

**Wye
with Hinxhill
Parish Council**



Brook Chapel
The Street, Brook
TN25 5PF T: 01223 812459

clerk@wyeparishcouncil.plus.com

Chairman Tony Shoults

Richard Alderton
Head of Planning and Development
Ashford Borough Council
Tannery Lane
Ashford Kent TN23 1PL

26th October 2012

Dear Richard,

Wye 2030 NDP (Wye with Hinxhill Neighbourhood Development Plan)

The Parish Council requests the area designation of the civil parish¹ of Wye with Hinxhill as a Neighbourhood Area². The area designation process is a statutory requirement under the Localism Act 2011. This will enable the Wye 2030 NDP to proceed, in compliance with Part 2, Para. 5 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012, which came into force 6th April 2012.

Designation of the neighbourhood area

In accordance with the Regulations for an area application, the Parish Council confirms that it is a corporate body established by statute³ and therefore it is the 'relevant body'⁴ authorised to lead a neighbourhood development plan (NDP) in the civil parish of Wye with Hinxhill. The Parish Council represents and is directly accountable to the electors of the civil parish, and this has a long-established boundary. Therefore, it is an appropriate area for designation as a neighbourhood area. After due consideration of other boundary options the Parish Council presents the following additional reasons:

Ashford Borough Council is a local planning authority, as such it has a duty to provide technical advice and support for the development of neighbourhood plans⁵. Since September 2011, the Parish Council has discussed the NDP process with senior Planning Officers. From the outset, these discussions have progressed on the understanding that the parish boundary will define the neighbourhood area.

In July 2012, the Parish Council announced its aim to bring forward a parish-wide neighbourhood plan, and gave every household in the parish an information booklet. This outlined the NDP process and accompanied the Wye 2030 household survey. Just over 75% of all households in the parish responded, and the data collected shows public support for the Parish Council's parish-wide approach.

¹ Section 61G (3) (a) and (4) (a) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990

² Section 61G (1) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990

³ Local Government Act 1894

⁴ Section 61G (2) (a) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990

⁵ Paragraph 3, Schedule 4B of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990

Previous community-led planning exercises provide clear precedents for using the parish boundary to define the NDP area. These include the Wye Village Design Statement (2000) which Ashford Borough Council adopted as supplementary planning guidance, the Wye Parish Plan (2007) and the Wye Local Housing Needs Survey (2009). The findings of these surveys shaped the Wye 2030 household survey. The forthcoming parish-wide Local Housing Needs Survey will provide the NDP with up to date information.

The combined civil parish of Wye with Hinxhill has long functioned as one local democratic unit, though its name reflects its origins as two ecclesiastical parishes. The social and economic activity centres on the village of Wye, which serves a population of some 2,250 residents, and is where most residents live. Consequently, this parish is widely known and understood as an entity.

The parish boundary is coterminous with the Wye ward boundary, and for statistical purposes, the Office of National Statistics subdivides the ward exactly into two Lower Super Output Areas. In contrast to the coherent parish boundary, the Ashford Rural East division stretches from Old Wives Lees to Romney Marsh. Wye with Hinxhill is one of 13 rural parishes and two urban wards. At the parliamentary level, Wye with Hinxhill is in Ashford constituency, but the adjoining parishes of Brook and Hastingleigh are in the Folkestone and Hythe constituency. The current Boundary Commission consultation will not affect the parish of Wye with Hinxhill, as the only proposed change is on the west side of the borough.

In early 2012 parish councils considered Ashford Borough Council's offer of a community governance review. Subsequently Wye with Hinxhill and all the other parish councils in the borough were unanimous in declining this offer, and with it, any possibility of parish mergers or boundary changes in the foreseeable future. The parish boundary of Wye with Hinxhill is therefore a stable geographical and democratic unit, and thus it is an appropriate area to use as the basis of a neighbourhood plan.


Wye village is a compact nuclear settlement with an historic core in the North Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Wye faces uncertainty about its future since the closure of the former Wye College in 2009. However, the rest of the parish also contains some significant potential development sites, notably at Withersdane, and Naccolt and farmsteads at Coldharbour, Silks and Amage. These sites merit their own policies, as inappropriate development could bring disproportionate consequences on the residents of these hamlets. As all parish households pay the same precept, it is only fair that those residents who live outside the village should have the same opportunity to take part in the NDP process.

The Parish Council notes that the planning inspector has endorsed the Urban Sites and Infrastructure DPD. Within this document Sites U5, U14 and U22 all front the parish boundary, and they have a combined allocation for over five hundred houses. Development on these sites will have the greatest impact on Hinxhill and Naccolt residents, and add to the level of traffic on the narrow back lanes.

The Wye 2030 household survey confirmed the high importance of the rural parts of the parish to the majority of its residents. In acknowledgement, the Parish Council resolved to put forward the whole parish of Wye with Hinxhill for formal designation as a neighbourhood area (please see attached map).

To reiterate, the Parish Council requests the formal designation of the civil parish of Wye with Hinxhill as a neighbourhood area. A signed letter and map of the parish boundary will follow by post.

Yours sincerely,



Tony Shoults
Chairman, Wye with Hinxhill Parish Council

Wye with Hinxhill CP

GMIS Wye and Brook parishes

Parish boundaries edged in blue,
with parts of Godmersham, Crundale, Hastingleigh, Brabourne,
Merham, Sevington and Boughton Aluph parishes.
Print at A3

Date: 22-5-2012

Scale: 1:25000

Map Centre - easting / northing:
606677 / 146175

ParishOnline

© Crown copyright and database right. All rights reserved (1528) 2012

