

Ash Parish Council

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Attn Benjamin Moye
Planning & Regeneration Department.
Guildford Borough Council
Millmead House
Guildford.
GU2 4BB

8 March 2024

Dear Mr Moye,

Application for designation of the civil parish of Ash as a Neighbourhood Area (NA).

In accordance with the provisions of The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 Section 5(1), Ash Parish Council (APC) formally applies to Guildford Borough Council as the Planning Authority to designate the Civil Parish of Ash as a Neighbourhood Area (NA).

The Regulations require:

- (1) the submission of a map of the proposed area,
- (2) a statement detailing why the parish is considered appropriate to be designated a NA,
- (3) a statement explaining why the APC is the relevant body for the purpose of Section 61G of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.

1. A map detailing the boundary of the civil parish of Ash is attached to the email with this letter.

2. The Parish of Ash, in Surrey, though quite small, is the most heavily populated of the rural parishes within the Borough of Guildford. It covers some four-square miles in the extreme west of the Borough extending north to south along the river Blackwater which forms the Hampshire boundary with the towns of Aldershot and Farnborough immediately beyond.

In times past Ash was a very sparsely populated parish on the southern edge of the Windsor Great Forest but in recent years has grown into a continuous residential area with a population that could shortly reach 18,000.

The village of Ash is flanked on the south by Ash Green which reaches to the lower slopes of the Hog's Back with residential areas extending to the north through Ash Wharf to Ash Vale. The river Blackwater forms a break in the built-up areas to the west whilst, on the eastern side are many square miles of open heathland, including Ash Common, which are much used by the army for training purposes, although there is a restricted public access.

Ash is exceptionally well served by rail with no fewer than three stations – Ash, Ash Vale and North Camp – located on different routes. Frequent services run to Aldershot, Guildford, Reading and London (Waterloo) with direct services to Gatwick and to Heathrow via the Woking coach link. By way of a change at Reading, Ash rail travellers have quick access to the Midlands, the north of England and Scotland on intercity routes.

There are several historic buildings in Ash, including the 16th/17th century Hartshorn, Ash Manor, Lavender Cottage, Tudor House, Azor Place and Merryworth. St. Peter's church virtually rebuilt in

1865 still retains Norman, 11th, 13th and 15th century areas of interest including the tiny Norman window in the north aisle.

The parish is well served with leisure facilities for sport and recreation and these in the main are provided by the Ash Parish Council. There are four recreation grounds spread across the area and these provide public tennis courts at Carrington Recreation Ground and a football pitch with changing facilities at Harpers Recreation Ground and a skateboard park at Coronation Gardens.

A dual-purpose sport centre is situated at the Ash Manor School which is available for the school and public. The range of facilities there, include indoor tennis courts, and there is an adjacent gymnasium.

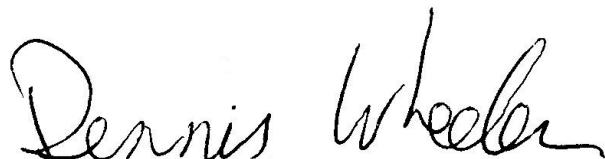
One of the most pleasant leisure features of Ash is the recently restored Basingstoke Canal (1794) which meanders through the parish on its way from Basingstoke to join the River Wey Navigation near Byfleet, Surrey, linking it with the inland water network.

The Parish is served by twelve parish councillors, representing three separate wards – Ash Wharf, Ash South and Ash Vale. There are six separately elected borough councillors to Guildford Borough Council, representing the three Wards and two elected county councillors who serve on Surrey County Council.

3. The Ash Parish Council has been in existence for approximately 129 years being founded circa 1895 and has taken a lead in community planning matters for that time and is the relevant body for the purposes of Section 61G of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.

The APC voted to proceed with this application at their meeting on the 12 February 2024 (Minute Number 266) and they consider that the area of Ash Civil Parish is suitable for designation as a Neighbourhood Area under the regulations.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dennis Wheeler". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dennis Wheeler
Clerk to the Council