

# West Auckland Parish Council

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Spatial Policy Team  
Room 4/24  
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Durham County Council  
County Hall  
Durham  
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11<sup>th</sup> February 2014

Dear Sir/Madam

## **Application for Designation of West Auckland Neighbourhood Area**

I am writing to apply for the designation of a Neighbourhood Area under Section 61G of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 and in accordance with The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012.

The name of the Neighbourhood Area is the **West Auckland Neighbourhood Area** and the application is made by West Auckland Parish Council, which is a Relevant Body within the terms of Section 61G(2)(a) of the Act.

Attached at Appendix 1 to this letter is a map to identify the West Auckland Neighbourhood Area, the boundary of which is shown edged red. The Parish Council has resolved that the Neighbourhood Area shall encompass the whole of the West Auckland Parish and the red boundary therefore follows the Parish boundary in its entirety.

A statement in support of the application is provided at Appendix 2.

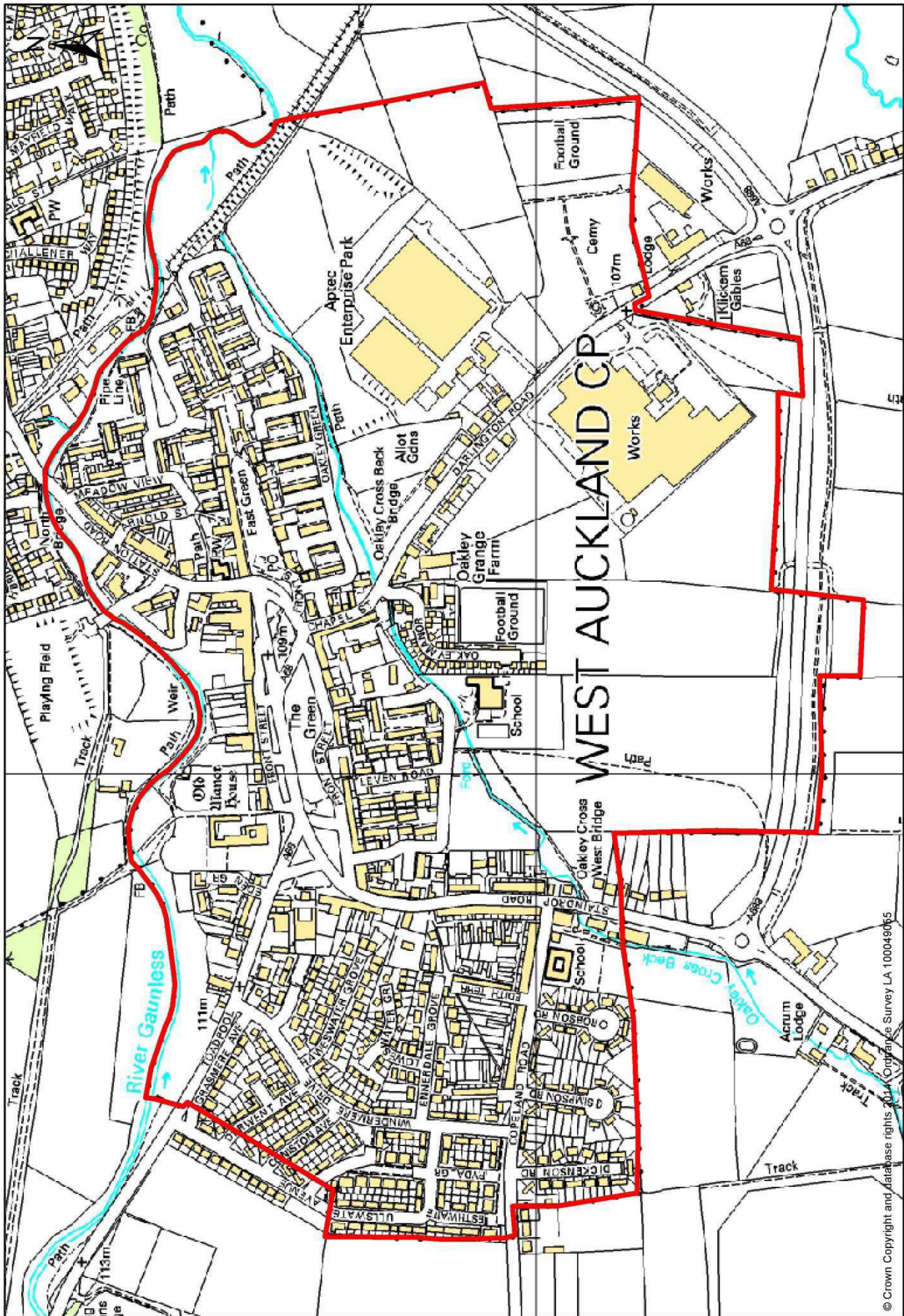
The designation of the Neighbourhood Area will be an important first step to the community working together to plan positively for the future development of West Auckland and we look forward to the Council's designation of the Neighbourhood Area once statutory consultation procedures have been met.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Sharon Wootton'.

Sharon Wootton  
Clerk to the Council

APPENDIX 1 - MAP OF WEST AUCKLAND NEIGHBOURHOOD AREA



## APPENDIX 2

### STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF APPLICATION FOR DESIGNATION OF WEST AUCKLAND NEIGHBOURHOOD AREA

#### Background

From its establishment in 2003, West Auckland Parish Council has been committed to proactively serving the residents of the Parish and making improvements to the village wherever possible. This began at the very first meeting of the Parish Council, when it was resolved to prepare a Parish Plan. The finished Plan, completed in 2006, captured the concerns, hopes and aspirations of the village's residents under a range of key topic headings.

Since the production of the Parish Plan, the Government has introduced new powers for communities to make Neighbourhood Plans for their areas under the Localism Act 2011.

Armed with the experience of preparing the Parish Plan, the Parish Council is keen to take the opportunity of developing a Neighbourhood Plan for West Auckland, to guide the future development of the area in a way which reflects the needs and aspirations of the local community.

This submission of the West Auckland Neighbourhood Area for designation represents the first formal step in this process.

#### The West Auckland Neighbourhood Area – appropriateness for designation<sup>1</sup>

The Neighbourhood Area for West Auckland encompasses the whole of the Parish. This accords with the general presumption in Section 61G(4)(a) of the Town and Country Planning Act, which refers to 'the desirability of designating the whole of the area of a parish council as a neighbourhood area'.

For the purposes of neighbourhood planning, the decision to designate the whole of the Parish is logical and appropriate as it forms an established spatial entity, centred on the village of West Auckland.

There are no areas of overlap with other Neighbourhood Areas.

#### West Auckland Parish Council - Relevant Body status<sup>2</sup>

West Auckland Parish Council is a Relevant Body within the terms of Section 61G(2)(a) of the Act.

A dedicated sub-group of the Parish Council is being established to steer the work of the Neighbourhood Plan and strong working links are being forged with officers at Durham County Council.

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<sup>1</sup> Statement in fulfilment of Regulation 5(1)(b) (Part 2) of The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012

<sup>2</sup> Statement in fulfilment of Regulation 5(1)(c) (Part 2) of The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012