

Darlington Borough Council

Neighbourhood Planning Blackwell - Forum and Area Designation

Background

The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 specify what a local authority must do to publicise a 'Forum' and 'Area application' and, following consideration and determination of the application, what it must do to publicise the outcome. Regulations 6 and 9 require that copies of the Forum and Area applications be advertised on the Council website along with details of how to make representation within the invitation period of no less than six weeks with the deadline for representations specified. The website must also detail that once an area has been designated, no other can be designated for that area until the existing area expires or is withdrawn. The local planning authority may also carry out other publicity to bring the applications to the attention of people in the area. Regulation 7 requires that when a decision is made on designation of a neighbourhood area it should be published on its website with the name of the neighbourhood area, a map which identifies the area and the name of the relevant body which applied for the designation. Regulation 10 requires that when a decision is made on designation of a neighbourhood forum, it should be published on its website with the name of the forum, a copy of the written constitution, name of the area to which the designation relates and the contact details of at least one member of the forum.

Cabinet, on 5 March 2013, delegated authority to the Assistant Director, Economic Initiatives to accept, consider and designate Neighbourhood Forum and Neighbourhood Area applications.

Neighbourhood Forum Application

An application for the designation of the Blackwell Neighbourhood Forum was submitted to the Council by local residents on 21 February 2014.

The proposed Forum's written constitution clearly states that it has been established for the express purpose of promoting or improving the social, economic or environmental well-being of Blackwell. It has a membership of more than 21 persons, is open to individuals who live or work in the area, and includes an elected Member of Darlington Borough Council. The proposed Blackwell Neighbourhood Forum is considered by the local residents to be representative of the population of the proposed designated Blackwell Neighbourhood Area (see below).

Neighbourhood Plan Area Application

An application for the designation of the proposed Blackwell Neighbourhood Plan Area was also submitted to the Council on 21 February 2014. The attached map shows the proposed Neighbourhood Area boundary.

Blackwell is located on the south western edge of Darlington. Originally, a historic village settlement, it is considered to have a strong sense of identity by its residents. To the east is the former Blackwell golf course land, including the now redundant club house building.

The aim of the Area (and Forum) designation, as set out in the application, is to empower the local community to plan positively and creatively for the future development of Blackwell through the preparation of a Neighbourhood Plan.

The chosen boundaries for the proposed Blackwell Neighbourhood Area have been arrived at following consideration of three guiding principles –

- a) Community Identity
- b) Tangibility of boundaries
- c) Appropriateness for Neighbourhood Planning

Publicity and Consultation

The consultation period ran from 28 March 2014 until 12 May 2014. Details of the application were available on the Council website at www.darlington.gov.uk/neighbourhoodplanning, within the Planning Policy section of the website. The Local authority also delivered letters to properties it considered appropriate and **consulted neighbouring Parish Councils** in order to raise awareness of the proposed Neighbourhood Forum and Area.

The Council received six responses to the consultation from the Blackwell area and all were in favour of the proposed Forum & Area designation.

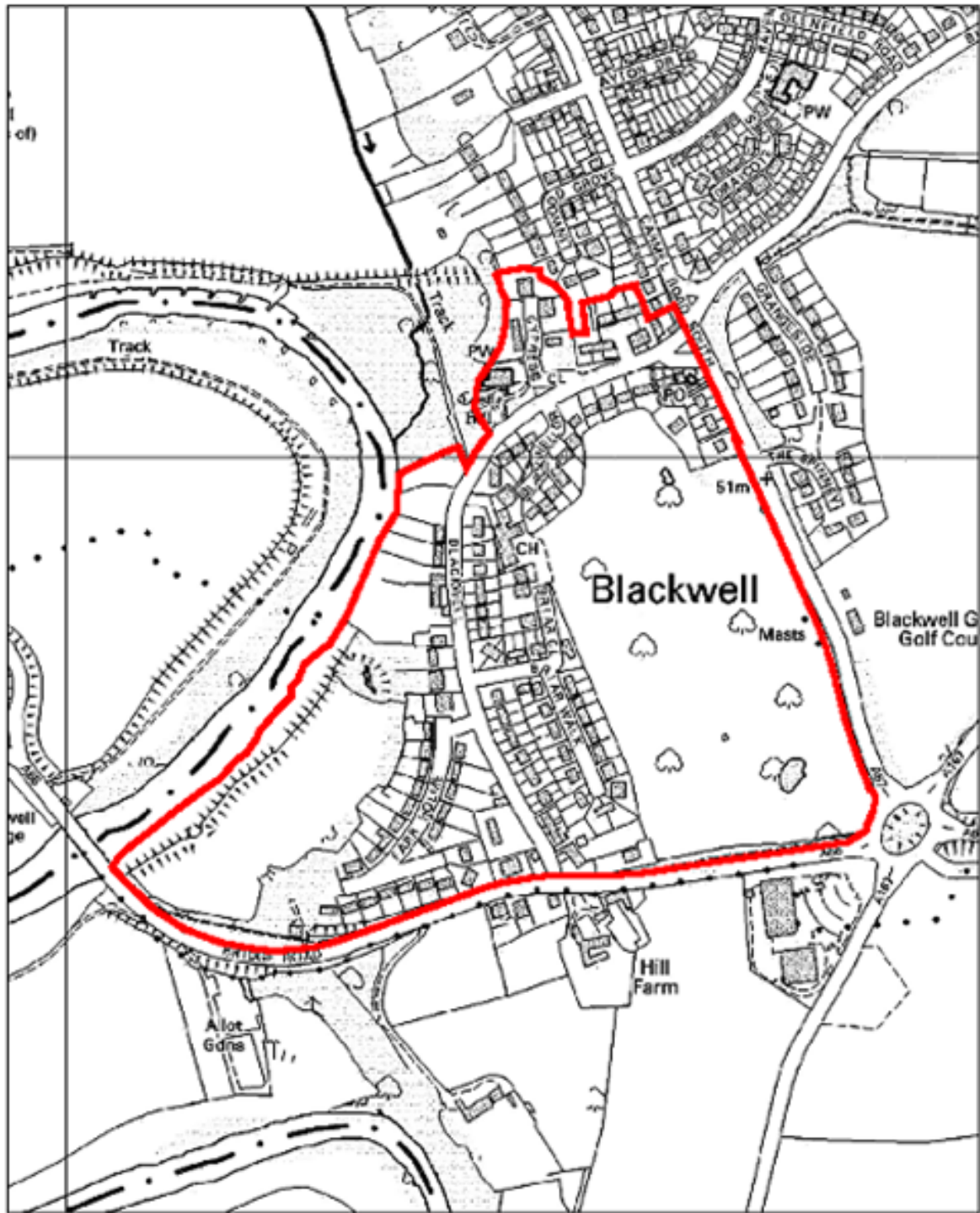
Delegated decision

The Assistant Director, Economic Initiatives hereby exercises his delegated authority to agree the applications and confirms the designation of the Blackwell Neighbourhood Forum and Blackwell Neighbourhood Area as defined in Sections 61F and 61G of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended by Part 1 of Schedule 9 to the Localism Act 2011).

John Anderson

Assistant Director, Economic Initiatives

Dated



Blackwell Neighbourhood Area Boundary



Date: 05.02.14

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