

## **MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL**

### **RECORD OF DECISION OF THE HEAD OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT**

**Decision made: 20 June 2018**

#### **Application for re-designation of North Loose Residents' Association as a Neighbourhood Forum**

##### **Issue for Decision**

To consider the re-designation of North Loose Residents' Association (NLRA) as a neighbourhood forum for the purpose of preparing a neighbourhood plan.

##### **Decision Made**

That the application submitted to Maidstone Borough Council on 11 April 2018 by the NLRA is **approved**.

##### **Reasons for Decision**

The designation of a neighbourhood forum expires after five years from the date on which it is designated. The NLRA was originally designated a neighbourhood forum in 2003, and the Association has submitted an application for a continuation of the designation. The application does not propose any changes to the North Loose Neighbourhood Area, which was designated on 18 December 2012. The North Loose Neighbourhood Plan was made on 14 April 2016, and the NLRA remains active in implementing the plan.

##### **Consultation**

Consultation commenced on Friday 27 April 2018 and ended at 5pm on Tuesday 12 June 2018 (taking account of bank holidays). The consultation was advertised as follows:

1. A leaflet was distributed to all households in the neighbourhood area, details were displayed on two notice boards and in various shop windows, and information was available at two public events on Saturday 12th May and Saturday 19th May 2018;
2. The neighbourhood area application (including a map of the neighbourhood area and the Association's constitution) was posted on Maidstone Borough Council's website;
3. A public notice was placed in the Kent Messenger on Thursday 26 April 2018; and

4. An email notification was forwarded to local ward Councillors and to ward Councillors/parish councils in areas adjacent to the North Loose Neighbourhood Area.

### Representations Received During Consultation

The Council received 42 representations during consultation, unanimously supporting the application.

### Considerations

1. Is the NLRA a 'relevant body' as defined in section 61F(5) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (inserted by paragraph 2 of Schedule 9 to the Localism Act 2011)?

YES – The NLRA is defined as a relevant body and is authorised to act in relation to a designated neighbourhood area.

2. Did the neighbourhood forum application include:

- a) The name of the proposed neighbourhood forum;
- b) A copy of the written constitution of the proposed neighbourhood forum;
- c) The name of the neighbourhood area to which the application relates and a map which identifies the area;
- d) The contact details of at least one member of the proposed neighbourhood forum, to be made public; and
- e) A statement which explains how the proposed neighbourhood forum meets the conditions contained in section 61F(5) of the 1990 Act?

YES – All requirements have been met.

3. Did the consultation information include a statement that, if a designation is made, no other organisation or body may be designated for the North Loose Neighbourhood Area until the designation expires or is withdrawn?

YES - A statement was included as part of the consultation material and the Kent Messenger public notice.

### **Alternatives considered and why rejected**

The decision to approve the re-designation of the NLRA as a neighbourhood forum 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 NLRA application meets the criteria for the designation of a neighbourhood forum, and no objections were received during consultation on the application.

**Background Papers**

None

Signature: R. LL. Jarman  
Rob Jarman, Head of Planning and Development

