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18th May 2016

Senior Planning Officer
North Somerset Council
Town Hall
WESTON-SUPER-MARE
BS23 1UJ

Dear Sir/Madam

Application for Designation of a Neighbourhood Area

1. Background

The Localism Act 2011 encourages local communities to draw up a Neighbourhood Development Plan. The legislation states that in areas where there is a Parish or Town Council, that Parish Council will take the lead in neighbourhood planning. The parishes of Pill and Easton in Gordano and Abbots Leigh are very different but have a number of important planning and development issues in common – traffic on the A 369, protection of the Green Belt, use of the Avon Walkway for example. Development possibilities cross parish boundaries. The two Councils have therefore decided to proceed with a Joint Neighbourhood Development Plan. Their intention to do so has been widely publicised within both communities for several months and no objections to this proposal have been made. The effectiveness of a joint approach will be increased by their shared District Councillor and a shared Parish Clerk.

2. Stage 1 – Defining the Neighbourhood

The first stage of the Neighbourhood Plan process requires identification of the area to which the Neighbourhood Development Plan will apply. This is to be done in consultation with the local planning authority, in this case North Somerset District Council. The Parish Councils consider that the most appropriate boundary for the Neighbourhood Areas are coincident with the Parish Boundaries, as defined by the North Somerset Council Planning Map and shown in the diagrams attached.

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3. Royal Portbury Dock

Part of Royal Portbury Dock lies within the Pill & Easton-in-Gordano Parish boundary and constitutes a significant proportion of the land area of the Parish. Pill & Easton-in-Gordano Parish Council recognises that Royal Portbury Dock benefits from reduced regulation in terms of development activity arising from the primary legislation to establish the dock project, and exemptions provided via elements of the General Permitted Development Order 1995. Nonetheless, the Council considers it appropriate to include Royal Portbury Dock within our Neighbourhood Plan area because development undertaken by the Port could have far reaching consequences for the Parish, especially in terms of transportation (road and rail) and local employment opportunities.

4. Ham Green, Martcombe and Chapel Pill

The West of England Joint Spatial Plan identifies 'Pill' as a potential location for new housing. One probable location for development pressures is likely to lie within Abbots Leigh Parish area (Chapel Pill and Blackmoor) although development interest has been expressed for other sites in Abbots Leigh. It is for this reason that the two Councils favour a joint Neighbourhood Plan.

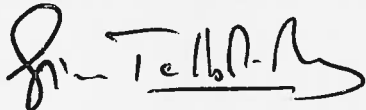
5. Application for Designation of a Neighbourhood Area

Pill & Easton-in-Gordano Parish Council and Abbots Leigh Parish Council hereby apply to North Somerset District Council for the areas within the current Parish boundaries to be designated as their Neighbourhood Area.

Yours faithfully



Andrew Jopp, Chair of Pill & Easton-in-Gordano Parish Council



Simon Talbot-Ponsonby, Chair of Abbots Leigh Parish Council