

# Escrick Parish area application for a Neighbourhood Plan - August 2017

## 0. Introduction

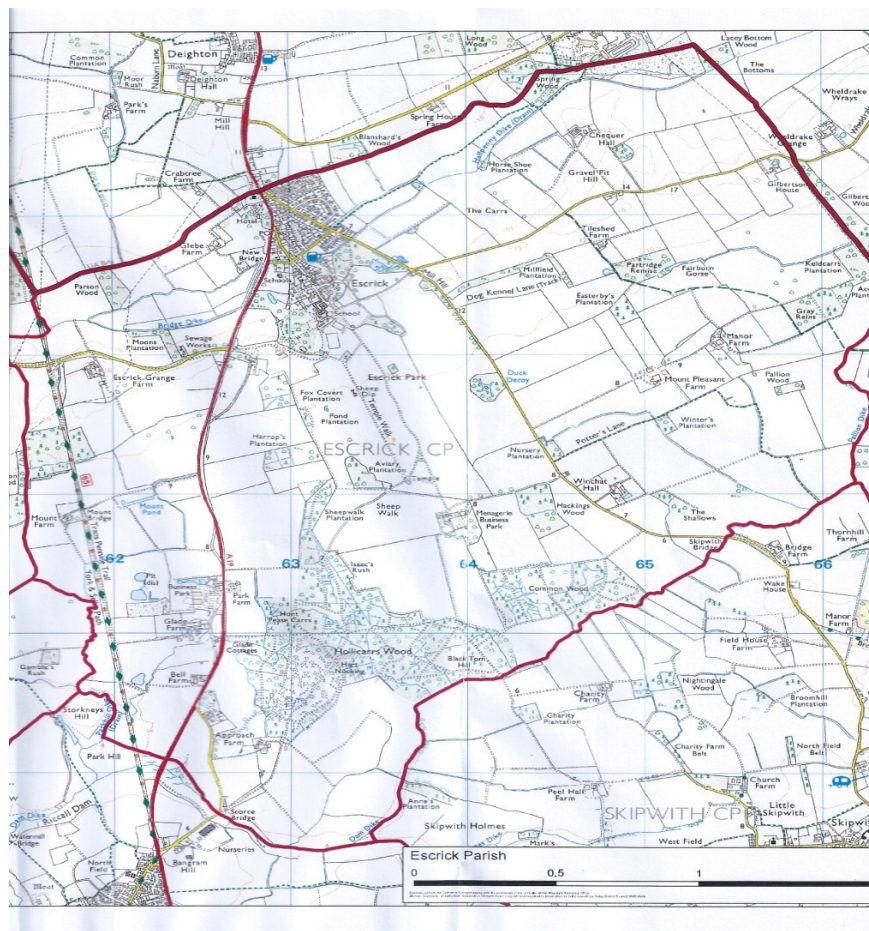
Escrick Parish wishes to be designated as a “Neighbourhood Area” by Selby District Council (SDC), in order to produce a “Neighbourhood Plan”. We see this as a way of getting more of a say in the development plans for our local area. The first step towards this is creating a formal request for this designation to take place, using the format and guidelines produced by SDC. This document is that request for designation.

## 1. Name of the proposed Neighbourhood Area

The proposed name of the new Neighbourhood Area is “Escrick Parish”.

## 2. Map of the proposed area

The map below shows the boundaries of “Escrick Parish” as consistent with the SDC maps of the same area. It is an area of approximately 6.5 square miles or thereabouts.



### **3. Supporting Statement**

The village of Escrick has been nominated as a Designated Service Village (DSV) by SDC within its adopted Core Strategy. This has implications for the community in the village in that future development will be aligned with future SDC plans for housing. In the past, some extremely large-scale schemes have been put forward by landowners as potential development sites in the SHLAA and other call for sites which would have, in the view of the majority of the community, had a massive negative impact on the nature and character of the village, its facilities and its environs. Escrick Parish Council (EPC) supports the principle that some small-scale development should go ahead in the village to meet the policy requirements of the Selby Local Plan and to allow for sustainable organic growth, but that this should be of an appropriate scale and nature consistent with the character of the village and be of good quality design and in appropriate locations.

In the context of the latest Central and Local government thinking and policy on involving communities in their development futures, we wish to take advantage of the concept of a Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) to present a strong case from local residents, businesses and other elements of our community, some direction and guidance on where and what kind and what quality of development should be allowed to take place. We wish to make a proactive contribution to the future debates on this within the SDC area, and in particular to provide guidance and policy direction for any proposed developments (and allocations) within Escrick Parish.

The plan will focus on residential development primarily within and adjoining Escrick village (but may provide more general guidance for other smaller settlements), and may also make recommendations on areas of business / commercial / waste development within the Parish as a whole. It will seek to preserve the natural environment, especially where there are existing National or Local designations. It may also examine the traffic and transport implications of potential uses and proposals in order to ensure that highways issues are satisfactory for both vehicles and pedestrians in a sustainable way.

The boundaries which constitute the Parish and therefore the NDP scope conform and match the existing SDC boundary maps for Escrick Parish.

The catchment area for walking to local services will be included in the Plan and will be consistent with the SDC understanding of these catchments areas. The main service centre for the Parish is Escrick village.

The main community hub is at Escrick Village, although smaller communities exist at Hollicarrs and its surrounding area. There are various formal and informal organisations within Escrick who we will aim to involve as part of the NDF consultation process. We have nearly as many temporary residences as permanent residences in the Parish.

Escrick village incorporates a long established Conservation Area and includes various Listed Buildings (additional information below). As a rural village, density is generally lower than in urban areas and landscaping forms an integral part of the streetscape. As part of the NDP consultation with the local community, we will request views and seek to provide guidance for future developments to ensure continuity of good design consistent with the existing local vernacular in the Parish.

The area under review contains clearly defined business and residential components within it. These are well defined, and the needs for each area will be dealt with separately in the NDP. Both business and residential constituencies are recognised and consistent with SDC definitions.

The area is generally a rural area that contains a main village and smaller settlements / groups of houses, as well as employment opportunities (for example, within Estate properties as well as at Escrick Business Park. In addition, local farms, utility providers and smaller retail organisations undertake business operations in the NDP area. Along with our residents, we see them as major stakeholders in our plan and will consult them as appropriate.

The boundaries and scope of the Plan are not related to any particular physical features or boundaries; rather they incorporate the existing Escrick Parish boundaries to ensure that all inter-related issues affecting the Parish can be considered in due course. The main arterial route – the A19 - is steadily increasing in traffic flow and this must be a serious consideration when future development proposals of all uses are assessed. There is currently no safe pedestrian crossing point from the existing housing in Escrick village to those services across the A19, nor to public transport (buses). Likewise, as there is no safe segregated cycle link along the A19 between York and Selby, the cycle link (part of the Trans Pennine Cycle route cycle path) along the abandoned railway line needs to be protected and provide safe usage at all times.

Outside Escrick village itself, the Parish is primarily rural in nature, incorporating many agricultural businesses which work the land in various ways, well defined woodland and certain habitats protected by National and Local conservation and ecological designations. Bridge Dyke transects the village and consequently a substantial section of the southern (westerly and easterly) local area lies within the Environment Agency's Flood Zone 3 (with some smaller areas within Flood Zone 2). These must all be taken into account when future planning options are considered.

The size of the residential population is approximately 1100. There are approximately 380 residential households within the Parish.

The following data is from the 2011 census returns for Escrick Parish and gives an indication of the size of the population and its area;

All residents:	1078
Number of Households	370
Average household size	2.46
Residents in households	909
Residents in communal living	169

Area (hectares)	1758
Population density (people per hectare)	0.61

Queen Margarets School has 220 boarders and 80 day pupils plus staff and constitutes a significant population within the Parish. Their needs require special consideration in our planning for the future.

Escrick is thought to have developed as a settlement on the glacial moraine that runs west to east through the village, where the land will have been less prone to flooding than the surrounding areas. It is mentioned in the Domesday Book of 1068. During the medieval period, the village was known as "Ascri" (Ash Ridge), but by 1600 the name Escrick was in use.

Escrick was developed as an Estate Village by Sir Henry Thompson who acquired the village and the Hall in 1668. Sir Henry's great grandson, Beilby Thompson, inherited the Estate in 1742. Under this ownership the village extended north towards York; the Church was relocated from beside the Hall to its present site on the York Road (A19); and most of the former site of the village was cleared and became the grounds of Escrick Hall (now part of Queen Margaret's School). Part of this reorganisation involved an Act of Parliament in 1776 stopping the main village street at the gates to the Hall and creating a by-pass. The village's sylvan character also evolved from the time of enclosure when the open land became parkland.

**Important and Historic buildings:**

- Escrick Hall (now part of Queen Margaret's School)
- The Dower House (now converted to flats of the same name)
- The former Police Station and Court House (now Derwent Court flats)
- The Church of St Helen and the adjoining rectory (the latter of which is now a part of the Parsonage Hotel).

**Monuments & Memorials:**

- The Jubilee Fountain located on Main St (Grade II listed) built to commemorate Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee in 1897.
- The Coronation Memorial (located Main St/Carr Lane junction) built to commemorate the coronation of King George VI in 1937.
- The World War I Memorial (located in the church grounds)
- The World War II Memorial (the bus shelter on Main St)

The sense of history, community and the local heritage icons mentioned above which reflect this, generate a strong sense of a "neighbourhood" in the Parish. There is strong community support for these various Listed and Historic Buildings to be preserved and their settings enhanced, and for them to retain an important integral part of any developments within both the village (as the main community hub) and wider Parish.

We will be seeking to incorporate the views of the many differing communities and interests within the Parish, through an extensive consultation exercise throughout the various stages of preparation of the Plan

A preliminary meeting has already been held with SDC Planning Policy officers to learn more about the NDP process and requirements, and to obtain their advice regarding preferred boundaries and what to do next. We have followed up SDC's suggestion to meet with other Parish Council / NDP groups to learn more about the process and the commitment needed. Discussions have been held at Escrick Parish Council meetings where it was resolved that we would pursue a NDP for Escrick Parish, to be led by the Planning Working Group and to involve the wider community in due course.

The Escrick Neighbourhood Development Plan will give our community the opportunity to create a shared vision for our neighbourhood and will help to guide and shape the development and growth of our local area. We will be able to identify where and what types of new homes / employment should be developed, where it should be located and where and what type of other supporting services are needed and where they should be built. It will allow us to proactively have our say on what those new buildings should look like, what infrastructure should be provided, and provide guidance to developers and others about the needs of our area and what would be supported and provided. The Escrick Neighbourhood Development Plan will provide a powerful set of tools for local people to ensure that they get the right types of development for their community and ensure that the ambition of the neighbourhood is aligned with the strategic needs and priorities of the wider SDC local area.

We expect SDC and other bordering Parish Councils to have a key ongoing role in the Plan's preparation. We have already advised Deighton Parish Council of our stated intention to prepare a NDP and they will be a key consultee, given that their boundary bisects the northern part of the village built-up area.

To supplement existing statistical data already available and that already obtained by SDC in their preparation of the Selby Local Plan to date, we will build a robust and data driven process by getting the community involved in data gathering, evidence preparation and decision making. We would hope to share suitable data with SDC to assist both SDC's Plan making process as well as that of the NDP.

The application is for Escrick Parish alone.

#### **4. Statement of Intent**

Escrick Parish Council is the relevant body to make an application for the Neighbourhood Plan under Section 61G of the 1990 Town and Country Planning Act.

Following confirmation from SDC that this document has been completed to allow Escrick Parish to be designated as a "Neighbourhood Area", our intent is to proceed to develop an NDP for Escrick Parish. We will then start the Consultation phase of the project to get 'buy in' from our communities of interest.

## **5. Contacts**

Main Escrick Parish Council contact for this activity:

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- Tudor
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## **6. Declaration**

Escrick Parish Council wishes to apply to SDC to designate “Escrick Parish” as a Neighbourhood Plan Area as described in the application above.