

Waterbeach Parish Neighbourhood Plan Area Designation

Waterbeach Parish Council are proposing the designation of Waterbeach Parish as the Neighbourhood Area for their Neighbourhood Plan

(reference minute xxx/xxx Recommendation from March 2015 Parish Council meeting)

Parish Council Statement justifying designation of Waterbeach Parish as the Neighbourhood Area.

Waterbeach Parish, bounded primarily by the A10 to the West and the River Cam to the East has a unique combination of issues compared to neighbouring communities including:

Rural nature:

The parish is still set in a predominantly rural area with significant agricultural land and a mix of housing, industry and commerce.

Transport Infrastructure:

Unlike other villages north of Cambridge it has a railway station, a station car park and 4 level crossings, which impact the transport infrastructure of the village.

The village is used by many commuters as a “rat run” to avoid the queues at the A14/A10 junction by diverting through Waterbeach and Horningsea. The junctions to the A10 at Car Dyke Road and Chittering still see many accidents and they are not currently scheduled for major improvement. The A10 itself is constantly subject to heavy traffic and delays in travelling both North and South.

Flooding and Drainage

The land is mostly drained into the river Cam through the area controlled by the Waterbeach Internal Drainage Board, but much of the land is low lying and prone to flooding and the pumping capacity is limited meaning that flooding risk and surface water drainage are significant issues.

The sewage treatment plant is already running at high capacity resulting at times in sewage flooding parts of the village.

Local Services and Community

The parish supports health services such as the village surgery and a pharmacy, social care facilities such as sheltered housing and residential homes. There is a range of shops and businesses in the parish offering services and employment. There is limited additional capacity at the local primary school and insufficient pre-school/playgroup provision. There are a number of sports clubs and recreation facilities but these have not expanded significantly in line with recent housing development.

Conservation and Heritage

The parish has a designated conservation area, many listed buildings and ancient monuments as well as two museums.

Environment

The parish provides a varied environment with the millennium wood, orchards, pastures, river meadows (washes), farmland, lakes and the old airfield with these diverse habitats supporting a wide range of wild life including some protected and rare species. It is vitally important to maintain green corridors to support movement of wildlife and link their habitats.

This combination of issues is unique to Waterbeach Parish and justifies its designation as a Neighbourhood Area for which a Neighbourhood Plan will be developed.