

Cabinet Report



Report of Head of Planning

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Wards affected: Longworth

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To: CABINET

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Longworth Neighbourhood Development Plan

Recommendation

Cabinet is recommended to designate the parish of Longworth (Appendix 1) as a neighbourhood plan area under Section 61G of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.

Purpose of Report

1. This report seeks Cabinet approval for the designation of Longworth Parish as a neighbourhood area for the purpose of the production of a neighbourhood plan within the remit of the Localism Act 2011.

Corporate Objectives

2. The council's corporate plan has a specific objective, under the theme of 'Support for Communities' that seeks to encourage communities to develop Neighbourhood Plans as a means of shaping their local environment.

Background

3. Neighbourhood planning is part of the Government's initiative to empower local communities to take forward planning proposals at a local level. This is outlined in Section 116 of the Localism Act.
 4. The first statutory step in producing a Neighbourhood Plan is application for designation as a Neighbourhood Area. Longworth Parish Council has submitted a map of the area it wishes to designate along with a statement of why the area is considered
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appropriate as per Section 5 of The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012. This information is contained in Appendix 1 of this report. In summary, the application covers the parish of Longworth for the purpose of creating planning policies that would apply to development in the parish.

5. Section 6 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 requires that councils publicise any applications received for the designation of a neighbourhood area. The requirements of Section 6 have been met and exceeded (e.g. article in local news letter and specific local contacts) by the district council in publicising the Longworth area designation.
6. Section 61H of the Town and Country Planning Act as amended requires that the district council considers whether the neighbourhood area should be designated as a business area, this is defined as an area where the area is primarily or wholly business in nature. This is not the case for the proposed Longworth neighbourhood area.
7. The district council received six responses to the consultation. These are summarised in Appendix 2 of this report. No objections or significant issues were raised.

Options

8. There are no reasonable alternative options for consideration in this case.

Financial Implications

9. Funding is available from central government to enable local planning authorities to meet their new legislative duties on neighbourhood planning. Specifically, it covers the neighbourhood planning duties in the Localism Act, which are to provide advice and assistance, to hold an examination and to make arrangements for a referendum.
10. This central government funding is available in three stages: £5000 at area designation, £5000 when the local authority publicises the neighbourhood plan prior to examination and £20,000 on successful completion of a neighbourhood planning examination.
11. In accordance with the individual cabinet member decision, taken in April 2013, we will offer Longworth Parish Council a neighbourhood planning grant of £5000, towards their costs in producing their neighbourhood plan, if cabinet are minded to designate the Neighbourhood Area.

Legal Implications

12. There are no legal implications of significance

Risks

13. No significant risks to report.

Conclusion

14. It is recommended that the neighbourhood area identified at Appendix 1 is agreed.
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Background Papers

- Appendix 1: Map of Longworth parish
 - Appendix 2: Summary of consultation responses
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Appendix 1 – Map of Longworth Parish and Statement of Area Designation

LONGWORTH

Longworth lies between the river Thames and the A420, 12 miles SW of Oxford and 8 miles west of Abingdon. Adult population is approximately 500, comprising some 230 households.

The village, which dates back to the XIV Century, has one church, two pubs, a village hall, a primary school, a pre-school and several acres of allotment gardens. Post Office and shops are some three miles away, across the dual carriageway of the busy A420. Bus route 63 provides service between the village and both Oxford and Abingdon. Longworth has a long history as a centre of rose- growing. It is a flourishing community with many local clubs and organisations; the Longworth History Society has a wide reputation for its work in the research and documentation of the community's past. The village website www.longworthvillage.org.uk contains more detailed information.

The village has a socially mixed population, with housing to match, ranging from a 50-year-old estate of social houses (ex Vale Housing, almost all now privately-owned) to large 5 and six bedroomed homes and one Manor House. In recent years a small number of individual houses have been built on single sites. There are a number of larger potential sites, within the village boundary, some owned by residents, which have been recently attracting developers' attention.

A recent (2012) Housing Needs Survey conducted by ORCC in conjunction with the Parish Council and the Vale identified a need for nine affordable houses within the village.

The Primary School received an 'outstanding' mark at its 2010 Ofsted inspection. It is currently at capacity with 70 pupils. The pre-school (2 to 5 year olds) was built in 2008, largely by community subscription, in the grounds of the main school. Together, the two schools provide a seamless education to local children to age 11. The Parish Council and the village cherish this continuity.

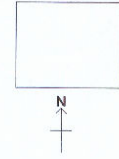
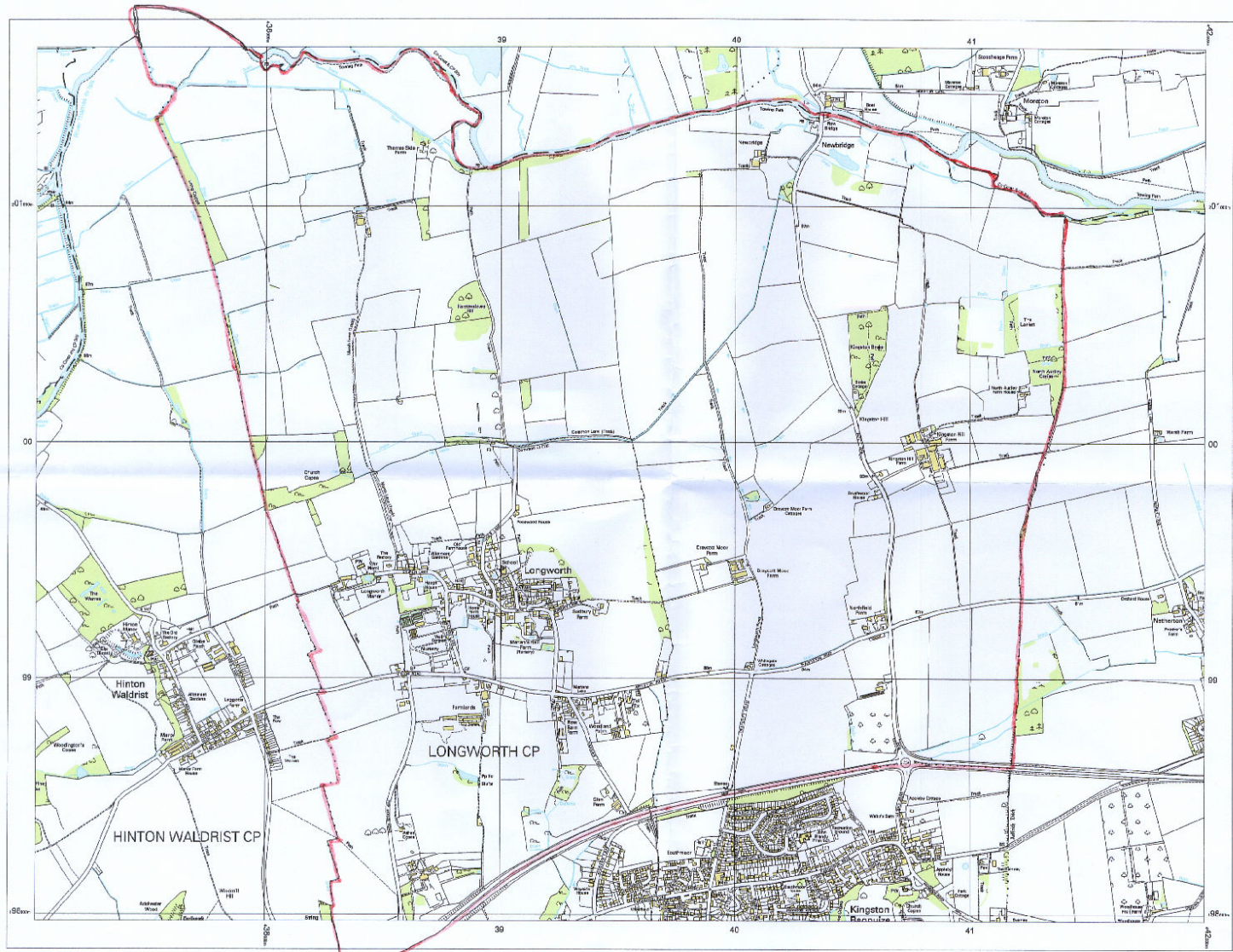
The village infrastructure is in need of improvement, especially if there is even a small population increase. Drainage is inadequate in many parts of the village, as is often indicated by overflow from manholes into roads; many lanes are too narrow to allow two vehicles to pass in safety and the bus service provider has lodged complaints on this count. Essential footpaths are poorly maintained by the OCC.

If there is to be pressure for more housing, there is a coming need to strike balance between small, individual sites and larger, estate-type housing in the village; and balance between affordable and market pricing. Balances that will maintain the character of the village and its sustainability. In addition, at capacity, the school will need some enlargement to accommodate the added pupils likely to be generated by additional housing.

Longworth is a self-contained and flourishing entity whose unique character merits being nourished and sustained in as many ways as are possible.

The map indicates in red the boundary of Longworth parish, which constitutes the area considered appropriate to be designated as a Neighbourhood Area and within which the Parish Council wishes to make policies and proposals.

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OS 1:10,000 Mapping
11 February 2010, 10"
BL/1000000000
www.blueljet.com/maps.co.uk

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Appendix 2: Summary of consultation responses

Organisation	Summary of response
English Heritage	No comment. General advice on the role of English Heritage in neighbourhood planning.
Environment Agency	No comment
Marine Management Organisation	No comment
Natural England	General advice on the role of Natural England in neighbourhood planning.
Network Rail	No comment
Standlake Parish Council	No comment
