

MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL

RECORD OF DECISION OF THE HEAD OF PLANNING

Decision Made: 5th September 2013

Neighbourhood Plan Area Application

Issue for Decision

To consider Boxley parish as a Neighbourhood Plan Area.

Decision Made

The neighbourhood area submitted by Boxley Parish Council to Maidstone Borough Council on 3rd May 2013 is **approved**.

Reasons for Decision

Consultation

Public consultation commenced on Monday 10th June 2013 and ended at 5pm on Tuesday 23rd July 2013. The consultation was advertised as follows:

1. Details advertised on the Boxley parish council page in the Downs Mail, which is delivered to all residences in the parish
2. Neighbourhood Plan Area application (including a map) posted on Maidstone borough council website and on Boxley parish council website
3. Poster advertising the consultation placed on 10 parish council noticeboards
4. Ward members and adjoining ward members were made aware of the consultation via email

Representations Received During Consultation

One representation was received stating the area is inappropriate. The respondent requests that areas outside the parish boundary should also form part of the Boxley neighbourhood plan area. This is acceptable under the Localism Act (61F) but only if consent is given by any other parish council this may affect. Boxley parish council has not chosen to take this route and want to plan for the geographic area of their parish only. The geographic area of the parish is already quite large in planning terms.

Considerations

1. Does the proposed plan area follow existing, established administrative or planning boundaries?

YES – the proposed plan area follows the existing parish boundary

2. Does it exclude areas which in planning terms it would be more appropriate to include (for example where planning designation or development location straddles a parish boundary)

NO

3. Does it overlap with another approved neighbourhood area (this is not permitted)

NO

Conclusion

Boxley Parish Council will be preparing the neighbourhood plan and are considered a relevant body¹ under the Localism Act 2011. The parish council has followed due process in line with the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations, Part 2, S. 5(1).

The parish council states that due to the geographical and social make-up of the parish it is considered that all areas and communities will be equally affected by the key issues that the plan will cover.

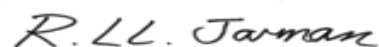
One representation was received during consultation to suggest the area proposed is inappropriate but the proposed plan area meets the criteria set out above and on balance, is considered acceptable in planning terms.

Alternatives considered and why rejected

The decision to approve the neighbourhood plan area 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 and the plan area proposed is acceptable.

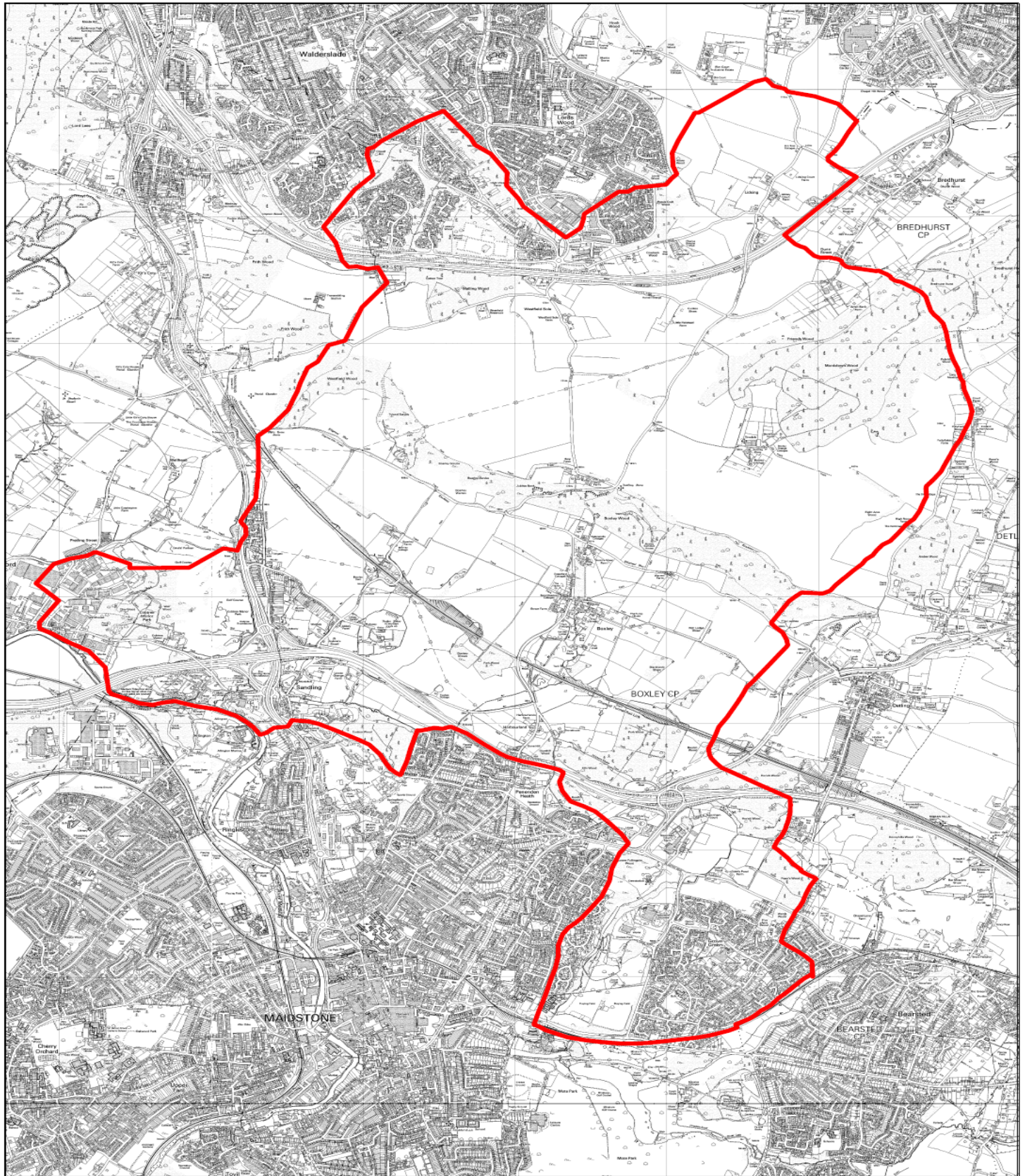
Background Papers

None



Signature: _____
Rob Jarman, Head of Planning

¹ For the definition of “relevant body” see section 61G (2) of the 1990 Act (inserted by paragraph 2 of Schedule 9 to the Localism Act 2011 (c.20)).



BOXLEY PARISH



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