

Redesignation of High Lane Village Neighbourhood Forum

Report of the Deputy Chief Executive

1. Background

- 1.1 High Lane Village Neighbourhood Forum (“HLVNF”, “the Forum”) was formally designated on 14th September 2017 as the ‘relevant body’ to act in relation to the neighbourhood area of High Lane Village. In that capacity, the Forum prepared and submitted the High Lane Village Neighbourhood Plan.
- 1.2 Following the referendum on 16th September 2021, the High Lane Village Neighbourhood Plan was adopted as part of the Development Plan for Stockport for applications within the High Lane designated area.
- 1.3 For as long as it is the designated body, the Forum continues to act in relation to the plan, for example for any review of the Plan, and as a consultee body for applications in the area.
- 1.4 In accordance with the Town & Country Planning Act 1990, a designation for the relevant body ceases to have effect after 5 years. This does not affect an adopted Neighbourhood Plan or the designated area to which the Neighbourhood Plan applies. A body may apply to be redesignated. The current designation of HLVNF therefore lasts until the end of 13th September 2022.
- 1.5 The designation or redesignation of a relevant body is governed by the Town & Country Planning Act 1990 (“the Act”), as amended by the Localism Act 2011, and the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (the “Regulations”).

2. Application and Consultation

- 2.1 The Forum has applied to be redesignated and has provided information in accordance with regulation 8 of the Regulations.
- 2.2 The application is generally considered to be a routine requirement to renew the designation of the Forum. It remains an important process, among others, to ensure the ongoing suitability of a body to act in relation to a neighbourhood plan.
- 2.3 The council must publicise the application and invite representations by way of consultation. The dates for consultation are 25th May to 10th July 2022.
- 2.4 The consultation will be advertised in the local press and those on the council’s development plan consultation database will be notified. The information will be available in three local libraries (High Lane, Marple and Hazel Grove) and at Fred Perry House. In addition, it will be published on the council’s website.
- 2.5 The legislation lays out that the council must consider the application. The council may approve the application if it is satisfied that the Forum meets conditions set out in the Act (section 61F).

2.6 The council may decline to consider any application for designation while a designation is in effect for that area. This is not a requirement and, for the purposes of continuity, it is preferable to consider an application for redesignation prior to the expiry of the designation. It is for this reason that the council has spoken with the forum to submit the application so that the decision can be made in advance of the expiration of the current designation.

2.7 The council's decision must be published as soon as possible, including a reason for refusal if appropriate.

3. **Consultation Responses**

3.1 The consultation will run in parallel to reports to Portfolio, CLT, Scrutiny and Cabinet, with interim updates provided verbally, and a final verbal summary reported to Full Council.

3.2 Although not formally required, a report for information purposes is being submitted to Marple Area Committee.

4. **Recommendations**

4.1 Marple Area Committee is invited to note the report.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

There are none

For further information, please contact Jonathan Mayo on 0161-474 4551 or by email on jonathan.mayo@stockport.gov.uk