

OCKLEY PARISH COUNCIL
Application for Designation of Neighbourhood Area

Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (As Amended)
Part 2 – Neighbourhood Area
October 2026

Application for Designation of Neighbourhood Area

In accordance with the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended) Part 2 (5)(1) (a) & (b) this document represents the statement explaining why the Ockley Parish Council area is considered appropriate to be designated as a neighbourhood area for purposes of preparing a neighbourhood plan. The document comprises three parts:

(a) Map Identifying the area to which this application relates

A map illustrating the proposed 'Ockley neighbourhood area' to which the application relates is available in Appendix 1. The proposed boundary is identical to the current designated area.

(b) Statement by Ockley Parish Council explaining why this area is appropriate to be designated

The proposed neighbourhood area is defined by the civil parish of Ockley, within Mole Valley District Council. The Parish has a population of 918 residents (as at 2021 ockley.parish.uk/census/) and covers 13.75km². It is a rural parish which lies seven miles from Dorking to the north and eight miles from Horsham to the south. The A29 (Stane Street) cuts through the centre of the village, providing a link between Dorking and Horsham. Despite the presence of such a major road running through the parish, it is visibly rural with far reaching views from the centre of the village across to Leith Hill in the north west.

Ockley residents benefit from the use of a large village green with cricket field and pavilion, a farm shop, a garage with shop, a community hall with a children's play area, a church, one pub that is open and a second that we hope will open again. There is also a train station on the outskirts of the village. There are small business units across the Parish, mostly located in three rural business parks.

The Ockley Society is a volunteer led group that organises a number of popular events, with a highlight being the annual fireworks display. There are other active groups including the Ockley Dramatic Society that performs a number of shows throughout the year.

Ockley has a Parish Council of six people and a clerk, who meet every two months. The Council represents the interests of the local community and works to maintain the quality of life of parish residents. The Parish Council will be responsible for the Neighbourhood Development Plan and has established a steering group to help produce the plan.

The Parish Council believes the area identified is appropriate for designation as a neighbourhood area for the following reasons:

- It is consistent with the civil parish boundary for Ockley;
- It does not overlap with any adjoining parish, ward or existing neighbourhood area;
- That Ockley Parish Council is a relevant body to make the application as it already represents the area concerned; and,
- That, where relevant, consultation would be undertaken with the neighbouring parish councils

In summary, we believe that Ockley Parish Council satisfies the requirements of the regulations.

(c) Statement by Mole Valley District Council that the Organisation is a Relevant Body

The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 Part 2 (5) (1) (c) requires a 'relevant body' submits an area application to the local planning authority. Section 61G (2) of the 1990 Act defines 'relevant body' as:

(a) a parish council, or

(b) an organisation or body which is, or is capable of being, designated as a neighbourhood forum (on the assumption that, for this purpose, the specified area is designated as a neighbourhood area).

Ockley Parish Council has submitted this application and is a relevant body for the purposes of Section 61G of the 1990 Act.

Annex 1 – Proposed Boundary of the Neighbourhood Area

