

Application for Designation of Neighbourhood Area

Application for Designation as a Neighbourhood Area – Part 2 (5) (1) & (b) Ockley Neighbourhood Area was formally designated on 5th February 2012 by the council's Executive. As such the designation's 5 years life span to progress the preparation of the Neighbourhood Development Plan expired in February 2017.

Therefore, in accordance with The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended) Part 2 (5) (1) (a) & (b) this document represents the statement explaining why Ockley Neighbourhood Area is considered appropriate to be re-designated as a neighbourhood area.

(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 Annex 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 map in Annex 1 represents a consensus of the members of Ockley Parish Council that the neighbourhood area as described and specified in this application should be designated:

The proposed Neighbourhood Area is called Ockley and is defined by the civil parish of Ockley which is within the Okewood Ward.

Ockley lies to the south of Dorking and covers an area of 1374 hectares most of which is farm and woodland with a population density of just 0.6. It is bounded to the north and west by Abinger Parish and to the north and east by Capel Parish. The southern boundary is West Sussex. The centre of Ockley is a conservation area and just to the north are Leith Hill and the Surrey Hills, an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

Ockley is a village comprising (2001 census) 352 households and 852 residents most of whom live along or close to Stane Street (the A29) which bisects the Parish. There are also a number of households that lie in the more rural parts of the Parish and so it is quite 'spread'. Despite this, there is a significant community spirit with several organisations providing social, sporting, youth, pastoral and caring facilities and services to all age groups.

Ockley is 'parished' and has a Parish Council of 7 people from the village and a clerk. Meetings are held every 2 months, with a smaller 'admin' sub-group meeting every other month. Ockley has a Village Hall which lies on Stane Street and this is well used by Elderslie Nursery and for many social and official purposes. This is managed and maintained by a committee on behalf of the Parish Council.

Along Stane Street there are several businesses - a Post Office, a petrol station/provisions shop and 2 public houses. There is a Farm shop at Ockley Court on Coles Lane and 2 areas where a number of small businesses operate, at Jayes Park and Ockley Court. The village is part of the church Parish of Ockley, Okewood and Forest Green.

We believe 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 the Ockley Parish Council is a relevant body to make the application as it already represents the area concerned

- That, where relevant, consultation would be undertaken with our 2 neighbouring parish councils

Ockley Parish Council has also set up a body to help oversee the Neighbourhood Development Plan on its behalf – the Ockley Parish Neighbourhood Development Plan Steering Group. This comprises members of the Parish Council and a number of other villagers representing the interests of groups within the village – business, the school, the youth, the church, the Ockley Society, the sports clubs as well as different parts of the village. This group has a written constitution (Appendix 2) agreed by the Parish Council in discussion with Mole Valley DC.

In summary, we believe that Ockley Parish Council satisfies the requirements of the regulations. We trust the information provided in this application is sufficient to progress the application for designation of a neighbourhood area.

(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.

