

Application for the designation of the Semilong & Trinity Neighbourhood Area

Introduction

Since April 2012 (under the Localism Act) local communities have been able to produce a Neighbourhood Plan for their local area, putting into place planning policies for the future developments and growth for the neighbourhood.

This application is for the designation of the Neighbourhood Area and is the first formal stage of creating a Neighbourhood Plan for the communities within the Semilong & Trinity area. The designation of the Neighbourhood Area is important in allowing work to formally start on the Neighbourhood Plan.

This application has been prepared by local residents and the elected Members of Semilong and Trinity Wards with the support of the officers at Northampton Borough Council.

In accordance with the *Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012* this application contains:

- A map of the proposed Neighbourhood Area (see appendix 1)
- A Statement explaining why this area is considered appropriate to be designated as a neighbourhood area
- A statement that this group meets the requirements as a relevant body in accordance with section 61G of the 1990 Town and Country Planning Act
- The contact details for the Secretary of the Semilong & Trinity Neighbourhood Forum.

Neighbourhood Area

The proposed Neighbourhood Area (Appendix 1) encompasses part of Semilong Ward and part of Trinity Ward and includes the Northampton Racecourse. It also includes the Barrack Road Conservation Area, some diverse and distinctive residential areas, green spaces, a wildlife area, light industrial and commercial units, places of worship for several faiths and educational establishments.

We believe that the area is appropriate for designation for the following reasons

- The growth and development of two Academy Schools, namely the Malcolm Arnold Academy and Primary School on Trinity Avenue and the Northampton International Academy on Barrack Road, and the expansion of Fairfields School on Trinity Avenue and Bosworth Independent College on St George's Avenue, means that in the next few years there will be upwards of 4,500 children and young people going to and from the schools and college in the area. The safety of these pupils and students walking or cycling, and the management of traffic is a priority.

- The development of the University site on St George's Avenue will provide 200 dwellings, resulting in more people and families in the area. The loss of family homes to houses of multiple occupation (HiMOs), particularly in Semilong, can contribute to a loss of community spirit due to the transient nature of many of these residents. Additional homes are needed for the families of future students of the International Academy on Barrack Road, to reduce travelling and its impact on the environment.
- Preservation and enhancement of the important buildings, heritage and environment within the Barrack Road Conservation Area.
- The protection of the green spaces and the St George's Wildlife Conservation Area.

With the prospect of several factors affecting the neighbourhood in the next few years the formation of a Neighbourhood Plan was seen as a way for local residents to have a say in how these developments and changes would be managed, for the benefit of current and future citizens.

The Neighbourhood Forum

The proposed Neighbourhood Area does not contain any land covered by a parish council and therefore a Neighbourhood Forum will need to be designated. The Localism Act allows for groups capable of becoming a Neighbourhood Forum to make this application. We believe that the Semilong & Trinity Neighbourhood Area forms a suitable basis for setting up a Neighbourhood Forum to take forward the development of a Neighbourhood Plan. The forum is comprised of no less than 21 members drawn from all Community Partnership members (which includes local residents and businesses), both elected NBC Members and Advisory Group co-optees. The Forum has a written constitution and believes that the group meets the requirements as a relevant body in accordance with section 61G of the 1990 Town and Country Planning Act.

The contact for this application is:

Debby De Haes (Secretary)
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