

I am writing on behalf of Watford Rural Parish Council to formally apply for the designation of the whole administrative area of Watford Rural Parish as a Neighbourhood Area for the purposes of preparing a Neighbourhood Plan.

At its meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> May 2026 Watford Rural Parish Council resolved to proceed with the preparation of a Neighbourhood Plan and to submit an application to Three Rivers District Council, as the Local Planning Authority, for neighbourhood area designation.

This application is made by Watford Rural Parish Council as the relevant body for the purposes of section 61G of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 and the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012.

The area proposed for designation is the full extent of the Watford Rural Parish Council administrative boundary. A map identifying the proposed Neighbourhood Area is attached. For clarity, the proposed Neighbourhood Area comprises the whole administrative area of Watford Rural Parish.

The Parish Council considers that designation of the whole parish is appropriate because Watford Rural Parish is a clearly defined local governance area with established parish boundaries and a coherent set of local planning, infrastructure, community and environmental issues. The parish includes distinct but closely connected communities, including South Oxhey, Carpenders Park and Oxhey Hall, which share relationships with local services, movement routes, community facilities, green infrastructure and wider development pressures within Three Rivers.

Using the whole parish boundary will provide a clear and practical basis for plan-making, public consultation and future referendum arrangements. It will also allow the Neighbourhood Plan to consider local issues in a joined-up way across the parish, including housing and development pressures, design and character, local centres, transport and accessibility, community facilities, open spaces, green infrastructure and infrastructure priorities.

For clarity, Watford Rural Parish Council is not seeking to designate only part of the parish, nor to include land outside the parish boundary. The application is for the whole parish area to be designated as the Watford Rural Neighbourhood Area.

I would be grateful if Three Rivers District Council could confirm receipt of this application and advise the Parish Council of the next procedural steps, including any publication or consultation requirements.

Please also let me know if any further information is required to validate or progress the application.

Kind regards,

Gareth Williams  
Clerk to the Council

