

23rd May 2014



Mr Barry Wyatt
Strategic Head of Development Services
Planning Policy Team
Stroud District Council
Ebley Mill
Stroud
GL5 4UB

STROUD DISTRICT COUNCIL
RECEIVED

27 MAY 2014

Dear Mr Wyatt

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

Application for Designation of a Neighbourhood Area for Stroud Town Parish

Stroud Town Council, being a 'relevant body' as required by legislation under Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations, formally applies for part of the Parish to be designated as a Neighbourhood Area, with the purpose of preparing a Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) and/or Neighbourhood Development Order. A resolution to make this application was passed by Stroud Town Council on 19th May 2014.

We confirm that as a Town Council, accountable to the community that it serves, Stroud Town Council is a relevant body for the purposes of section 61G of the 1990 Town and Country Planning Act (inserted by paragraph 2 of Schedule 9 to the Localism Act 2011).

The Neighbourhood Area defined by the Town Council is the area outlined on the attached map. We consider the area defined by the outline in black to be an appropriate area for designation as a Neighbourhood Area for the following reasons:

1. The Neighbourhood Area defined on the map is wholly within the parish of Stroud Town Council, and is the focus for all the communities within the six wards of the parish. To prepare a Neighbourhood Plan for the Town Centre and the Cheapside area will give it direct influence over the future development of this critical part of the town. In recognition of the role that the town centre plays in the lives of all who live and work in the STC area, the whole of the community should be involved in the preparation process and allowed to vote in the referendum following independent examination.



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2. The Cheapside area was the subject of a specially commissioned Cheapside Neighbourhood Opportunities Report in November 2013 which suggested the essential elements of both a spatial framework for the whole area, and a development brief for the Cheapside site. It was designed to be used by the Town Council as a starting point for engagement with policy makers, land-owners and the wider community. It identified the importance of its relationship to, and connections with, the adjacent town centre.
3. This report has formed the basis of public discussions that identified its potential contribution to a Neighbourhood Plan. The consultations demonstrated an appetite within the community to shape growth and development in the parish, and issues raised by this Neighbourhood Opportunities Report will be used and developed in the Neighbourhood Development Plan.
4. Stroud Town Council works actively to involve residents and stakeholders from all parts of the Parish. Through its strategy of communicating directly to all households in the Stroud parish several times each year, it has already regularly undertaken extensive community consultation and encourages the residents to record which issues are the most important to them.

We envisage that the NDP will address environmental, social and economic issues such as employment opportunities, housing needs, infrastructure requirements, utility services and recreation facilities in order to meet the future needs of the community. The design and character of development and its relationship with landscape character and setting will also feature in the NDP.

We understand that Stroud District Council will contact us immediately with any queries about this application and that the application will be advertised by Stroud District Council for 6 weeks prior to the approval decision. Please address any communications to me, with a copy to Councillor Steve Hurrell at the same address.

Yours sincerely



Sue Capener
Town Clerk