

BITTESWELL WITH BITTESBY Parish Council

www.bitteswell.org.uk

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RECEIVED

10 OCT 2016

CORPORATE SERVICES
Harborough District Council

Steve Pointer
Head of Planning Policy
Harborough District Council
Adam & Eve Street
Market Harborough
Leicestershire
LE16 7AG

3 October 2016

Dear Mr Pointer,

Re: Neighbourhood Plan for Bitteswell Parish – application for designation as Neighbourhood Area

I am writing to inform you that Bitteswell Parish Council has taken the decision to develop a Neighbourhood Plan and we are therefore applying for the Parish to be designated as a 'Neighbourhood Area' in accordance with Part 2 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012.

We can confirm that Bitteswell Parish Council is a relevant body for the purposes of Section 61G of the 1990 Town and Country Planning Act which specifically includes parish councils.

The area to be covered by the Neighbourhood Plan is contained within the Parish boundaries of Bitteswell, but is not the whole Parish. It has been agreed by the Parish Council that the Neighbourhood Area to be applied for will include the village of Bitteswell up to the boundary with Magna Park. A map confirming the area to be designated is attached.

The reason for this decision is as follows:

1. Magna Park is a strategic employment site that would be outside of the scope of the NP, but including it in the Neighbourhood Area would mean that the NP would become a Business Neighbourhood Plan and subject to more complex procedural arrangements and the potential loss of control over issues important to the village as the business users would be able to vote in a referendum;
2. The Bittesby parcel of land is physically separated from the village of Bitteswell and is covered by countryside policies in the Core Strategy;
3. Drawing the Neighbourhood Area as proposed would enable the Neighbourhood Plan to better reflect the issues within the village of Bitteswell.
4. The proposed Neighbourhood Area is self-contained, has meaningful boundaries, reflects the existing local sense of community and is generally meaningful and coherent for policy making purposes.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require further information and I look forward to working with the District Council and other partners in its development.

Yours sincerely

Chris Faircliffe
Chairman, Bitteswell Parish Council.