

Introduction to the Neighbourhood Plan

What is the Neighbourhood Plan and why are we writing to you now?

The Localism Act 2011 introduced a new tier of neighbourhood planning which aims to give local communities a greater say in planning for the future of their area. Town and Parish Councils can choose to prepare a Neighbourhood Plan setting out policies which will steer decisions on planning applications and development. The Plan must conform to national planning policy and with the Local Development Plan for the area. The Solihull Local Development Plan is currently under review and the Parish Council feels that a review of our Neighbourhood Plan would be timely enabling the inclusion of the enlarged Neighbourhood Area.

The Parish Council has the legal authority to prepare and review a Neighbourhood Plan after full consultation with the community, submit it in a draft format to Solihull Council for it to undertake the required checks and examination, hold a referendum and, if successful, approve the plan. Once adopted the Plan will become part of the local planning framework with legal status. In April 2020 Solihull Council approved the Parish Council's application for the revised Neighbourhood Area on which the Plan will be based. The area now approved is the whole of the revised parish which includes that part of Catherine-de-Barnes previously excluded from the Plan.

Overall Objectives of the Neighbourhood Plan

Although it is possible for the Plan to identify sites that residents may wish to see developed for a particular purpose, whether housing or commercial, we have chosen not to do so at this stage. Local landowners and village organisations may however wish to come forward with proposals for particular sites and where they choose to do so the Parish Council will, through its consultative process, consider whether such inclusion would be helpful and whether the proposed development or designation is appropriate for site and circumstance, and whether it would contribute to and meet the sustainable development guidelines set out within the Local Development Plan.

We are hoping to identify the needs of the local community and build on the issues, objectives and policies covered in the current Plan and raised in the Parish Plan published in 2010. Challenges in the planning period to 2036 include those affecting many rural communities like ours - adequate public transport, local employment, the retention of vital shops and services, and the provision of affordable homes in a mix of development that does not destroy the unique character of the Parish and the best of village life. But we know that there are and will be continuing pressures on Hampton and Catherine-de-Barnes because of its location close to and surrounded by motorways, Birmingham Airport and HS2 and the Interchange Station. Pressure for commercial development, particularly along the 'M42 corridor', and on current Green Belt land north of the A45 around the Interchange Station, will require further vigilance and effort in order to ensure such development is both controlled and sensitive to local needs. Your Parish Council will continue to work closely with Solihull and HS2 planners to try and ensure best possible mitigation of effects on countryside, roads, and livelihoods.

The preparation of the new Neighbourhood Plan, therefore, forms a part of the consultation process on how you would want to see the Parish develop and which issues should underpin our activities and attention until 2036. Further consultations will include public meetings and a formal referendum on the final Plan across the Parish conducted by Solihull Council.

We have set out the context and character of the Parish and request that you complete the survey enclosed. This will help us create a more detailed plan that reflects the views of the community and how you would wish to see the Parish develop in a sustainable and managed way. Our overall aim is to safeguard the best aspects of life within a semi-rural setting whilst acknowledging that change and development pressures are inevitable but should be managed in a sensible and practical way that benefits the whole community.

An update of our activities regarding the Neighbourhood Plan is enclosed for your interest.

Hampton-in-Arden Parish Council

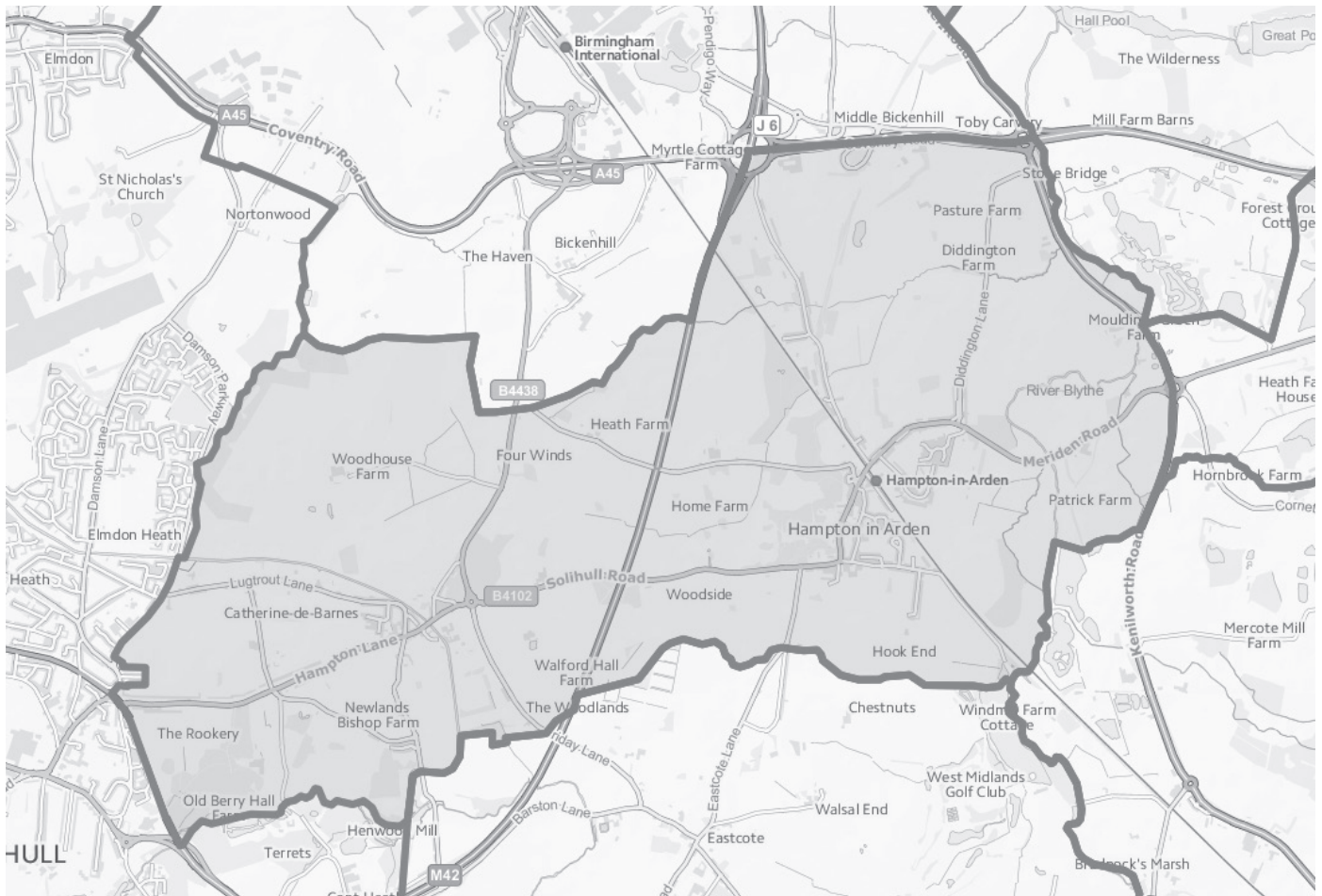
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Hampton-in-Arden Parish

The Parish forms part of the Solihull Bickenhill Ward and is broadly bounded by the A45 and A452 to the north and east, by a tributary of the River Blythe to the south and Hampton Coppice to the Damson Parkway to the west, but excludes the village of Bickenhill.

Hampton-in-Arden Parish derives its special character from its rural setting and its historic roots, central to which is the Parish Church sited on a hill-top and its collection of historic buildings many of which lie within the village Conservation Area. There are several farms within the Parish as well as industrial and commercial activities. The River Blythe runs through farmland on the Eastern edge of the village.

A small-scale map of the Neighbourhood Area is included with this introduction.



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Thank you for reading this and we ask that you complete the enclosed survey and return it to the Parish Council using the FREEPOST envelope provided as soon as possible.

Should you, at this stage, need further information or clarification of any of the issues raised please contact the Parish Office: -

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