

Consultation on Neighbourhood Area applications

Milton Keynes Council has received applications for the designation of two neighbourhood areas and, in accordance with Regulation 6 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations, 2012, the council is carrying out a 6 week consultation on the proposed Neighbourhood Areas from **Tuesday 8 May to Tuesday 19th June 2012.**

Comments on the proposed Neighbourhood Areas should be sent to the Development Plans team by 5pm on Tuesday 19th June:

By email to: development.plans@milton-keynes.gov.uk

By post to: Development Plans, Milton Keynes Council
Planning, Economy and Development
Civic Offices
1 Saxon Gate East
Central Milton Keynes
MK9 3EJ

By fax to: 01908 252330

Please note that this is not a consultation on the neighbourhood plans themselves, but merely the identification of the area for which the parish or town council wish to prepare a neighbourhood development plan.

The applications have been received from:

Woburn Sands Town Council. The Town Council has submitted proposals to prepare a Neighbourhood Plan for the parish of Woburn Sands following the parish boundary.

The application is accompanied with a map showing the extent of the proposed Neighbourhood Area and a statement from the Woburn Sands Town Council explaining why and how they intend to prepare a neighbourhood development plan for the area.

The application can be seen on the Milton Keynes Council website at:
<http://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/planning-policy>

.For more information please contact the Development Plans team using the contact details provided above.

Central Milton Keynes Town Council : The Town Council has submitted proposals to prepare a Neighbourhood Plan for the parish of Central Milton Keynes following the parish boundary.

The application is accompanied with a map showing the extent of the proposed Neighbourhood Area and a statement from the Woburn Sands Town Council explaining why and how they intend to prepare a neighbourhood development plan for the area.

The application can be seen on the Milton Keynes Council website at: <http://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/planning-policy>

.For more information please contact the Development Plans team using the contact details provided above.

CMK has the status of being a business neighbourhood area frontrunner. There are over 100 areas across the country which are piloting the new neighbourhood planning process, but only a handful of these are identified as business neighbourhood areas. Within a business neighbourhood area there is a requirement for an additional referendum of the business community to be held alongside the referendum of residents.

In the Neighbourhood Area application, CMK Town Council has asked that consideration be given to designating the area as a neighbourhood area and not as a business neighbourhood area.

The Localism Act, Schedule 9, Part 1, requires that whenever Milton Keynes Council considers an application to designate a Neighbourhood Area that it also considers whether the area should be designated as a business area. A key factor in this decision is whether the area concerned is wholly or predominantly business in nature.

How will applications for Neighbourhood Areas be decided?

Following the close of the 6 week consultation period, Milton Keynes Council will consider all comments received. A report will then be prepared with a recommendation as to whether or not the proposed Neighbourhood Area should be designated.

The two applications listed above are the first applications that the council has received and the report on the outcome of the consultation will be considered by Cabinet on 25 July, 2012. That report will also ask Cabinet to consider a scheme of delegation for decision making on neighbourhood planning matters.