

17 February 2014

Designation of Pulborough neighbourhood area (SDNP part)

The South Downs National Park Authority Planning Committee at its meeting on 13 June 2013 noted that future neighbourhood area applications, where the main centre of population is outside the National Park, will be undertaken through the Scheme of Delegation to Officers. Pulborough is such an area.

The power to designate a neighbourhood area is exercisable under Section 61G of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990. Pulborough Parish Council as the 'relevant body' submitted an application for designation of a neighbourhood area to both Local Planning Authorities:- Horsham District Council (HDC) and South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA).

The application was publicised and consulted on by the Authorities as required by the Regulations for a minimum 6 week period ending on 23 December 2013. The Neighbourhood Planning Officer at SDNPA consulted with Members of the Authority. No objections were received.

It is considered that the proposed neighbourhood area – the part which falls within South Downs National Park – is appropriate to be designated. As already stated Pulborough Parish Council is a 'relevant body' to apply for designation. The application consists of or includes the whole area of the parish council. It is the first time an application has been made to the Local Planning Authorities.

It is not considered there is a case for the area concerned to be designated as a business area.

The reasons set out in Pulborough Parish Council's statement explaining why the area is appropriate to be designated namely:

"Pulborough is one of several larger villages within Horsham District that provide services to neighbouring parishes such as shopping, railway station and doctors surgery. When deciding the plan area, Members of the Parish Council considered inviting neighbouring parishes to join with Pulborough but after consideration decided that the already distinct hamlets within the parish namely Nutbourne, North Heath, Codmore Hill and Mare Hill in addition to the main area of Pulborough, and the inclusion of a small part of the Parish within the South Downs National Park, offered sufficient diversification as to be suitable for the designated area. However, Members of the Parish Council do appreciate the interdependency of the smaller communities and therefore intend to liaise fully with the neighbouring parishes to ensure they remain fully informed of the process being undertaken within Pulborough."

are noted and considered to be an appropriate basis on which to prepare a neighbourhood plan.

It is concluded, therefore that the application for the proposed area for Pulborough should be designated. The decision to designate relates only to that part of the neighbourhood area within South Downs National Park. The results of the consultation lend support for the designation.

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Through the joint working protocol with Horsham District Council, the Authority has mandated Horsham District Council to issue the decision notice to Pulborough Parish Council in respect of this matter. This will provide confirmation to the Parish Council of both Local Planning Authorities decision to designate.

Any further correspondence relating to the designation should be addressed to Andrew Triggs, Planning Policy Officer (Neighbourhood Planning) or Tim Richings (Planning Policy Manager).

ANDREW TRIGGS

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South Downs National Park Authority