



BARNSTAPLE TOWN COUNCIL

Mr W Austin BA (Hons)
Town Clerk

10 February 2016

Graham Townsend
Strategic Development & Planning
North Devon Council
Lynton House, Commercial Road
Barnstaple EX31 1DG



QUALITY
TOWN
COUNCIL

BARUM HOUSE
THE SQUARE
BARNSTAPLE
DEVON EX32 8LS

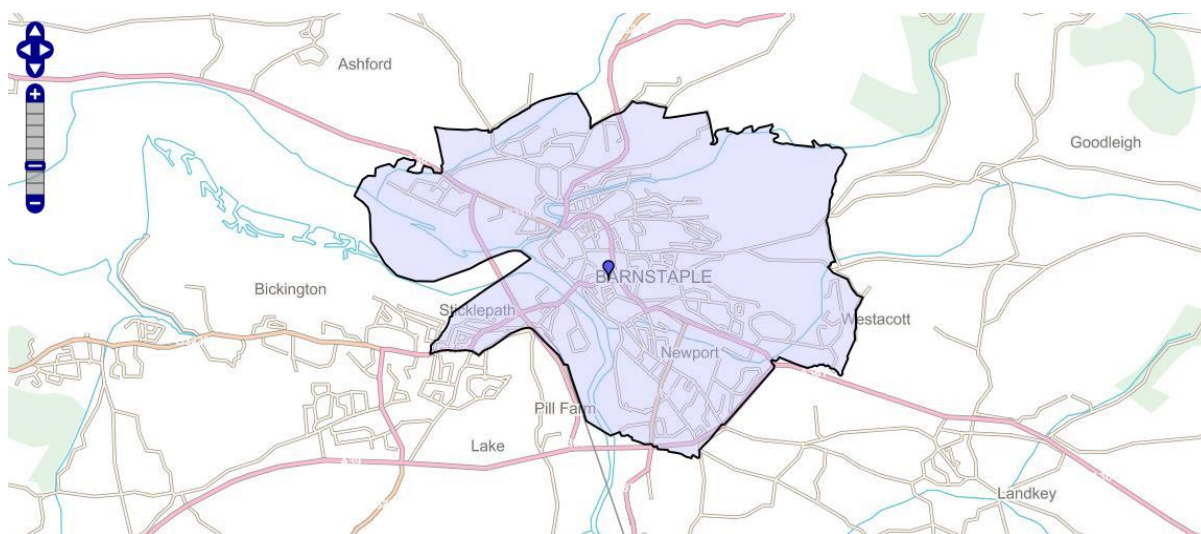
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Dear Graham

Neighbourhood Plan – Application to Designate a Neighbourhood Area

I write to apply for the following area to be designated as a neighbourhood area for the preparation of a Neighbourhood Plan:



This area has been chosen as it encompasses the entire parish of Barnstaple. The parish has developed over a period approaching 1,000 years into a cohesive community entity, and therefore, whilst planning policy may seek to address issues in individual local centres, these cannot be seen in isolation from other areas of the town. So for instance, development of the town centre has a potential impact on residential areas surrounding it in terms of access and amenity. Similarly, housing policies in one residential area – particularly if they seek to restrict housing – need to ensure that they do not adversely affect another area of the town.

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The aim of the plan will be to establish a sustainable and coherent vision for Barnstaple, with accompanying local policies. This can only be achieved by looking at the town as a whole.

As the principal settlement in North Devon, Barnstaple has a close relationship with adjoining areas. In the spirit of localism the Town Council will engage with adjoining parishes such as Fremington (whose parish is already a designated area), Tawstock and Landkey. The Town Council considers that neighbourhood planning issues are appropriate for partnership working and co-operation with neighbouring parishes rather than a single, Town Council-led plan for a wider area.

The Town Council has consulted with North Devon District Council as the local planning authority before making this application. At a Parish Forum meeting on 11 November 2015, North Devon parishes were encouraged by the planning authority to develop a Neighbourhood Plan to complement the provisions of the Local Plan. At a further meeting with officers of the planning authority on 25 November 2015 this advice was reinforced, and there was agreement on the potential benefits of this approach.

As the Parish Council for Barnstaple, Barnstaple Town Council is a 'relevant body' in accordance with Section 61G (2) (a) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, and it therefore makes this application to the local planning authority (North Devon District Council) for the area to be designated by North Devon District Council as a neighbourhood area for the purpose of the preparation of the Barnstaple Neighbourhood Plan.

This application was approved by Barnstaple Town Council at a meeting of its Planning and Transportation Committee on 4 February 2016 (minute number 138 2015-16).

Yours sincerely

Will Austin
Town Clerk