

**Beccles Neighbourhood Plan  
Designating Beccles as a Neighbourhood Area**  
Report by Planning Policy Officer

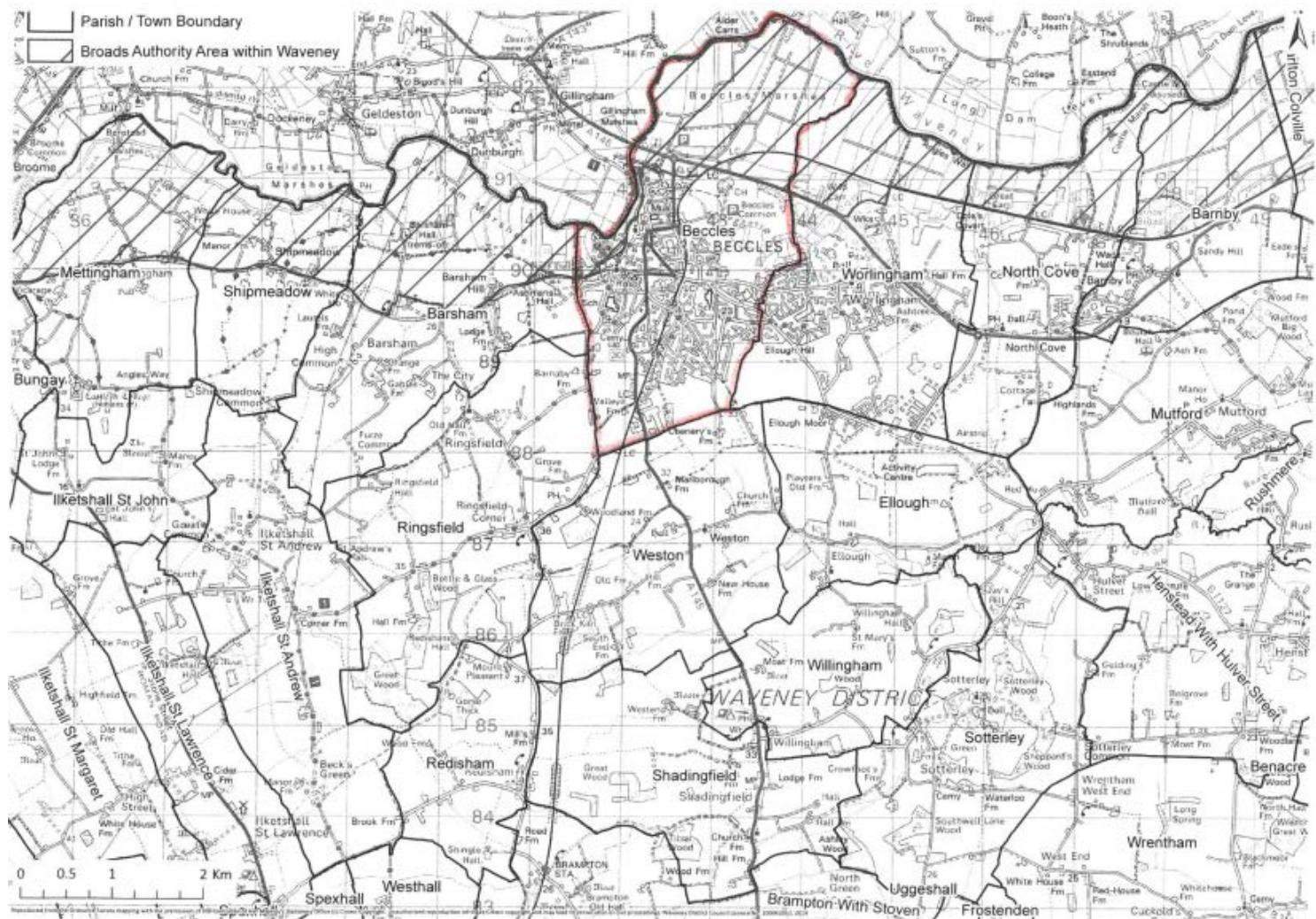
<b>Summary:</b>	The report briefly introduces the Beccles Neighbourhood Plan.
<b>Recommendation:</b>	That the Planning Committee agrees to Beccles becoming a Neighbourhood Area in order to produce a Neighbourhood Plan.

## **1 Neighbourhood Planning**

- 1.1 Neighbourhood planning was introduced through the Localism Act 2011. Neighbourhood Planning legislation came into effect in April 2012 and gives communities the power to agree a Neighbourhood Development Plan, make a Neighbourhood Development Order and make a Community Right to Build Order.
- 1.2 A Neighbourhood Development Plan can establish general planning policies for the development and use of land in a neighbourhood, for example:
  - where new homes and offices should be built
  - what they should look like
- 1.3 Under the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012, parish or town councils within the Broads Authority's Executive area undertaking Neighbourhood Plans are required to apply to the Broads Authority and the relevant District Council to designate the Neighbourhood Area that their proposed plan will cover.
- 1.4 Whilst the requirement to consult on a Neighbourhood Plan Area was removed from the Neighbourhood Plan process, The Beccles Neighbourhood Plan area has been consulted on. The Planning Committee previously approved a Neighbourhood Plan Area covering Beccles, Barsham, Shipmeadow, Ringsfield, Weston, Shadingfield, Sotterley, Willingham and Ellough. These Parishes have now agreed to go their separate ways and now Shadingfield, Sotterley, Willingham and Ellough are preparing their own Neighbourhood Plan, and so are Beccles. Shadingfield, Sotterley, Willingham and Ellough are outside the Broads executive area, so the process of developing their Neighbourhood Plan will not involve the Broads Authority.

## 2 Beccles Neighbourhood Area

2.1 Beccles Town Council has submitted the application for their entire Parish. Source: Waveney District council.



### 3 Comments received

- 3.1 Two statutory consultees have responded to the application and their comments are summarized as follows:
- **Historic England:** no objection. Some background advice provided on heritage matters and neighbourhood planning.
  - **Natural England:** no objection. Background advice for neighbourhood planning provided.
- 3.2 **Gladman Developments Ltd** made representations and stated they wished to participate in the Neighbourhood Plan's preparation. They provided comments on legislation; high court judgements; national and local planning policy; and Strategic Environmental Assessment and Sustainability Appraisal.

### 4 Links of relevance:

- 4.1 The Broads Authority Neighbourhood Planning webpage:  
<http://www.broads-authority.gov.uk/planning/future-planning-and-policies/neighbourhood-planning.html>
- 4.2 Waveney Council's Neighbourhood Planning webpage:  
<http://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/planning/neighbourhood-planning/>
- 4.3 Some guidance/information on Neighbourhood Planning:  
<http://www.rtpi.org.uk/planning-aid/neighbourhood-planning/>

### 5 Financial Implications

- 5.1 Occasional Officer time in supporting the process (as required by regulations).
- 5.2 There will be no cost to the Broads Authority for the referendum at the end of the process as Waveney District Council have agreed to take on this task and cost.

### 6 Conclusion and recommendation

- 6.1 It is recommended that the Planning Committee agrees to Beccles becoming a Neighbourhood Area in order to produce a Neighbourhood Plan.

Background papers:	None
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Appendices:	None