

Application A

Regulation 5: Application for the Designation of a Neighbourhood Area

1. A map is attached at Appendix A showing the full extent and boundary of the proposed Retford Town Centre Neighbourhood Area. The boundary follows established and distinct geographical features to the east (Arlington Way), south (Chesterfield Canal and the southern section of Carolgate), and west (River Idle and Kings' Park). To the north, the boundary has been drawn to include two key retail developments associated with the town centre.
2. This area is considered to be appropriate to be designated as a neighbourhood area for the following reasons:
 - The boundary has been drawn to follow recognised / established geographical features, and to encompass the core area of 'town centre' activities, so as to give the proposed neighbourhood plan a clear sense of purpose.
 - The area, as defined, is distinct from adjoining / neighbouring areas, given its role as Retford Town Centre, and the consequent focus of retail, business, public service, tourism, and transport functions located there.
 - Consultation to date has demonstrated general support for the boundary, which has been under consideration for over a year prior to this application being submitted.
3. We are making this application as an organisation which is capable of being designated as a neighbourhood forum. An application has been submitted alongside this application for the designation of Retford Town Centre Neighbourhood Planning Group as the relevant neighbourhood forum (see Attached Application B).
4. We consider that the proposed Retford Town Centre Neighbourhood Planning Group is the appropriate body to lead neighbourhood planning in this area. We believe that we have demonstrated in the attached application that the group is capable of meeting the conditions for designation contained in section 61F (5) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.
5. It is acknowledged that it is fully at the discretion of the Local Planning Authority as to whether the proposed Neighbourhood Area is designated as a business area. That said, this is something that Retford town Centre Neighbourhood Planning Group would support, in light of the defining characteristics of the area, as outlined above.

Submitted on behalf of the Retford Town Centre Neighbourhood Planning Group to Bassetlaw District Council by Frederick Brand, Chair

18 December 2020