



# **Statement of Consultation**

## **Application for the Designation of Malden Rushett as a Neighbourhood Area**

**January 2022**

## **Introduction**

On 15th October 2021, a local community group called Malden Rushett Community submitted an application to have Malden Rushett designated as a Neighbourhood Area.

This statement provides a record of the publication and associated consultation that took place regarding the Malden Rushett Neighbourhood Area. The methods used to promote and publicise the publication are documented, along with a summary of the responses received.

The publication and consultation allow the Royal Borough of Kingston to consult with organisations and the public regarding the suitability of the proposed neighbourhood area. This process must take place before the Council, as the local planning authority, can designate the proposed neighbourhood area.

## Consultation Process

The Malden Rushett Neighbourhood Area application was published for consultation from 11th November 2021 to 23rd December 2021, for a period of six weeks. During this time the submitted application documents were available to download from the Council's website as well as the Council's online engagement portal. All addresses within the proposed neighbourhood area were informed of the application and consultation by letter (see Appendix 1 for a copy of the letter). In addition, emails were sent to statutory consultees and contacts on the strategic planning database, informing them about the consultation and how to respond.

The Council also put up site notices throughout the proposed Neighbourhood Area. Please see Appendix 2 for a copy of the site notice. A map showing the locations where the site notices were put up is shown as Appendix 3, together with photographs of the site notices in Appendix 4.

## Consultation Responses

In total, the Council received **109** consultation responses. This includes:

- **6** online respondents to the online survey.
- **87** emailed responses.
- **16** responses received via mail.

The breakdown of responses was as follows:

- **1** response supported the designation of Malden Rushett as a neighbourhood area.
- **7** responses were judged to be neutral. Only responses which were received by email or mail fell into this category as the online survey specifically asked whether respondents supported the designation of Malden Rushett as a neighbourhood area. The neutral responses were primarily made by Statutory Consultees.
- **101** responses did not support the designation of Malden Rushett as a neighbourhood area

The number of consultation responses was significantly higher than what would be usually expected for a neighborhood area consultation. In addition to local residents, a large number of people who work within the proposed neighbourhood area responded.

The table on the following pages summarises the main issues raised and the Council's response.

<b>Issue raised</b>	<b>Council's response</b>
<p>Designation of the Neighbourhood Area and possible subsequent designation of Malden Rushett Community as a neighbourhood forum will result in Malden Rushett Community controlling planning decisions in Malden Rushett.</p>	<p>Designation of Malden Rushett Community as neighbourhood forum would only give the group power to prepare a neighbourhood plan or neighbourhood development order for the neighbourhood area.</p> <p>Any future neighbourhood plan or neighbourhood development order produced by Malden Rushett Community would be subject to various stages of consultation and need to be passed by local referendum before taking effect.</p> <p>Decisions on planning applications would still be determined by the Council.</p>
<p>Designation of the Neighbourhood Area and possible subsequent designation of Malden Rushett Community as a neighbourhood forum will result in the local community losing their say in planning decisions.</p>	<p>Designation of the Neighbourhood Area and possible subsequent designation of Malden Rushett Community would not alter the way in which the Council consults residents and local businesses in Malden Rushett.</p>
<p>The Malden Rushett Residents Association is the established community group which best represents the local community and local views.</p>	<p>Comments noted - The Council acknowledges the Residents Association's long standing role in the community and will continue to engage with the group. However, the Residents Association's pre-existing role in the community does not preclude other community groups from neighbourhood planning.</p>
<p>Malden Rushett Community has small membership and/or is not representative of the local community.</p>	<p>Comments noted - The Council will fully scrutinise the membership of Malden Rushett Community should the group apply to become the neighbourhood forum for Malden Rushett.</p>
<p>Malden Rushett Community is a non-transparent organisation. Their aims/objectives and decision making is not clear.</p>	<p>Comments noted - At this stage there is no statutory requirement for a prospective Neighbourhood Forum to have been fully constituted at when an application is submitted for the designation of a neighbourhood area. Community groups are required to have constitutions (that sets out the group's aims and objectives)</p>

	<p>formally agreed prior to the submission of an application to be designated as a Neighbourhood Forum.</p> <p>In addition, the Council expects key details of the group (including the persons that have been elected as the group's chair, secretary, treasurer, etc.) to be published prior to the submission of an application.</p>
<p>Lack of prior consultation conducted by Malden Rushett Community.</p>	<p>Comments noted - There has been some small scale informal consultation prior to the neighbourhood area application. The submission of this application is the first formal stage of the neighbourhood planning process. Large amounts of prior consultation would not normally be expected at this stage of the neighborhood planning process.</p> <p>Any future neighbourhood plan or neighbourhood development order produced by Malden Rushett Community would be subject to further stages of consultation and need to be passed by local referendum before taking effect.</p> <p>The Council will also expect any future neighbourhood forum to adequately consult the local community throughout the preparation of a neighbourhood plan.</p>
<p>A neighbourhood plan for Malden Rushett would be another tier of planning / layer of bureaucracy.</p>	<p>Neighbourhood planning is an additional tier of planning. The Localism Act gives community groups the rights to take forward neighbourhood planning and gain neighbourhood planning powers.</p> <p>Any future neighbourhood plan or neighbourhood development order would need to be passed by local referendum before taking effect. The local community would be able to vote against a neighbourhood plan should they wish to not have an additional tier of planning policy.</p>
<p>It has not been demonstrated that the proposed Neighbourhood Area boundary is</p>	<p>It is considered that Section 2b of the Neighbourhood Area Application</p>

appropriate.	adequately justifies why the neighborhood area boundary is appropriate.
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## **Conclusion**

The council has considered all the consultation responses and addresses in the table above the issues raised. A separate report will set out a recommendation on whether to approve the designation of the neighbourhood area, taking into consideration all of the consultation responses.

## Appendix 1 - Copy of the Consultation Letter



Strategic Planning Team  
Guildhall 2  
High Street  
Kingston upon Thames  
KT1 1EU

020 8547 5000  
[localplan@kingston.gov.uk](mailto:localplan@kingston.gov.uk)  
[www.kingston.gov.uk](http://www.kingston.gov.uk)

**9 November 2021**

Dear resident or business owner

**Application for the Malden Rushett Neighbourhood Area: Regulation 6 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended)**

We are writing to you because your address is within or near the area to which this application relates.

Kingston Council has received an application to have Malden Rushett designated as a neighbourhood area. This application has been made by a community group called Malden Rushett Community ([www.maldenrushett.community/neighbourhood-planning](http://www.maldenrushett.community/neighbourhood-planning)).

If the application is approved, the area within the red line boundary, shown on the attached map, will form the Malden Rushett Neighbourhood Area.

This application is connected with neighbourhood planning and gives power to communities to develop a shared vision and plan for their neighbourhood, to shape the development and growth of their local area.

If the proposed Malden Rushett neighbourhood area becomes designated, the Malden Rushett Community or another community group can apply to be designated as the neighbourhood forum for the area. The designated neighbourhood forum for the area would be able to prepare a neighbourhood plan or development order for the neighbourhood area. If adopted, the vision,

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objectives and policies of any future Malden Rushett Neighbourhood Plan would apply to this area, and be used to guide decisions on planning applications within the neighbourhood area.

For further information about this application or neighbourhood planning, please visit the council's website: [www.kingston.gov.uk/neighbourhoodplanning](http://www.kingston.gov.uk/neighbourhoodplanning)

### **We would like to hear from you.**

If you would like to make any comments on this application or have any questions you can contact us in the following ways:

- **On our engagement portal via our website:** [www.kingston.gov.uk/neighbourhoodplanning](http://www.kingston.gov.uk/neighbourhoodplanning)
- **Email:** [localplan@kingston.gov.uk](mailto:localplan@kingston.gov.uk)
- **Write to us at:** Strategic Planning Team, The Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames, Guildhall 2, High Street, Kingston upon Thames, KT1 1EU

Please let us know your postcode and contact details if you choose to email or write to us.

The consultation will close on **Thursday 23rd December 2021**.

### **What will happen next?**

The Council will make a decision by 27 January 2022.

If you have any questions about this letter, please contact the Strategic Planning Team at [localplan@kingston.gov.uk](mailto:localplan@kingston.gov.uk) or call our contact centre on **020 8547 5000** and ask for a call back from the Planning Policy Team.

Yours faithfully



**Tim Naylor**  
**Assistant Director for Strategic Planning and Infrastructure**



## Appendix 2 - Copy of the Site Notice

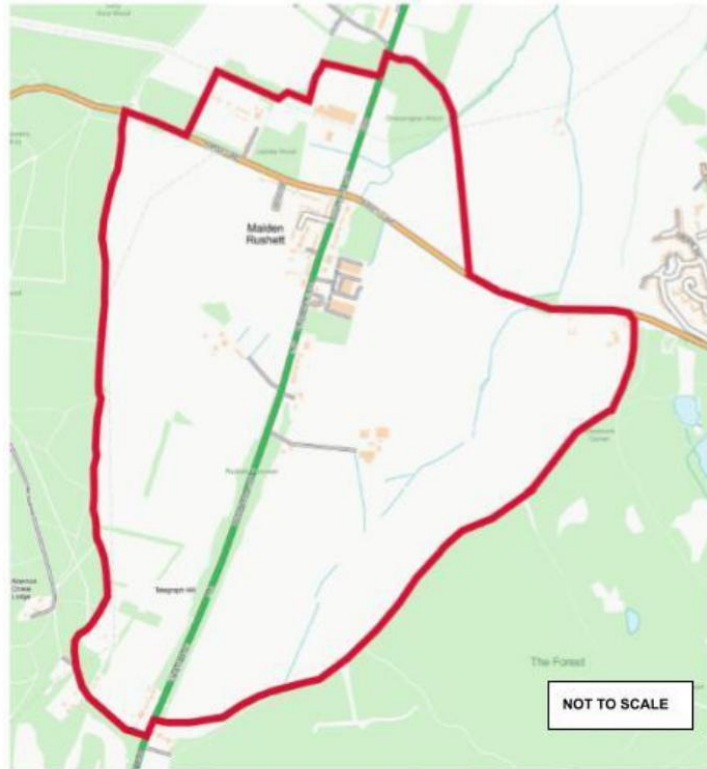


### Application for the Malden Rushett Neighbourhood Area: Regulation 6 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended)

Kingston Council has received an application to have Malden Rushett designated as a Neighbourhood Area. The proposed area is outlined in red on the map to the right.

For more information about this application, please visit the Council's neighbourhood planning webpage: [www.kingston.gov.uk/neighbourhoodplanning](http://www.kingston.gov.uk/neighbourhoodplanning)

If you have any questions about this application, please contact the Strategic Planning Team at [localplan@kingston.gov.uk](mailto:localplan@kingston.gov.uk) or call our contact centre on: **020 8547 5000** and ask for a call back from the Planning Policy Team.



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If you would to make any comments on this application you can do so in the following ways:

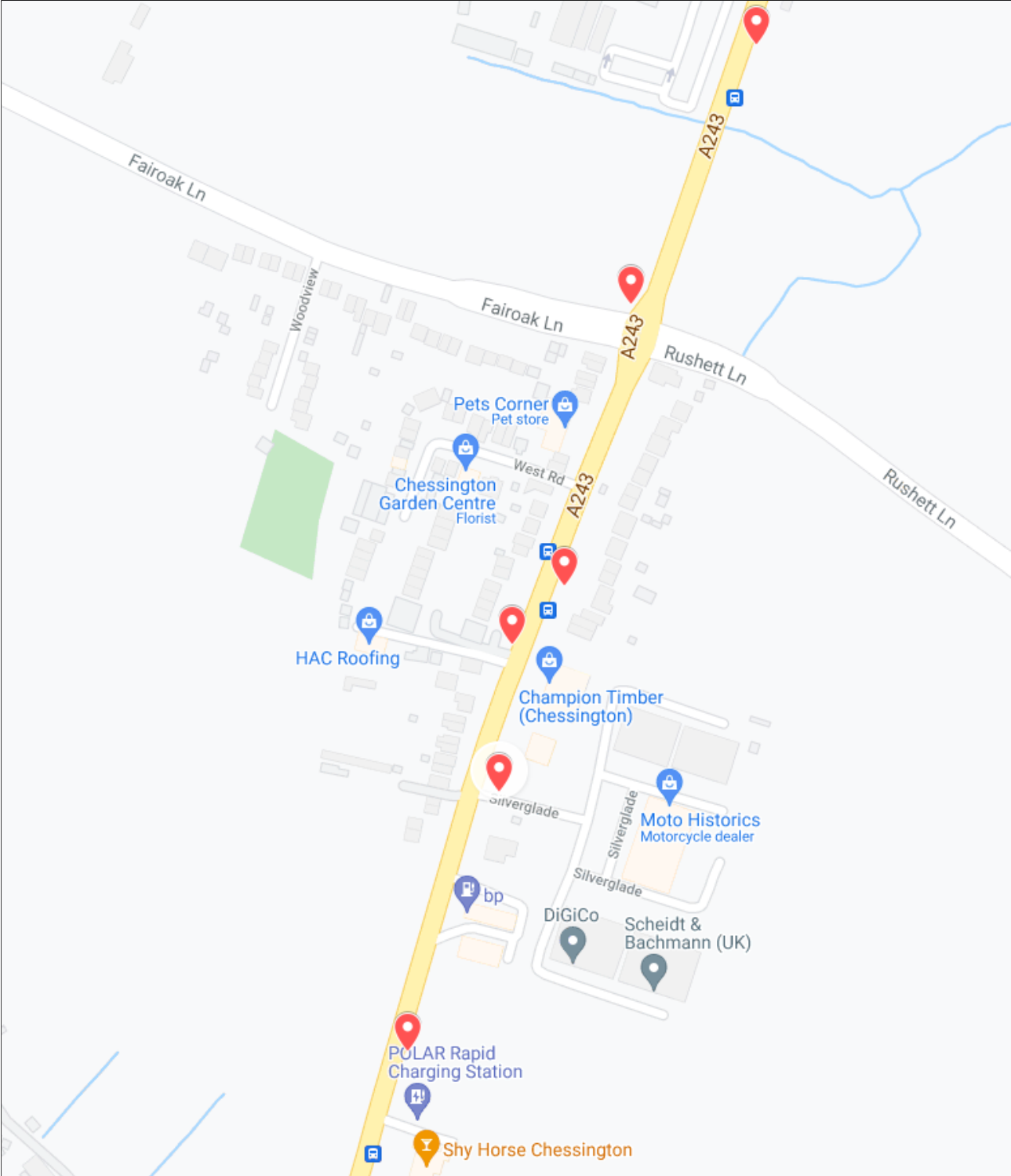
- **On our engagement portal:** [www.kingston.gov.uk/neighbourhoodplanning](http://www.kingston.gov.uk/neighbourhoodplanning)
- **Email:** [localplan@kingston.gov.uk](mailto:localplan@kingston.gov.uk)
- **Post:** Strategic Planning Team, The Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames, Guildhall 2, High Street, Kingston upon Thames, KT1 1EU

The consultation period runs until **Thursday 23rd December 2021**.

**Tim Naylor**  
**Assistant Director for Strategic Planning & Infrastructure**  
The Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames

Dated: 11th November 2021

**Appendix 3 - Map showing the locations where site notices were put up in the proposed Neighbourhood Area (in addition to the notice up in the community noticeboard)**



**Appendix 4 - Photographs of the site notices that were put up in the proposed Neighbourhood Area**



