



Application for designation of a neighbourhood plan area made by Bletchley and Fenny Stratford Town Council

February 2020

Map of Proposed Neighbourhood area for designation

A map identifying the proposed neighbourhood area is attached.

Why is the area proposed appropriate to be designated as a neighbourhood area?

The Lakes Neighbourhood Plan (2015-26) made in 2015 includes a part of the parish of Bletchley and Fenny Stratford. The proposed neighbourhood area for the Bletchley and Fenny Stratford Plan excludes the area covered by the Lakes Estate Neighbourhood Plan and incorporates the whole of the rest of the parish including both residential and business areas. (It is anticipated that the Lakes Neighbourhood Plan will be updated at a later date following planned redevelopment.)

Bletchley and Fenny Stratford parish is positioned at the intersection of strategic east-west and north-south rail routes at the centre of the Oxford-Cambridge arc. It is widely recognised that development of the East West rail link may result in extensive future development. If so this will affect the people and the infrastructure of the whole parish. This is why the widest possible area within the parish has been selected for designation. The area chosen also conforms with the parish's established community identity.

The option of seeking to designate the area as a Business Neighbourhood Plan area was considered because of the extensive commercial activity in the parish. However, overall, the character of the parish is that of a mixed residential and commercial area, with the 2011 Census showing a population total of 15,313 (including the Lakes Estate). Additionally, the business areas cannot be easily separated from the residential areas. Provided that the local business community and residents are fully engaged in the Neighbourhood Plan process, it is believed that the proposed Neighbourhood Plan area is the best choice to allow development of a coherent plan and a Business Neighbourhood Plan is not therefore considered to be appropriate.

Qualifying Body

Under the relevant legislation Bletchley and Fenny Stratford Town Council is the qualifying body for initiating the process for the making of a Neighbourhood Plan within the parish of Bletchley and Fenny Stratford. This application was approved by resolution at a meeting of full council on 11 February 2020 (minute reference FC 19/20-230).

12.2.2020