



## **Application for a Neighbourhood Area**

*Prepared by Bickenhill and Marston Green Parish Council:*

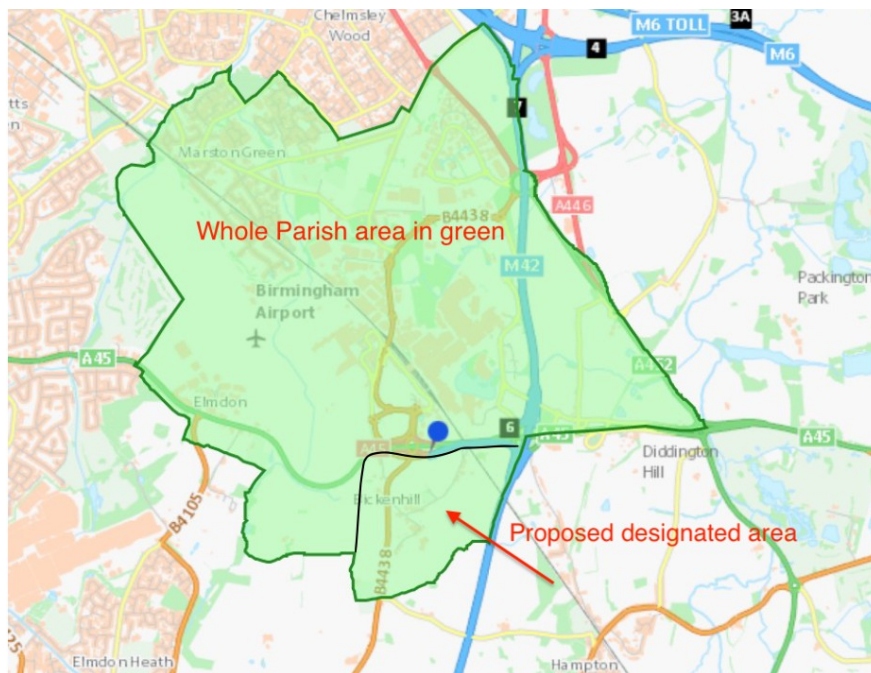
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This application for the designation of Bickenhill Village as a Neighbourhood Area includes:

- 1: A map defining the area of the application.
- 2: Background to the application
- 3: Aims of the process, and statement explaining why this area is considered appropriate to be designated as a Neighbourhood Area.
- 4: Management and funding of the process
- 5: A statement that the body making the area application is a relevant body for the purposes of 61G of the 1990 Town and Country Planning Act (see 3 below).

## 1: A map defining the area of the application.



## 2: Background to the application

Situated to the north of Solihull and with roots in the 11<sup>th</sup> century, Bickenhill and Marston Green Parish is one of the oldest in the country and serves the villages of Bickenhill and Marston Green. Bickenhill sits to the south of the parish, and is a small but important rural hamlet with a population of around 150 people. The village itself is of historical significance, dating back to the 11<sup>th</sup> century, with a settlement around the church, built in 1140 and a conservation area at its heart. Marston Green, 3 miles from Bickenhill is a much larger, thriving village. Marston Green is separated from Bickenhill by a large industrialised area, comprising Birmingham International Airport and Train Station, the N.E.C, several business parks, one of the main arterial roads into Birmingham, the A45 Coventry and the M42.

The past several years have brought significant challenges to Bickenhill village: the expansion of Birmingham Airport and runway extension in 2014 have increased noise and air pollution; the planned new junction 5a of M42 and works at junction 6 will create a bypass on the village border, and the granting of some recent developments in and around the village has changed the nature of the area.

## 3: Aims of the process, and statement explaining why this area is considered appropriate to be designated as a Neighbourhood Area.

The Bickenhill Neighbourhood Plan is being developed to help deliver the local community's ambitions for the plan period 2020 to 2028 in line with the SLP.

The Parish Council sees a clear opportunity to protect Bickenhill from the main challenges it faces, but also to help create a plan for the future of the village. It has therefore resolved to

initiate a Neighbourhood Development Plan, in accordance with the Localism Act 2011, for Bickenhill village. The Neighbourhood Area, subject to approval by SMBC, will be the area covered by Bickenhill Village as shown in the attached map, and not the whole parish.

The Parish Council considers that the issues facing Bickenhill are specific to the village, and generally of a magnitude that can threaten the long-term sustainability of such a small, but important settlement. In part this is because Bickenhill and Marston Green are located 3 miles apart, but also because the make-up of each area is different in terms of environment and population. As a result, the Parish Council considers it appropriate to designate only Bickenhill Village, and not the balance of the Parish in the proposed area. The Parish Council considers Bickenhill Village to include Cloc Lane and The Haven caravan site as both areas are very near to each other and face the same issues.

Specifically, the primary aims of the plan are to protect and preserve the distinctive open character of the area and retain the green belt, and to improve the long-term viability of the village as a desirable place to live.

Issues will be identified and the plan prepared in consultation with residents and businesses within the parish, adjacent Parish Councils, and with Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council (SMBC) as the local planning authority.

#### **4: Management and funding of the process**

The development of a Bickenhill Neighbourhood Plan was first proposed by the Parish Council who will play a significant role in the process. The production of a plan will be developed through a two-tier structure led by a Steering Group with sub-groups looking at specific areas of the plan. The number and composition of sub-groups will reflect the expertise and local knowledge of the local community and local stakeholders.

Once the Neighbourhood Area is approved by SMBC the Parish Council will be able to apply for a grant from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) delivered via Locality. Additionally, direct funding to pay for professional support is also available separately from MHCLG.

SMBC will also receive funding from MHCLG to cover officer time and legislative duties associated with Neighbourhood Planning, including holding an examination and arranging a referendum.

#### **5: A statement explaining why this area is considered appropriate to be designated as a Neighbourhood Area.**

In accordance with section 61G of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, the body making the application to designate Bickenhill Village as a Neighbourhood Area is Bickenhill and Marston Green Parish Council Parish Council, a parish council established in pursuance of the Local Government Act 1972.