

MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL

RECORD OF DECISION OF THE HEAD OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Decision made: 01 August 2017

Otham Neighbourhood Area Application

Issue for Decision

To consider the designation of Otham parish as a neighbourhood area for the purpose of preparing a neighbourhood plan.

Decision Made

The neighbourhood area application submitted by Otham Parish Council to Maidstone Borough Council on 9 May 2017 is **approved**.

Reasons for Decision

Consultation

Consultation commenced on Friday 16 June 2017 and ended at 5pm on Friday 28 July 2017. The consultation was advertised as follows:

1. A parish newsletter was distributed to all households in the parish at the start of the consultation period, and the details were displayed on parish boards;
2. The neighbourhood area application (including a map) was posted on Maidstone Borough Council's website;
3. A public notice was placed in the Kent Messenger on Thursday 15 June 2017;
4. The Kent Messenger published an article on Thursday 22 June 2017; and
5. An email notification was forwarded to Councillors and Parish Councillors for Otham and adjacent wards/parishes.

Representations Received During Consultation

No representations were received during consultation on the application.

Considerations

1. Is Otham Parish Council a 'relevant body' as defined in section 61G(2) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (inserted by paragraph 2 of Schedule 9 to the Localism Act 2011)?

YES – Otham Parish Council is defined as a relevant body and is authorised to act in relation to the designation of a neighbourhood area.

2. Does the proposed neighbourhood area follow existing, established administrative or planning boundaries?

YES – the proposed plan area follows the existing parish boundary (plan attached).

3. Does the proposed neighbourhood area exclude areas which would be more appropriate to include?

NO – the proposed plan area follows the existing parish boundary (plan attached).

4. Does the proposed neighbourhood area overlap with another approved neighbourhood area (this is not permitted)?

NO.

Alternatives considered and why rejected

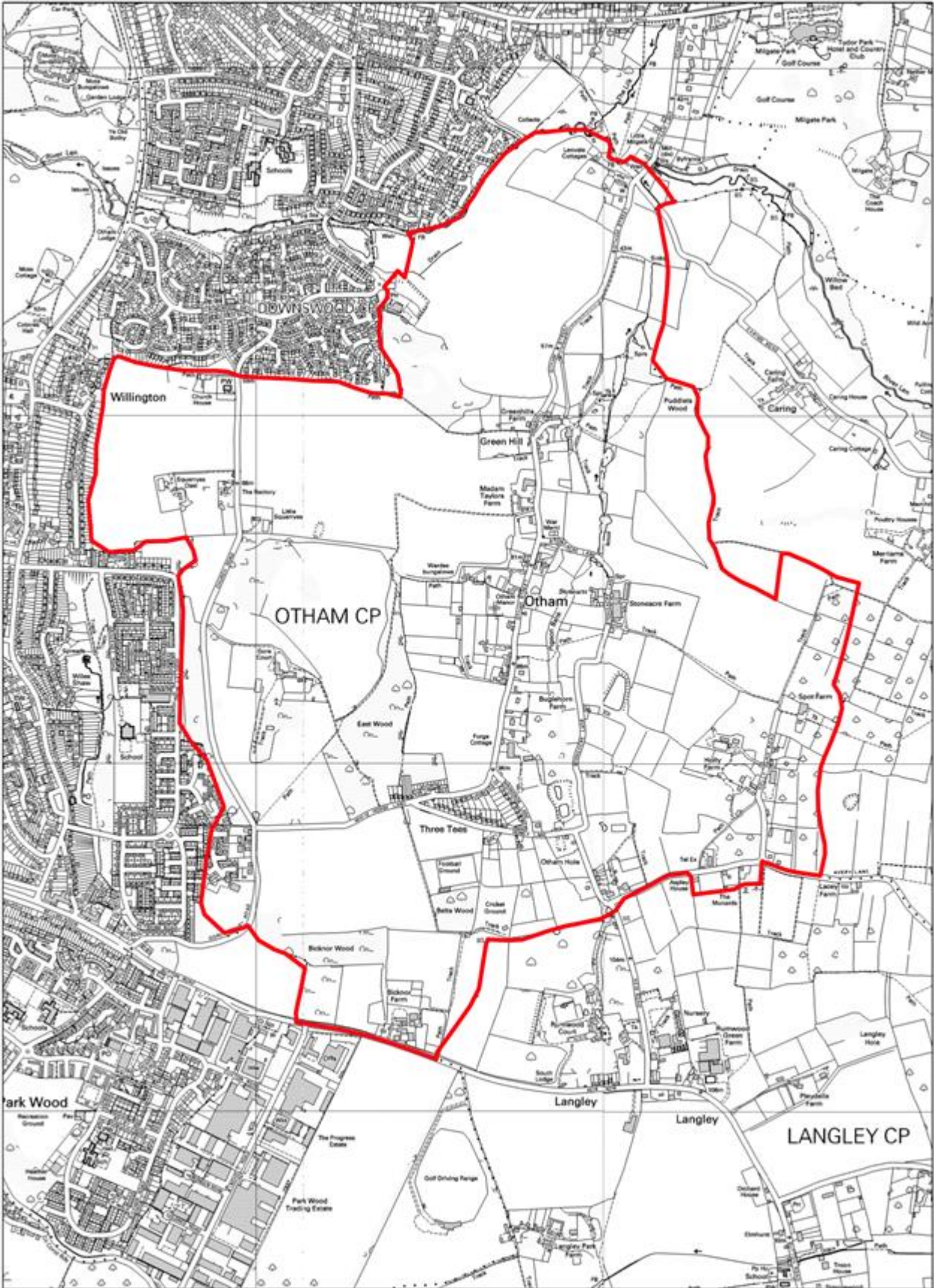
The decision to approve the Otham neighbourhood area has been made for the reasons stated above. The alternative is to reject the application, but the Council is satisfied that due process has been followed in accordance with the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended). The Otham neighbourhood area application meets the criteria for the designation of a neighbourhood area, and no objections were received during consultation on the application.

Background Papers

None



Signature: _____
Rob Jarman, Head of Planning and Development



OTHAM PARISH



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