

Planning Services

HEAD OF SERVICE: **Tim Oruye**



CONTACT OFFICER: **Tom Gill**

Planning.policy@southandvale.gov.uk

Tel: 01235 540546

By email

Laura White, Clerk,
Western Valley Parish Council,
PO Box 4311,
Reading
RG8 1DD
WVNP@WesternValleyParish.gov.uk

Abbey House, Abbey Close
ABINGDON
Oxfordshire
OX14 3JE

1 October 2025

Dear Laura,

Decision regarding the designation of Western Valley Parish as a Neighbourhood Area under Section 61G of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 as amended.

This letter confirms that on 1 October 2025, the Head of Policy and Programmes at South Oxfordshire District Council, designated the area shown on Map 1 below as the 'Western Valley Parish Neighbourhood Area'.

This designation has been made for the purposes of preparing a Neighbourhood Development Plan by Western Valley Parish Council under section 61G(1) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 as amended. It was decided not to designate the area as a business area under section 61H(1) of the Act as it is not primarily or wholly business in nature. The relevant designation information is set out below:

- a) Name of neighbourhood area: Western Valley Parish Neighbourhood Area
- b) Map of neighbourhood area included below
- c) Relevant body: Western Valley Parish Council
- d) The area designation application as submitted is available in Appendix 1

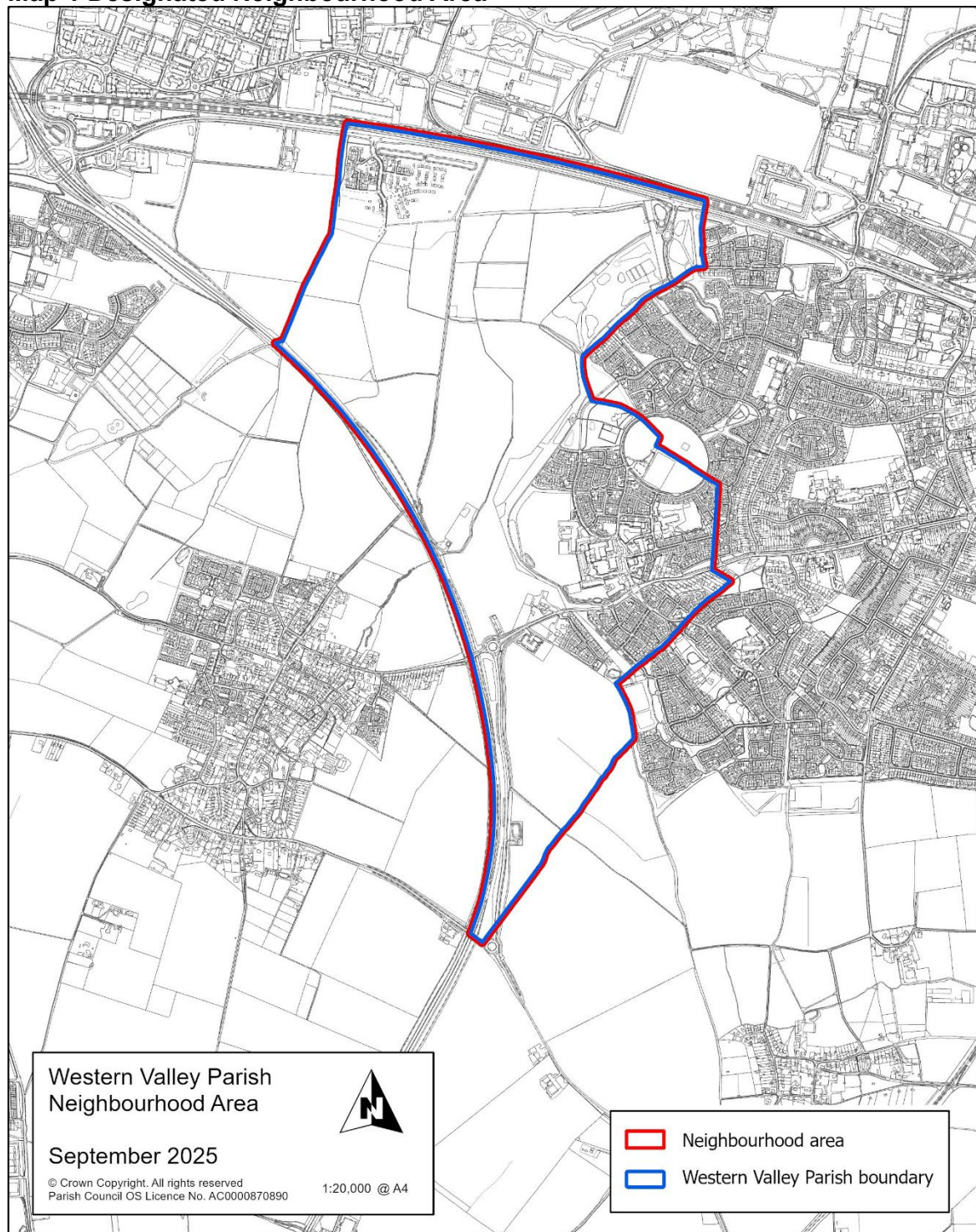
Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tim Oruye', enclosed within a circular outline.

Tim Oruye

Head of Policy and Programmes

Map 1 Designated Neighbourhood Area



Appendix 1

Neighbourhood Planning Area Designation Application Form



Application to designate a Neighbourhood Area
Town and Country Planning Act 1990
Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012



1. Single point of contact regarding the Neighbourhood Plan

Title: First Name: Surname:
Address:
Postcode: Telephone:
Email:

2. Parish clerk details (if different from those above)

Title: First Name: Surname:
Address:
Postcode: Telephone:
Email:

3. Relevant Body

Please confirm that you are the relevant body to undertake neighbourhood planning in your area in accordance with section 61G of the 1990 Act and section 5C of the 2012 Regulations.

Yes ☒

No ☐

Name of Relevant Body:

Note: in areas covered by a town or parish council, the town or parish council is the relevant body. For applications covering more than one parish area, please nominate a lead parish to act as the Relevant Body. If your area is not covered by a parish council (only a parish meeting), please contact the Planning Policy Team before making your application.

4. Extent of area

Please attach an OS plan showing the extent of the proposed Neighbourhood Area and indicate below the relationship of the proposed area to parish boundaries. For further information about obtaining OS maps please see note 1.

Proposed area covers the whole of a single parish boundary area: ☒
Proposed area covers part of a single parish boundary area: ☐
Proposed area covers multiple parish boundary areas: ☐

5. Applications covering more than one parish area:

If your application area covers more than one parish area, please list the parishes covered by the area application, the extent of the parish included and obtain consent from the parish by getting them to sign below:

Name Town/Parish Council	Extent of parish included in Neighbourhood Area	Name and Position	Authorising Signature
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

By signing this form your Parish Council is agreeing to the inclusion of part or the whole of your parish into the Neighbourhood Area named below and shown on the attached OS map.

6. Name of Neighbourhood Area

Please give the name by which your Neighbourhood Area will be formally known

Western Valley Parish

7. Intention of neighbourhood area:

Please indicate which of the following you intend to undertake within your neighbourhood area:

Neighbourhood Development Plan:

X

Neighbourhood Development Order:

Community Right to Build Order:

8. Reasons for considering the area appropriate

Please briefly describe below why you consider this area is appropriate to be designated as a Neighbourhood Area:

See Supporting Statement

9. Previous applications

Has this relevant body previously submitted an application to designate a neighbourhood area, which has not yet been determined?

Yes

No

X

10. Withdrawal of previous application

If you answered 'yes' to question 9 above, please sign below to withdraw your previous application

I/we hereby wish to withdraw any previous application/s to designate a neighbourhood area made by this relevant body

Name:

Date:

Signature:

11. Declaration

I/we hereby apply to designate a Neighbourhood Area as described on this form and the accompanying plan.

Name:

L White, Clerk to the Council

Date:

19/08/2025

Signature:

Please return the form to:

Vale of White Horse District Council

Abbey House, Abbey Close

Abingdon, OX14 3JE

planning.policy@southandvale.gov.uk

or

South Oxfordshire District Council

Abbey House, Abbey Close

Abingdon, OX14 3JE

planning.policy@southandvale.gov.uk

Publications of applications to the Council's website.

Please note, as required under the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012, a copy of this form and accompanying information will be published on the Council's website. However, all personal information, with the exception of the name and address of the main contacts, will be redacted from the website. The complete form will be available to view in the council offices. If you require any further clarification, please contact the Planning Policy Team.

Western Valley Parish Neighbourhood Area Designation – Supporting Statement

Western Valley Parish Council resolved in the full council meeting in November 2024, to apply for a whole parish neighbourhood area designation for the purposes of creating a Neighbourhood Plan. The Western Valley Parish would include within its designation the whole of the civil parish of Western Valley.

The parish of Western Valley has almost entirely been designated for building the developments of Great Western Park, and Valley Park. Whilst some of the Great Western Park development sits within the Civil Parish of Didcot, this council has already registered a desire that the Parish of Western Valley be expanded to incorporate the whole of Great Western Park development. Whilst this is not possible currently due to the boundary of the District Councils of South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse, it is hoped that this could be considered at a future community governance review once the unitary councils are in place and operating. The majority of the land within the parish is earmarked for development which is either under planning permission, under construction, or already constructed. It includes homes, schools, retail, medical and later living provision.

A major feature of the parish is the A34 which defines its western boundary, and the separation of our parish from the Parish of Harwell in April 2023.

Although we are a new parish, and full of new built homes some say are boxes lacking in significant identity, Western Valley Parish Council considers that the parish does have an identity and the residents across the parish campaigned for a decade to be split from and become independent of Harwell village. Vale of White Horse saw fit to grant the creation of the new parish based on the arguments given at the time.

To the east of the Parish, Didcot TC is creating a new NP. Western Valley PC, resolved to *not* join in with this plan, as our planning issues are notably different to a much older town, with older, historical developments around. Harwell to the west does not appear to have any plans at this time to create a neighbourhood plan, and as with Didcot, is a much older settlement, which would not be appropriate to have the same planning policies.

Western Valley Parish Council considered it appropriate and preferable therefore to designate the entire area of the parish, thus ensuring no area is left as an island excluded from future considerations under the rights afforded by the designation, nor joining on to any parts of adjoining parishes.