

Fulmer Parish Council

Clerk to the Council
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5th April 2019

Mr John Cheston
Head of Planning Policy
Chiltern & South Bucks District Council
Capswood
Oxford Road
Denham
Bucks. UB9 4LH

Dear Mr Cheston,

Fulmer Parish Council Application for Declaration of a Neighbourhood Area

Application for Declaration of a Neighbourhood Area

Fulmer Parish Council wishes to apply for the designation of the Civil Parish of Fulmer as a Neighbourhood Area with the intention to develop a Neighbourhood Plan for Fulmer. Fulmer Parish Council is an appropriate body for the purpose of Neighbourhood Planning. Our proposal is to designate the whole of the Civil Parish of Fulmer as a Neighbourhood Area as shown on the attached map.

Supporting Statement

Fulmer Parish Council is committed to creating a shared vision for the future of Fulmer, encompassing the views and needs of the permanent community residing within the boundaries of the Civil Parish of Fulmer.

The Council resolved to declare the Civil Parish of Fulmer as a Neighbourhood area at its meeting on 16th October 2018.

Fulmer is often described as “the prettiest village in South Bucks”. It has won the Buckinghamshire Best Kept Village competition many times, including the Tindall Cup. Nestling deep in the beautiful valley of the River Alderbourne, it is also one of the first truly separate villages outside the suburban sprawl of Greater London, with excellent road links into the capital and onto the national motorway network as well as fast access to a choice of rail and underground stations.

Protected within the Green Belt and with a Conservation Area at its heart, its rural charm and character should be preserved for generations to come. It is a magnet for those who

appreciate rural calm and lovely country walks, alongside all the advantages of modern-day living.

The Parish comprises less than 500 residents. There were 485 usual residents as at Census day 2011. In total there were 241 household spaces. Of these, 216 (89.6%) had at least one usual resident and 25 (10.4%) had no usual residents.

Fulmer Parish Council is the Custodian and Managing Trustee of the King George's Field (Fulmer) Charity no 1081464. The Field, at the corner of Fulmer Common Road and Windmill Road, also contains the 17 Allotments managed by the Council, the Girl Guide Hut and the Scout Hut. The King George V recreation ground is the focus for sports including a thriving football club, cricket club and tennis courts. The Sports Pavilion, built by the community in 2003, is also available for private bookings for meetings and parties. The ground is used as a playing field, and encompasses a children's' play area with play equipment. Annual community events such as Fulmer Family Fun Day and Fireworks Night are also held at the ground.

Fulmer falls within the Metropolitan Green Belt. In the Landscape Character assessment carried out by Buckinghamshire County Council for the South Buckinghamshire District, Fulmer falls into the following classifications 23 LCT River Valley which is described in more detail in 231 LCA Alder Bourne River Valley. The Alder Bourne River runs almost the whole length of the Parish and is key to the rural characteristics of Fulmer Parish. LCT 24 describes Wooded Terrace and LCA 24.2 describes in detail the Stoke Common Wooded Terrace, the northern boundary of which abuts Fulmer Parish, again contributing significantly to the rural characteristics of the landscape in Fulmer Parish. Stoke Common is a Site of Special Scientific Interest providing exceptional habitat to wild life as well as a local open space for walkers and horse riders.

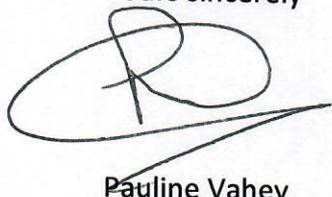
Fulmer Village centre is a Conservation Area. This area comprises four key village institutions, the four hundred year old Anglican Church, St James, the Black Horse Public House, next door, built to house the workers building the Church, Fulmer Village Hall, and Fulmer Infant School as well as many other 18th and 19th Century large houses, now converted to apartments and the accompanying cottages which either used to house the estate workers or were outbuildings and now converted to modern dwellings. Recently a Mosque had made use of a Place of Worship in the village centre. There is also a Benedictine Convent including a small Catholic Church some way outside of the village centre.

The Village Hall is used daily by a Nursery School and provides a venue for family events, community events and various evening classes. The Public House is very popular in the District for its good beer and excellent food. St James Church runs a full programme of services and community activities. Fulmer Infant School has sixty pupils aged four to seven is regularly rated Outstanding by Ofsted.

Historically most planning applications received were for the conversion and modernisation of existing properties. However, in recent years there has been a significant increase in applications for modern new builds, which, in the opinion of many local residents, do not contribute to the special rural character of the village with its surrounding countryside and the vision for the future of Fulmer shared by its community, landowners, institutions and businesses. Fulmer Parish Council therefore wishes to develop a Neighbourhood Plan that

will continue making Fulmer a special place to live whilst serving the housing needs of all sections of Fulmer's diverse local community.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Pauline Vahey', written in a cursive style with a large loop at the end.

Pauline Vahey
Clerk to Fulmer Parish Council