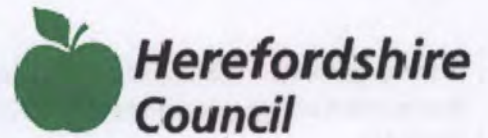
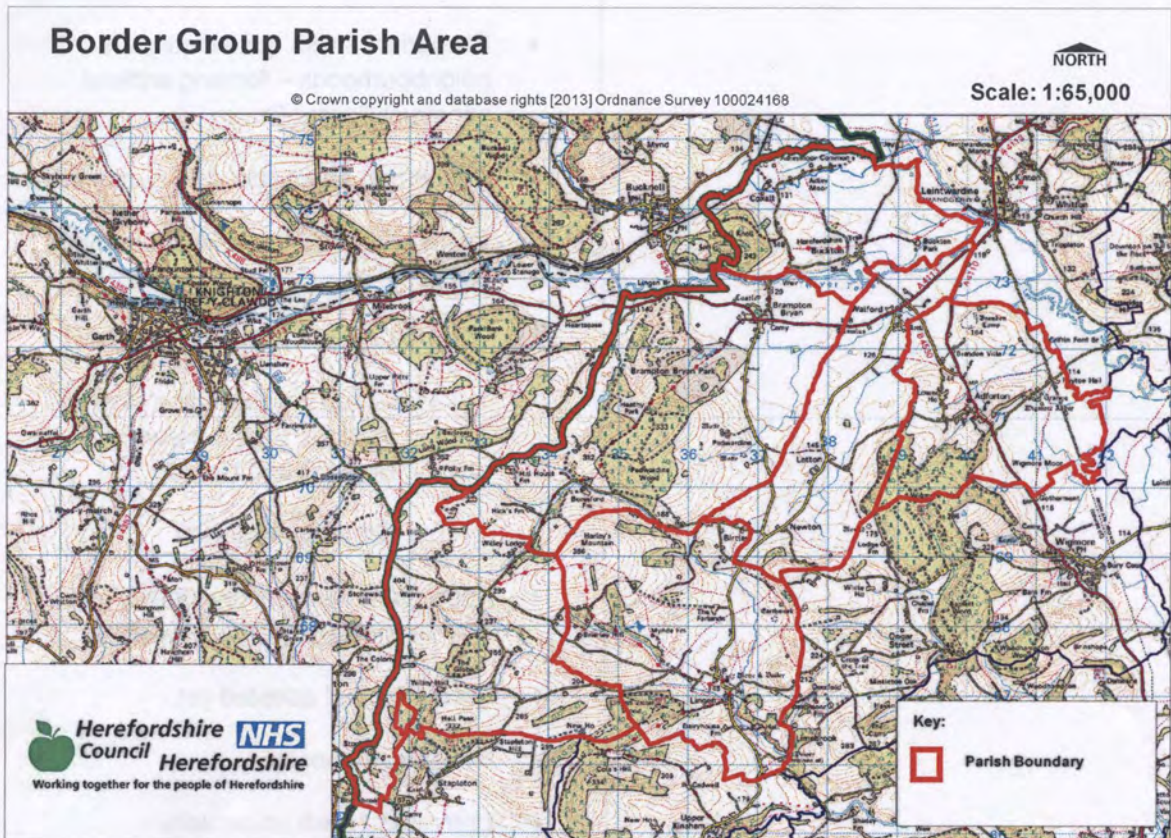


Neighbourhood Area Decision Document



Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012

Name of neighbourhood area	Border Group Neighbourhood Area
Parish Council	Border Group Parish Council
Consultation period	05/06/13 – 17/07/13



Determination

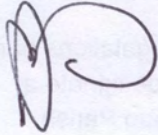
Is the organisation making the area application the relevant body under section 61G (2) of the 1990 Act	Yes	
Is the neighbourhood area considered appropriate? (Section 61G (4))	Yes	
Does the area overlap another designated area? (Section 61G (7))		No
For joint area application, are all relevant bodies included? (Section 61G (2))	n/a	
Were any comments received during the consultation period?	Yes	
Summary of comments received	<p>3 local residents submitted comments. These are contained in full within the appendix but summarised as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Should not be one neighbourhood area • Six parishes with quite distinctive neighbourhoods – forming artificial construct Border Group • Concerned about little community buy in • There should be three neighbourhood plans; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Group 1 - Lingen, Willey ○ Group 2 – Brampton Bryan, Walford, Letton, Newton, Buckton and Coxall ○ Group 3 - Adforton • Application has very few details as to why villages are grouped together • Local Plan not adopted yet • Not enough money • Untrained parish councillors • Border Group Parish Council should wait until adequate funds, open-minded working group and engaged with 	

	electorate.	
Response to comments received	<p>The application is regarding the designation of the neighbourhood area only rather than the content of the plan or the ability of a parish to undertake a plan.</p> <p>The Neighbourhood Planning Regulations permit any 'qualifying body' to apply to designate a neighbourhood area. Border Group Parish Council is a responsible body for the purposes of neighbourhood planning.</p> <p>Local Planning Authority in determining applications has to consider the desirability of designating the whole of the area of a parish council as a neighbourhood area. In Herefordshire encouragement is given for all Parishes and Group Parishes to designate the whole of their parish area. This ensures that all parishes are covered and each parish council only produces one neighbourhood plan. This will reducing the need for number plans being undertaken by one parish council leading to greater costs.</p> <p>Neighbourhood Plans can be tailored to fit the circumstances of the area. For example could be written in chapters to reflect different groups of parishes or villages within a single parish council area.</p> <p>Neighbourhood Plans will support the delivery of Core Strategy policies locally and therefore encouragement is been given to parish councils to begin the initial work on their neighbourhood plans prior to the adoption of the Core Strategy. This will ensure that there is not a unnecessary delay between the adoption of the Core Strategy and the individual neighbourhood plans.</p> <p>For these reason it is consider that the application to designate a neighbourhood area for the whole area covered by the Border Group Parish Council is appropriate.</p>	
Ward member comments	None specifically made	
Are any modifications required to this or any adjoining neighbourhood area? (Section 61G (6))		No

Decision under Regulation 7 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012.

The application for the designation of the Border Group Neighbourhood Area is

Approved



Andrew Ashcroft

Assistant Director of Economy, Environment and Cultural Services

Date: 18th July 2013

None specifically made	Word member comments
110	Are any modifications required to this or any existing neighbourhood areas? (Section 6(1)(b))

Appendix 1

Full comments to the Border Group Neighbourhood Area Application made within the consultation period (05/06/13 – 17/07/13)

1) Local Resident – received by email and e-comment form

I'd like to comment on the application for designation of a neighbourhood plan area by Border Group Parish Council, referred to on your website.

Border Group Parish Council, consisting of six parishes, has applied to have its entire area considered as a single neighbourhood.

There are three main villages which are quite distinct neighbourhoods, each with their hinterlands.

The importance of these three distinct neighbourhoods is acknowledged -and has long been accepted - by Border Group in its own practise, eg the annual parish meetings.

These annual meetings, which explicitly recognise genuine communities are for Lingen and its associated parish of Willey; for Brampton Bryan and its associated parishes of Walford, Letton & Newton, and Bucton & Coxall; and for Adforton.

If the purpose of neighbourhood planning is to reflect the real desires of neighbourhoods then an artificial construct - Border Group, simply a union of parishes to reach an appropriate population to sustain a council - isn't the appropriate measure.

The three distinct neighbourhoods have quite different circumstances - two are served by public transport, one is not; one is largely leasehold, the other two are freehold, and so on.... and enjoy quite separate social lives, village halls, community groups, and so on. I'm aware of just two organisations - (perhaps) Brampton Bryan WI and (perhaps) Lingen Gardening Club - that recruits from the entire Border Group area, and several dozen that are firmly centred on their respective village and its hinterland.

I hope, therefore, that Herefordshire will use its discretion to encourage Border Group not to hurry into an unhappy arrangement which could result in a plan with very little neighbourhood buy-in. The danger, at its worst, is that instead of getting what that neighbourhood regards as an acceptable plan, it instead gets what the other two neighbourhoods regard as acceptable for it. That surely cannot be the point of neighbourhood planning.

Instead, separate neighbourhoods should be designated for the three villages and their hinterland parishes as already used for parish meeting purposes:

Group 1: Lingen, Willey

Group 2: Brampton Bryan, Walford Letton Newton, Bucton and Coxall

Group 3: Adforton

2) Local Resident – received by e-comment form on

It has been brought to my attention that the Border Group of parishes have submitted an application for a single Neighbourhood Plan to cover all the villages in the group.

The application gives very few details and seems to be sketchy at best as to the motivation and reasoning to lump all the villages together, which actually makes it difficult to comment on, so my first point is that I am concerned that this may not have had the consideration or discussion required that such a decision requires.

Secondly anyone familiar with the area would be aware that the villages are spread out and there is relatively little day-to-day interaction between each of the administrative groups of villages. Residents of one village will not know what is best for people in another village, let alone care. The way the Border Group functions at the moment is adequate, with the main groups of villages represented by people familiar with those villages, and more importantly an interest in the future and sustainability of those villages. The neighbourhood plan for this area should in fact be 3 Neighbourhood plans

- 1: Lingen, Willey
- 2: Brampton Bryan, Walford Letton Newton, Bucton and Coxall
- 3: Adforton

There is no real reason not to do this.

3) Local Resident – received by e-comment form on

Local Plan not yet adopted. Not enough money in place. Untrained parish councillors. Residents not properly consulted and so do not understand the implications. Other NDPs in other parishes have been shown to be toothless and some have been ignored. Localism is not being taken seriously and this effort will be a divisive waste of time and money. The Growth and Infrastructure Bill may render the whole thing pointless if developers can apply directly to a minister and invoke the NPPF which trumps all local plans.

This is not the time. BGPC should wait until it has; adequate funds; a knowledgeable open-minded working group with the maturity to handle such a complex matter; conducted proper educative discussions with a completely disengaged electorate and until it has altered its make up to truly reflect the demography of the parish.