

MARPLE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN
Application for Designation of Neighbourhood Area to
Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN BOUNDARY

Introduction

This is a formal application to the Council for the designation of a Neighbourhood Area for the non-parished district of Marple. Under the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 the following matters must be submitted:

- a map identifying the proposed neighbourhood area
- a statement explaining why the area is appropriate to be designated as a neighbourhood area
- a statement explaining that the body making the area application (the parish or town council or prospective neighbourhood forum) is capable of being a qualifying body.

Plan Boundary

A map (not to scale) is attached which shows the proposed boundary and extent of the Neighbourhood Plan area. A Description of the boundary is also attached.

Justification of the Area Chosen

The boundary of the proposed Neighbourhood Plan for Marple includes the main settlement of Marple, meaning its built up area and immediate fringes of open land, using where possible natural physical features for definition and permanence. In particular the River Goyt and the Peak Forest and Macclesfield Canals have been followed.

The Neighbourhood Plan area has been chosen to include the district centre and public open spaces which adjoin it; and the surrounding residential areas. It is here where people who have an interest in the town centre, its public spaces, its transport infrastructure, and its locations of employment mainly live. It includes the main heritage features of the town along the canals and associated places of historic industrial interest; its scattered centres of employment; and recreational open spaces such as the golf course, parks, river valley walks; and areas where modest development growth, of housing and employment, might take place.

That is not to say that adjacent areas such as Marple Bridge Mellor, Mill Brow, Compstall, and High Lane do not have an interest in Marple and its future development. They depend for example on the shops and schools of Marple. The comments of the residents of these areas will be important in the preparation of the Neighbourhood Plan. However the plan area has been deliberately chosen as a cohesive unit for planning purposes. It contains all the main services of shopping, schools, medical provision, entertainment and transport, and a full range of related land uses and varied residential areas. It comprises a self-contained settlement which now seeks control of the physical development on which its future welfare and prosperity may depend.

Historically, there has been considerable interest in the improvement of the environment of the town led by Marple Civic Society. Its work with the Marple Vision Partnership, a five year community project of regeneration initiatives carried out with Stockport MBC; the Placecheck analysis (2012) to understand the way the town centre worked and how it could be improved; and the Community GlassHouse Led Design (2012) series of workshops have been important contributions on which it is hoped that the Neighbourhood Plan will build.

The Neighbourhood Plan will be also prepared in the context of the emerging Greater Manchester Spatial Framework. The GMSF may propose growth in Stockport MBC as a whole with a proportion falling on its districts including Marple. The town is protected by Green Belt, River Valley, and Landscape Character policies, and has a difficult topography; but it is possible that some housing land may be allocated; and new infrastructure such as the SEMMMS route may also have an impact which the Neighbourhood Plan will be able to anticipate.

Marple Neighbourhood Forum: Statement as a Qualifying Body

The body making the area application will be Marple Civic Society. It has created a town centre working group from its membership. The group is acting provisionally to undertake the necessary procedures for setting up a Neighbourhood Forum, writing a constitution, and making applications for grant through Locality for initial expenses to establish the Forum. The Forum will be a separate body from the Civic Society and will take the Neighbourhood Plan forward.

In accordance with Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012, the Marple Neighbourhood Forum will be the qualifying body.

J R A Moorhouse BA(Hons) MRTPI
on behalf of Marple Civic Society
23rd December 2015