

## **Appendix 2: Letter of application**

### **CHINLEY BUXWORTH & BROWNSIDE PARISH COUNCIL – APPLICATION FOR NEIGHBOURHOOD AREA DESIGNATION**

#### **Background**

Chinley, Buxworth & Brownside Parish Council, working jointly with Chinley, Buxworth & Brownside Community Association, are seeking to build a new community centre to replace the existing, outdated, wooden building at Lower Lane, Chinley and to improve the adjoining public recreation, children's play and car parking areas.

This project has been developed following the extensive 'Community Vision' consultation in 2014/2015 relating to community and leisure activity in the parish, likely future demands and the quality of existing community buildings and spaces. Significant feedback was received on both the state and importance of the current community centre, as well as the whole of the Lower Lane site where it is situated. The project is in its early stages. We are on the point of appointing an architectural practice to prepare a masterplan for the Lower Lane site and outline plans for a new community centre. This will be followed by a major community consultation in the summer before detailed plans and costings are drawn up later in the year. We propose then to apply for a Community Right to Build Order for the site which, if approved, will mean that planning permission is granted.

#### **Why a Community Right to Build Order?**

Under the Localism Act 2011 local communities are able to undertake small-scale, site-specific community-led developments, such as community centres, under the Community Right to Build. Indeed, the Government encourages this route. In order to develop our proposals we are dependent on revenue grant funding. Specifically we are now applying for Community Buildings Pre-Feasibility Grant and later in the year we intend to apply for Community Buildings Project Support Grant. These grants are administered by Locality on behalf of the Government. It is a requirement of the Project Support Grant that community groups have designated a 'neighbourhood area' (or have plans in place to do so) as a first step towards submitting a Community Right to Build Order.

#### **Proposed Neighbourhood Area**

The proposed neighbourhood area is the whole of Chinley, Buxworth & Brownside Parish as shown on the attached plan. The community centre serves the whole of the parish council area and so no other designated neighbourhood area would be considered appropriate.

#### **Qualifying Body**

This application is being made by Chinley, Buxworth & Brownside Parish Council. By definition the Parish Council is a qualifying body and so is able to apply for the 'neighbourhood area' designation and Community Right to Build Order.

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