

Application to designate a Neighbourhood Area

This application is made by Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council to
The Head of Planning & Countryside Planning and Countryside Services
West Berkshire Council
Market Street
Newbury
RG14 5LD

1. Parish Clerk details

Mrs J.E. Kirk (MILCM)
Parish Council Office
27 Victoria Road
Mortimer Common
Reading
RG7 3SH

the.clerk@stratfield-mortimer.gov.uk

2. Relevant body

I confirm that Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council is the relevant body to undertake neighbourhood planning in the area in accordance with section 61G of the 1990 Town and Country Planning Act and section 5C of the 2012 Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012.

3. Name of Neighbourhood Area

The neighbourhood area will formally be known as:
Stratfield Mortimer Parish

4. Extent of the Area

The area is exactly the same as the entire area of the Civil Parish of Stratfield Mortimer. A map showing the area, denoted by the blue Parish boundary, is attached (Stratfield Mortimer Parish.pdf).

6. Intention of Neighbourhood area

The sole intention is to develop a Neighbourhood Development Plan for the area. A Neighbourhood Plan will enable the Parish to guide future development and ensure that Mortimer remains an excellent place in which to live and work.

7. Statement

Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council is the suitable body under the Localism Act to lead the development of a Neighbourhood Plan and there is a strong desire in the community to

contribute to the future development of the parish. The reasons why this area should be considered to be appropriate for designation as a Neighbourhood Area are given below.

Stratfield Mortimer Parish is a rural parish in the south-east part of the West Berkshire Council district. In the West Berkshire Core Strategy (2006-2026) Mortimer is designated as a rural service centre in the East Kennet Valley and, along with Burghfield Common, will be the focus of development in this area. The Parish of Stratfield Mortimer currently has an electoral roll of 2990. Though much of the population and most businesses are concentrated in the south-west of the Parish, the farmed and wooded areas and commons are an integral part of the Parish and we therefore wish the designated area to be the whole Parish.

Stratfield Mortimer has excellent primary schools, thriving shops and local businesses, good transport links and a very wide range of community activities and involvement. The vision of the first Parish Plan, adopted in 2004 was:

“Stratfield Mortimer will conserve its rural heritage and retain its distinctive character. It will continue to have a thriving small business economy with a substantial commuter population. Changes and improvements that enhance the Quality of Life of the whole community are to be encouraged. Developments of whatever kind or scale will be in harmony with their setting and enrich the Parish”

This reinforced by the Parish Plan update in 2009:

“The views of the community expressed this time through public consultation and the questionnaires are very similar to those expressed five years ago. Stratfield Mortimer is essentially a rural parish and wants to retain its character and sense of community. Some new trends and ideas are also apparent. In line with the country as a whole, green issues are now to the forefront of more people’s minds and most excitingly, community involvement has come to take even greater precedence.”

Stratfield Mortimer has also had a Village Design Statement since 2007, produced as a result of the Parish Plan.

From the above it will be seen that Stratfield Mortimer is a forward looking community that engages with its residents to provide ongoing developments that meet the ethos of a modern rural community. It is therefore considered appropriate and desirable to take the opportunity presented by the new Neighbourhood Plans to fully engage with the people of Stratfield Mortimer in developing a way forward for the Parish.

With the above in mind the ideas behind developing a Neighbourhood Plan were outlined in the February 2013 issue of the Parish Council Newsletter, delivered to every dwelling and business within the Parish (copy attached). A presentation of the concept and stages of developing a Neighbourhood Plan was then given at the Annual Parish meeting, attended by about 100 parishioners in April 2013 (copies of the presentation and of the minutes are attached). The view of the Annual Parish Meeting was unanimous support for development of a Neighbourhood Plan, reflecting the strong community involvement of the last ten years

The meeting and the presentation were subsequently reported to the whole Parish in the June 2013 issue of the Newsletter.

8. Declaration

I hereby apply to designate a neighbourhood area as described in this document and the accompanying plan.

Name: Mrs Jayne Kirk (Clerk, Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council) Date 02.09.2013:

Attachments:

Map of area – Stratfield Mortimer Parish

SMPC Newsletter February 2013 (has article on Neighbourhood Plans)

Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting April 2013

Neighbourhood Plan presentation given at the Annual Parish Meeting