

## Application for a Neighbourhood Plan Area

1. The name of the organisation is Kirkburton Parish Council
2. The name of the proposed neighbourhood group is Lepton Vision
3. Contact Details:

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4. Documents in support of the Statement

Lepton Vision Constitution dated 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2017

A map identifying the area to be included in the neighbourhood plan

The local neighbourhood plan group calling themselves Lepton Vision, received approval from Lepton Link community group on May 31<sup>st</sup> 2017 to develop a neighbourhood plan with the specific purpose of promoting/improving the social, economic and environmental well-being of the Lepton Vision neighbourhood plan area as identified. As stated in its constitution, membership is open to anyone who lives or works in the neighbourhood area or is an elected member of the Council for the area concerned and the group confirm that general membership includes a minimum of 21, who live or work in the neighbourhood area or are an elected member of the Council for the area concerned.

Lepton, Lascelles Hall, Fenay Bridge, Gawthorpe, Little Lepton and the area known locally as Old Lepton lie within parished areas and Kirkburton Parish Council is the qualifying body. All of the neighbourhood area falls inside the boundaries of the Lepton ward and Lepton and Upper Whitley ward of Kirkburton Parish Council.

Kirkburton Parish Council formally approved the process for commencing a neighbourhood plan for the Lepton area at its Council meeting held on Thursday August 3<sup>rd</sup> 2017. It is responsible for submitting the area application to Kirklees Council.

Attached is an Ordnance Survey Map 1 (Scale 1: 6,000 A1), dated 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2018 and named Lepton Neighbourhood Area.

## **Statement in Support of the Application**

Kirkburton Parish Council covers an area of approximately 22 square miles. This area comprises 8 parish wards, which include 11 villages. The area is varied in terms of its physical, economic, social and cultural characteristics and the Parish area is not a generally identified and identifiable community in its own right. In January 2015, the Parish Council resolved not to undertake a comprehensive Neighbourhood Plan for the whole Council parish, but to undertake plans with individual neighbourhood groups, if a Plan was needed. (Min:234/09.01.2015).

In 2016, a group known as Kirkheaton Future initiated the process of creating a Neighbourhood Plan for the Kirkheaton area, which adjoins the Lepton Ward of the Parish Council to the north. The proposed Neighbourhood Plan for the Lepton Ward and part of the Lepton and Upper Whitley Ward would therefore be the second part of the Parish Council area to be covered in this way.

### **Why Lepton?**

Lepton, Fenay Bridge and Lascelles Hall, the semi-rural area of Gawthorpe, Little Lepton and Old Lepton form a contiguous area separated from Almondbury to the west by the significant valley of Fenay Beck, from Kirkheaton to the north by the valley of Ox Field Beck, and separated to the SW, S and E from the villages of Farnley Tyas, Highburton and Grange Moor by substantial belts of farmland and woodland. The area is entirely within the combined preferred admissions areas of the two primary schools (Rowley Lane J & I School and Lepton C of E School), and at secondary level King James's School located south of Almondbury.

Lepton Community Link was formed in 2001 with the stated aim "to make Lepton a better village to live in". The group includes representatives from the Police, Churches, Doctors, Scouts and local Parish and Kirklees councillors. It organises an annual gala, litter picks and other events, and maintains a Facebook page. The Neighbourhood Plan Group, Lepton Vision, has grown out of this organisation, and has close links with "Green Action in Lepton" (GAIL) a group formed in response to the large number of housing developments in the Lepton area contained in the Kirklees Local Plan.

The strength of the Lepton Community Link shows that a strong community spirit and sense of identity has long been present in the area, but it is fair to say that this sense has been reinforced by the Kirklees Local Plan, which many local residents feel will place a considerable strain on local infrastructure and facilities. The proposed Neighbourhood Plan area contains approximately 2,400 houses, and it could be that 804 will be added in current proposals. The Kirklees Local Plan is currently at the Inquiry stage and while it is unlikely that any Neighbourhood Plan could be adopted in time, residents feel that details of any developments remaining in the Local Plan could be shaped by a neighbourhood plan as well as necessary infrastructure developments through the Community Infrastructure Levy.

Consideration has been given to the precise area to be covered. It is clearly desirable to make the Plan area contiguous with the Kirkheaton Neighbourhood Plan area, so the Lascelles Hall and Gawthorpe communities, which are separated from the main part of Lepton by Wakefield Road, have been included. Additionally, following consideration, debate, advice and the agreement of the Kirkburton Ward Councillors given on the 11<sup>th</sup> December 2017, the areas of Little Lepton, together with the substantial belts of farmland and the area known as Old Lepton are included. Thus the northern boundary (Ox Field Beck) is both geographical and political, as is the western boundary (Fenay Beck). The southern boundary follows Beldon Brook.

The eastern boundary is less clear cut and follows firm physical features, which include extending the southern boundary along Beldon Brook to the east, then north, following Lepton Lane leading to the area of Little Lepton and the built form which abuts Lepton on Wakefield Road and to include Lepton Highlanders. The simplest decision then is to extend the eastern boundary to include the area known locally as Old Lepton, following Pinfold Lane, Town End Lane, then joining Botany Lane, (which marks the political boundary of Lepton Ward). The Neighbourhood boundaries would then adjoin wards to the west, which is also the boundary of the Almondbury Ward of Kirklees Council. Following enquiries on administration of a referendum on the Plan, it is understood Electoral Services do not have an issue with the proposed neighbourhood boundary. However the Group is committed to consider the effects of any proposals on adjoining areas.

The Lepton neighbourhood area boundary as presented on Ordnance Survey Map Lepton Neighbourhood Area, marked in blue has been proposed by Lepton Vision neighbourhood group and was approved at a meeting of Lepton Vision, attended by 22 members on Monday the 12th day of February 2018 and by Kirkburton Parish Council on 5 April 2018 (Min: 188)

The proposed Lepton neighbourhood area lies within the parished areas of Lepton Ward and Lepton and Upper Whitley Ward and as such Kirkburton Parish Council is the qualifying body.

Signed

Clerk to the Council  
Kirkburton Parish Council

Date

Attachments:

- A1 Ordnance Survey Map 1:6,000
- Lepton Vision Constitution