



# Application for Designation of a Neighbourhood Area

Prepared by:-

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## Introduction

Cheswick Green Parish in the Metropolitan Borough of Solihull is within the Arden Landscape area south and east of the Birmingham conurbation. It is an overwhelmingly rural environment interspersed with isolated settlements of varying sizes.

The present Parish of Cheswick Green was formed in 2009 after the abolition of the former Hockley Heath Parish and as part of a Reorganisation Order. In 1974 The Boundary Commission transferred Hockley Heath Parish from Warwickshire into Solihull Metropolitan Borough.

Cheswick Green Parish includes the village of Cheswick Green, the hamlet of Illshaw Heath and ribbon development along the road network. The Parish has two churches, two primary schools, a doctor's surgery, a pharmacy, a post office, a bakery and several other shops. Also included are a number of farms, a golf course, three public houses, a management college, several businesses and Blythe Valley Business Park. A village hall managed by a Village Hall Management Committee, part of Cheswick Green Residents Association, offers many community facilities and activities.

Most of the population lives in the village of Cheswick Green, with the second highest concentration being in the hamlet of Illshaw Heath. The largest employment centre is Blythe Valley Business Park, which has a regional rather than a local role. Both Cheswick Green Village and Blythe Valley Business Park have bus services to Solihull Centre with connections to Shirley.

The area covered by the current Parish has a long and interesting history and among many other historical facts it boasts the remains of The Mount, an ancient fortification built in a clearing in the Forest of Arden. This is one of Solihull Borough's oldest settlements and historians are unsure whether it dates from Saxon or Roman times.

The 2011 census, as agreed with Solihull Observatory, shows the population of the Parish to be 2419 in 998 dwellings. The recently approved Solihull Local Plan proposes phased development of 800 dwellings to be constructed in the Parish by 2028 which could raise the population to around 4000.

## **Aims**

The recently approved Solihull Local Plan (SLP) proposes phased development that would almost double the present number of houses in the parish over the plan period.

Cheswick Green Parish Council has therefore resolved to initiate a Neighbourhood Development Plan, in accordance with the Localism Act 2011, for the whole parish.

The primary aims of the plan are to preserve the distinctive open character of the area and retain the green belt; to ensure that new development is properly integrated and addresses current issues as well as meeting the needs of both existing and future residents.

Issues will be identified and the plan prepared in consultation with residents and businesses within the parish, adjacent Parish Councils, and with Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council (SMBC) as the local planning authority.

## **Objectives**

The Neighbourhood Area, subject to approval by SMBC, will be the area covered by Cheswick Green Parish as shown in the attached map.

The policy areas to be considered in a Neighbourhood Plan would be in five main categories: Infrastructure, Housing, Environment, Safer Communities and Economy. The areas to be considered in each category will be:

### **Infrastructure**

Connectivity, health facilities, education provision, community facilities/recreation, retail/commercial outlets, public transport

### **Housing**

Type, density and appearance of dwellings, affordable housing, senior living

### **Environment**

Flood prevention, protection of green belt, sustainable development, protection of site of special scientific interest, protection of natural environment, significant trees and hedges

### **Safer Communities**

Neighbourhood watch, farm watch, canal watch

### **Economy**

Enabling appropriate sustainable business development, safe sustainable access to employment

The Neighbourhood Plan will cover the period 2014 to 2028 in line with the SLP. A review of the Neighbourhood Plan may take place within this period if circumstances require it.

### **Consultation, Community Involvement and Management of the Process**

The development of a Cheswick Green Neighbourhood Plan was first proposed by the Parish Council who will play a significant role in the process. The production of a plan will be developed through a two tier structure led by a Steering Group with sub groups looking at specific areas of the plan. The number and composition of sub groups will reflect the expertise and local knowledge of as many community groups and local stakeholders as possible.

### **Funding**

The Parish Council has allocated funds to initiate the preparation of a plan. When the Neighbourhood Area is approved by SMBC the Parish Council will be able to apply for a grant from the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) delivered via Locality. Additionally, direct funding to pay for professional support is also available separately from DCLG.

SMBC will also receive funding from DCLG to cover officer time and administrative costs.

## **Application**

This application for the designation of Cheswick Green Parish as a Neighbourhood Area includes:

1. A map defining the area of the application (see attachment).
2. A statement explaining why this area is considered appropriate to be designated as a Neighbourhood Area (see 2 below).
3. A statement that the body making the area application is a relevant body for the purposes of 61G of the 1990 Town and Country Planning Act (see 3 below).

### **2. Statement to be designated as a Neighbourhood Area**

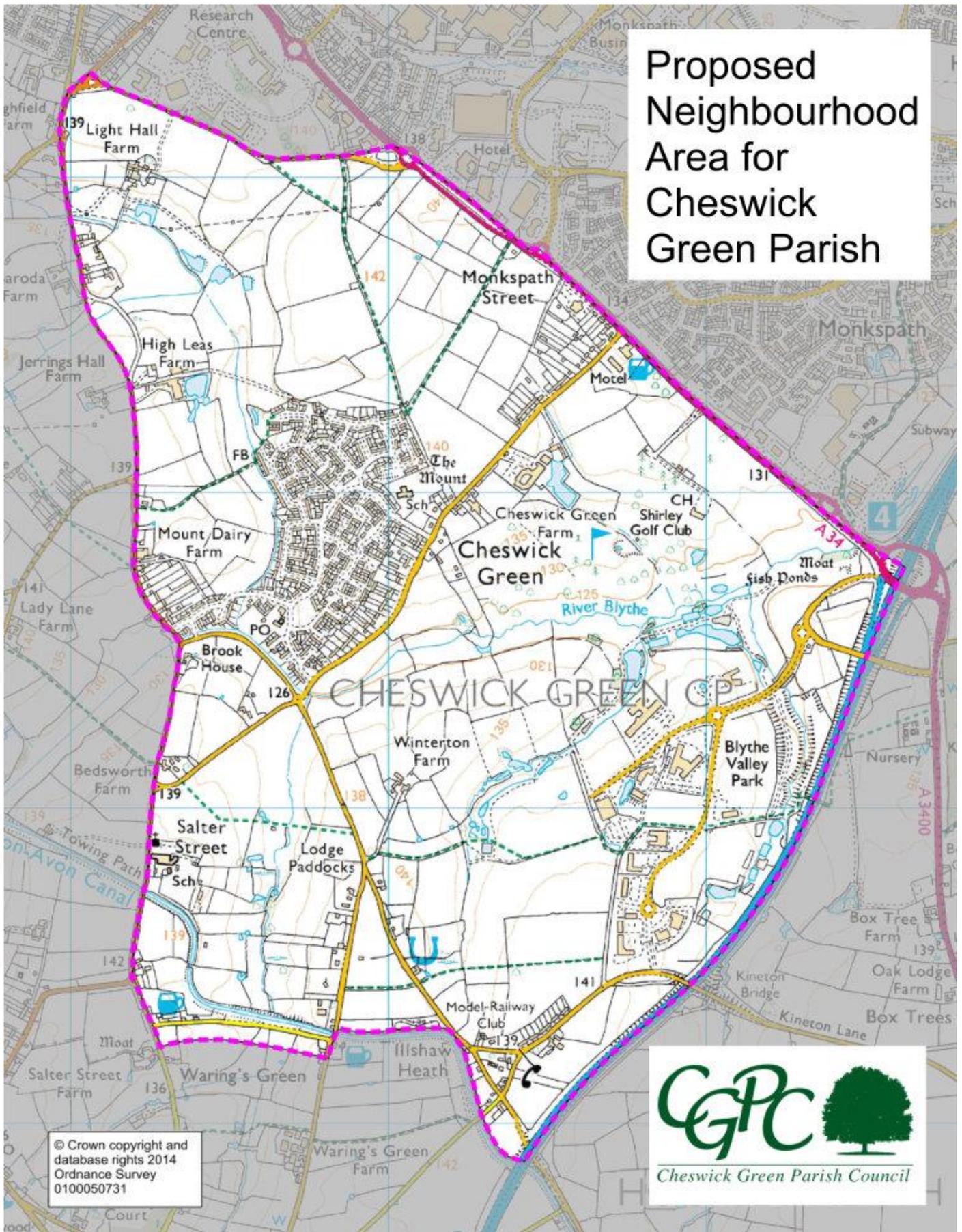
The parish of Cheswick Green is considered appropriate to be designated as a Neighbourhood Area for the following reasons:

- i) The Cheswick Green Neighbourhood Plan is being developed to help deliver the local community's ambitions for the plan period 2014 to 2028.
- ii) The Plan will provide a vehicle to guide, promote and enable balanced and sustainable change and growth within the designated area.
- iii) The designated area includes the whole of the civil parish of Cheswick Green.

### **3. Statement that the body making this application is a relevant body.**

In accordance with section 61G of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, the body making the application to designate Cheswick Green as a Neighbourhood Area is Cheswick Green Parish Council, a parish council established in pursuance of the Local Government Act 1972.

# Proposed Neighbourhood Area for Cheswick Green Parish



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