

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

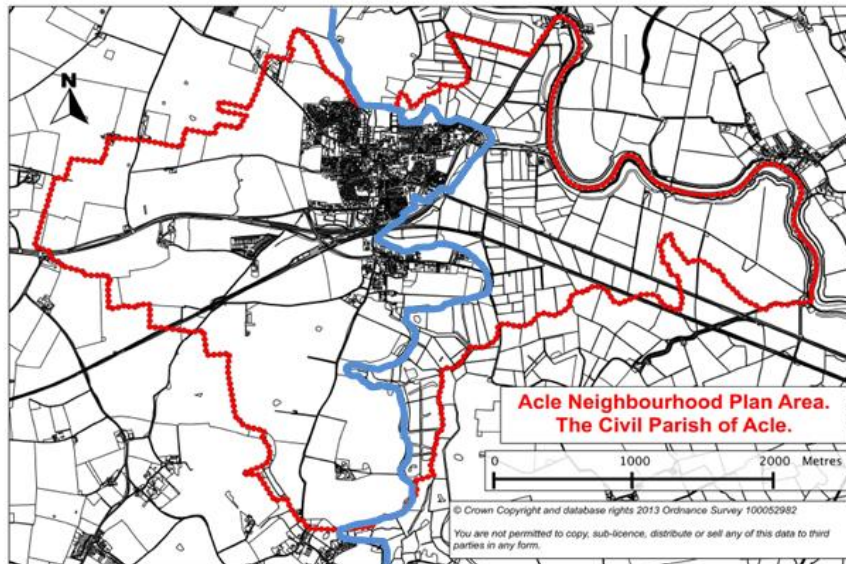
<b>Summary:</b>	The report briefly summarises the comments received during the 6 week consultation period on Acle becoming a Neighbourhood Area in order to produce a Neighbourhood Plan.
<b>Recommendation:</b>	That the Planning Committee notes the comments received and agree to designate Acle as a Neighbourhood Area.

## **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 Once these nominations are received, there follows a six week period within which any member of the public may submit written comments to the Broads Authority and the relevant District Council regarding the proposed Neighbourhood Area, who will then consider the area, and the comments received, before approving or rejecting its designation. The designation of a Neighbourhood Area is therefore the first step in the process of preparing a Neighbourhood Plan.

## 2 Acle Neighbourhood Area

- 2.1 The following map shows the proposed Acle Neighbourhood Area. It covers the entire parish of Acle. The Broads Authority Executive Area has been added for reference (the Broads Executive Area is to the east of the blue line which is the boundary).



## 3 The Consultation and Responses Received

- 3.1 The consultation on the designation of Acle as a Neighbourhood Area was the subject of consultation for 6 weeks and ended on 31 May 2013. The lead for this Neighbourhood Plan is Broadland District Council however the Broads Authority has been involved and the consultation on the designation was undertaken jointly.
- 3.2 Comments were received from the following organisations. The table also shows a discussion on these comments and an assessment of the impact on designating Acle as a Neighbourhood Area.

Organisation	Summary of Comment	Discussion
Natural England	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reminder of the protected areas and designations in Acle Parish</li> <li>Signposting to Natural England standing advice to help understand the impact of particular developments on protected or Biodiversity Action Plan species should they be identified as an issue</li> <li>Neighbourhood plans and proposals may provide opportunities to enhance the</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The designations will be reflected in the introductory sections of the plan</li> <li>A Strategic Environmental Assessment will be undertaken as required by regulations</li> <li>A Habitats Regulation Assessment Scoping Report will be completed as required</li> </ul>

	<p>character and local distinctiveness of the surrounding natural and built environment, use natural resources more sustainably and bring benefits for the local community</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Opportunities to incorporate features into new build or retro fitted buildings which are beneficial to wildlife</li> </ul>	<p>by regulation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The specific issues mentioned will need to be considered by the working group as they progress the plan but do not affect designating the area as a Neighbourhood Area</li> </ul>
NCC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No objection</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Noted</li> </ul>
Upton with Fishley Parish Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 'The councillors have asked me to let you know that they support the idea of Acle's Neighbourhood Plan in principle and have no objections to the civil parish boundaries being used for the area subject to the Plan'</li> <li>• Other general comments on some specific issues which the actual Plan should be aware of as it progresses, namely potential reduction in car parking</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support noted. The specific issues mentioned will need to be considered by the working group as they progress the plan but do not affect designating the area as a Neighbourhood Area</li> </ul>

3.3 In summary, whilst there are further actions required as the Neighbourhood Plan progresses, the comments received do not act as 'show stoppers' in designating Acle as a Neighbourhood Area.

3.4 Of importance, Broadland District Council will also need to designate the part of Acle Parish for which they are the Local Planning Authority. Early indications from colleagues at Broadland Council are that it will be recommended for approval and the equivalent report is going to Broadland District Council's Cabinet on 16 July and then subsequently ratified by Full Council soon after.

## 5 Acle Neighbourhood Plan – progress to date

5.1 During the consultation period, the Parish Council have been preparing the early stages of Neighbourhood Plan production. They have received some funding and have employed the services of Ingham Pinnock Associates – a small consultancy firm who have worked with Acle Parish Council in the past.

5.2 The Acle Neighbourhood Plan Working Group is a sub group of Acle Parish Council. They are in the process of recruiting other interested parties from other areas of the community of Acle for example Church, school and youth club representatives.

- 5.3 The Broads Authority's Planning Policy Officer and a Planning Policy Officer from Broadland District Council have attended some working group meetings in an advisory role. Officers of the Broads Authority will continue to support the development of the Neighbourhood Plan as appropriate.
- 5.4 A consultation event is being organised for Saturday 29 June. The working group seek to build on the information they have already gathered by asking the community for their thoughts on what the Neighbourhood Plan should cover.

## **6 Links of Relevance**

- 6.1 The Broads Authority Neighbourhood Planning webpage:  
<http://www.broads-authority.gov.uk/planning/future-planning-and-policies/neighbourhood-planning.html>
- 6.2 Some guidance/information on Neighbourhood Planning:  
<http://www.rtpi.org.uk/planning-aid/neighbourhood-planning/>
- 6.3 Ingham Pinnock's webpage on Acle Neighbourhood Plan:  
<http://www.inghampinnock.com/acle-neighbourhood-plan/>

## **7 Financial Implications**

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

## **8 Conclusion and recommendation**

- 8.1 The comments received do not act as 'show stoppers'. It is therefore recommended that the Acle Neighbourhood Area is designated.

Background papers: None

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Appendices: None