategy for its playing fields and for sport. It gives clear priorities and aims for the future.

3.2 Do nothing

The report is not adopted and Milton Keynes does not have an up to date and relevant strategy for playing fields.

### 4. Implications

4.1 Policy

This new strategy will contribute to the Councils Corporate Priorities by: enabling MK to deliver projects that establish Milton Keynes as a premier sporting city; raise participation and opportunities to take part in sport, leisure and cultural activity and volunteering; improve the health and wellbeing of all MK citizens and communities.

4.2 Resources and Risk

There are no financial implications to the council arising from this strategy. Projects identified are already within the Community Facilities service area Capital Programme. MKC are leading on the delivery of this strategy but the onus is not on the council to deliver all the actions and priorities arising from the document. The strategy gives support to clubs, groups and operators to lever in funding for their respective projects.

The previous Sport & Leisure Strategy (including Playing Fields) levered in over £39m of funding enabling the development of 5 new playing fields and associated facilities and investment into 5 existing playing fields.

Any works related to facilities within MKC ownership are identified within the Community Facilities service area Asset Management Plan. The strategy did not identify any unknown issues that relate to facilities within MKC ownership.

Y	Capital	N	Revenue	Ν	Accommodation
Ν	IT	Y	Medium Term Plan	Y	Asset Management

# 4.3 Carbon and Energy Management

None.

4.4 Legal

A full 12 week formal consultation was carried out on this strategy and responses noted and incorporated.

4.5 Other Implications

None

Ν	Equalities/Diversity	N	Sustainability	N	Human Rights
Ν	E-Government	Y	Stakeholders	Ν	Crime and Disorder

Annexes	Playing Pitch Strategy – Final Report (Annex A) Playing Pitch Strategy Consultation Comments December 2014 (Annex B)
	The Annexes can be viewed at the following link:
	<u>http://milton-keynes.cmis.uk.com/milton-</u> <u>keynes/Calendar/tabid/70/ctl/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/397/M</u> <u>eeting/4956/Committee/949/Default.aspx</u>
Background Papers:	Draft Playing Pitch Strategy Delegated Decision 12 August 2014
	Link to the Sport and Active Communities Strategy 2014 documents <u>http://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/leisure-tourism-and-</u> <u>culture/sport-and-active-communities-strategies</u>

Sherington

# NEIGHBOURHOOD AREA DESIGNATION APPLICATION FOR SHERINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Responsible Cabinet Member:Councillor Legg (Cabinet member for Public<br/>Realm)Report Sponsor:Anna Rose, Service Director, Planning and<br/>TransportAuthor and contact:Bob Wilson, Development Plans Manager,<br/>Tel: (01908) 252480

# Executive Summary:

This report deals with the application to designate a Neighbourhood Area for the purpose of Neighbourhood Planning, in accordance with the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012. The application is from Sherington Parish Councils. The application has been publicised for six weeks of public consultation from 9 March 2015 to 20 April 2015. No comments have been received on either application.

### 1. **Recommendation(s)**

1.1 That the Neighbourhood Area application for Sherington Parish Council area be approved in accordance with Section 61G of the Town and Country Planning Act, 1990 (as amended).

### 2. **Issues**

- 2.1 Sherington Parish Council have submitted an application to Milton Keynes Council to designate their parish area as a Neighbourhood Area. The area for Sherington is shown in Annex B. The application has been made in accordance with Regulation 5 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012, which requires any local council submitting an area application to include:
  - a map which shows the area to be designated;
  - a statement explaining why the local council considers the area to be appropriate for designation; and
  - confirmation that the local council concerned is the relevant body for the purpose of neighbourhood planning for that area.
- 2.2 In accordance with Regulation 6 of those Regulations, Milton Keynes Council published the area application, and held a six week public consultation period

between 9 March 2015 and 20 April 2015. The application was advertised in the MK News, on the Council's website, in the Council's internal Tuesday Bulletin communication, in the Members' Weekly News, and through direct emails to the Councillors of the wards affected and all Parish Councils. At the close of the consultation period no comments have been received in respect of the application.

- 2.3 National Planning Practice Guidance advises that a local planning authority must designate a neighbourhood area if it receives a valid application and some or all of the area has not yet been designated.
- 2.4 In reaching its decision on a neighbourhood area application a local planning authority should consider:
  - the statement accompanying the application,
  - the desirability of designating the whole of the area of a parish as a neighbourhood area,
  - any representations received during the consultation period; and
  - whether it is appropriate to define the area as a business area under Section 61H of the Act.

In parished areas, the legislation recognises that the parish council's administrative boundaries will form logical boundaries for neighbourhood planning unless circumstances dictate otherwise. The Sherington neighbourhood area covers the area for which Sherington Parish Council is the elected body and the relevant body for the purposes of neighbourhood planning under the Act and the 2012 Regulations.

- 2.5 Given the predominantly residential nature of the parish it is not appropriate to define the area as a business area under Section 61H of the Act.
- 2.9 On the basis of the above, it is considered appropriate to designate the neighbourhood area as proposed by the Parish Council, and as shown in Annex A.

## 3. **Options**

- 3.1 This report recommends that the area proposed by the Parish Council is approved as their respective Neighbourhood Area. This is in line with National Planning Practice Guidance which advises that local planning authorities should aim to designate the area applied for. This is the preferred option.
- 3.2 If the area applied for is not considered appropriate, then an alternative option would be for Cabinet to refuse to designate but reasons for that refusal must be given. Section 61G (5) requires the local planning authority to ensure that some or all of the area applied for forms part of one or more designated neighbourhood areas. It is considered that the parish represents an appropriate area in which to carry out neighbourhood planning. This option is not therefore recommended.

# 4. Implications

# 4.1 Policy

Neighbourhood Plans must be in general conformity with the strategic policies of the development plan. In Milton Keynes, the strategic policies are set out in the adopted Milton Keynes Local Plan and the adopted Core Strategy.

Once a Neighbourhood Plan has successfully passed all of the stages of preparation, including an examination and referendum, it is 'made' by the local planning authority and forms part of the authority's Development Plan, meaning it will be a material consideration when considering development proposals.

4.2 Resources and Risk

Finance

- a. The Localism Act and the 2012 Regulations place new duties on local planning authorities in relation to Neighbourhood Planning. These new duties have considerable implications for staff resources and include taking decisions at key stages in the process; being proactive in providing advice to communities about neighbourhood planning; providing advice or assistance to a parish council, neighbourhood forum or community organisation that is undertaking neighbourhood planning.
- b. In recognition of the additional burdens that these new duties place on local planning authorities, DCLG has made available grants to local planning authorities up to £30,000 for each neighbourhood plan. In the case of a Business Neighbourhood Plan, a further £10,000 is available in recognition of the costs associated with the additional business referendum. The funding is claimed in stages £5000 upon the designation of a Neighbourhood Area; £5000 once a submitted plan is publicised and the remainder upon a successful examination of the plan. The funding claimed contributes to staff costs associated with supporting the neighbourhood plan and the costs associated with publicity, the appointment of an examiner and the running of the referendum.
- c. Staff resources to support Neighbourhood Planning will come from the existing staff within the Development Plans team.

Capital	Y	Revenue	Accommodation
IT		Medium Term Plan	Asset Management

# 4.3 Carbon and Energy Management

The proposals in this report do not impact on carbon and energy management. These matters could be included in the subsequent neighbourhood plans that are produced.

# 4.4 Legal

- a. Neighbourhood planning is part of the Government's initiative to empower local communities to take forward planning proposals at a local level, as outlined in Section 116 of the Localism Act, 2011. The Act and the subsequent 2012 Regulations confer specific functions on local planning authorities in relation to neighbourhood planning and lay down the steps that must be followed in relation to Neighbourhood Planning.
- b. Consultation on the neighbourhood area application has been carried out in accordance with Regulation 6 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations, 2012.
- c. Cabinet on 25 July 2012 (Minute C35 3[f]) agreed a scheme of delegation for decisions on neighbourhood plans. All decisions were delegated to the Cabinet portfolio holder for Planning.
- d. Risk is being managed by ensuring that the regulations are followed and that the Council's decision making process is clear and transparent. Once a Neighbourhood Plan is made it carries real weight and the LPA is obliged to consider proposals for development against the policies in the Plan.
- 4.5 Other Implications

The proposed Neighbourhood Area application has been the subject of consultation for six weeks, and the views of stakeholders are reported in this report.

Consultation and involvement of stakeholders is an important part of the neighbourhood planning process, and will ultimately be tested by a single issue referendum at the end of the process.

Equalities/Diversity		Sustainability	Human Rights
E-Government	Y	Stakeholders	Crime and Disorder

Background Papers: Sherington Parish Council application (Annex A)

Sherington Neighbourhood Plan area (Annex B)

Localism Act, 2011

Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012

Town and Country Planning Act, 1990 (as amended).

Application by Sherington Parish Council Designation of a neighbourhood area for Sherington parish area

# Sherington Parish Council 130 Tickford Street, Newport Pagnell, Bucks, MK16 9BH

Milton Keynes Council, Planning and Transport, Civic Offices, 1 Saxon Gate East, Central Milton Keynes, MK9 3EJ

To Whom this Concerns,

# Sherington Neighbourhood Plan – Application for the Designation of the Plan Area

At the Parish Council meeting on 6 January 2015, it was agreed that Sherington Parish Council shall produce a Neighbourhood Plan to ensure that future planning and development is supported by and sensitive to the needs of the local community. It was also agreed that the geographical scope of the Plan should be the entire Parish.

Sherington has been designated as one of the three 'Selected Villages' in the Milton Keynes Core Strategy and has recently been participating in the Public Consultation on the Site Allocations Plan. This and the recent Public Consultation on Minerals Extraction has generated significant interest within the Parish and it has highlighted there is a strong desire by many residents to participate in planning the future development of the area. The preparation of the Neighbourhood Plan will enable this aspiration to be realised.

Sherington Parish Council hereby applies to Milton Keynes Council for it to designate as a Neighbourhood Area all that area of land situated within the Parish of Sherington, which is shown edged in red on the attached map, in accordance with the requirements of Regulation 5 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012.

The Parish Council believes that the entire Parish is the most appropriate area for the following reasons:

- It is a clearly defined and long-established area with a history dating back several centuries
- It is the local government administrative area for the Parish Council of Sherington
- It is consistent with the area of the Selected Village in Milton Keynes Council's own Plans

The Parish Council confirms that it is a relevant body to prepare a Neighbourhood Plan for the purposes of section 61G of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.

A Steering Group has been set up to take the Neighbourhood Plan forward. It is chaired by a Parish Councillor, but also includes representatives with relevant skills, experience and commitment from a cross-section of the local community.

I trust that, following the statutory six week consultation period, Milton Keynes Council will be able to authorise us to proceed as outlined in this application.

Yours Sincerely

Mrs Hannah Balazs

Sherington Parish Council Clerk



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