

SUMMARY OF REPRESENTATIONS

Respondent	Summary
Natural England	No comments to make on the suitability of the proposed area or proposed neighbourhood planning body.
National Highways	No objection to the designation of Heyford Park as a neighbourhood area.
Middleton Stoney Parish Council	Fully supports the response submitted by the MCNP Forum. There should be a single plan covering the entire Mid Cherwell Neighbourhood and opposes Heyford Park becoming a neighbourhood area. Notes development at Heyford Park has had a significant impact on neighbouring villages, including Middleton Stoney. e.g. traffic and these would be better addressed by an integrated joined up plan covering the whole neighbourhood area. Any move to carve out Heyford Park as different or special would be a retrograde step.
Oxfordshire County Council	No specific comments to make on the proposed neighbourhood area, but notes that it would affect the adopted Mid-Cherwell Neighbourhood Plan.
Mid Cherwell Neighbourhood Plan (MCNP) Forum	<p>A lengthy, comprehensive representation has been made.</p> <p>Objects to Heyford Park becoming a neighbourhood area as MCNP holds the same aspirations as that stated in Heyford Parks application and that the origins of MCNP revolve around Heyford Park being designated as a strategic development site. The policies of the MCNP address the impact over an extended period of time of this development on the surrounding parish communities, together with a desire of those communities to effectively integrate the growing new community into the neighbourhood, ensuring that it would not become separate. It is therefore ironical, unfortunate and far from ideal that the newly-created parish council, intended to represent that growing community, now prefers to remove itself from the wider community of which it is part. We are unaware of any attempt by the Parish Council to discover what the aspirations of their community may be.</p> <p>The development of policy by MCNP has been conducted in a thoroughly open and transparent manner, both for the original plan and now for the review. This has involved large-scale mailings, leafletting, engagement meetings, website updates, newsletters, and social media. The Forum itself is not a public body, and does not meet in public. However, member parishes are fully accountable and engaged with their local communities on the work being conducted on their behalf by MCNP. At present all member parish councils report back to the MCNP and then feedback is acted on, but if Heyford Park becomes its own neighbourhood area some parish councils may not be inclined to add to their workload by participating separately with Heyford Park Parish Council.</p> <p>They note that there is no evidence that District Councillors have given the advice that 'Heyford Park is vastly different from the surrounding villages and needs its own Neighbourhood Plan.' A break-up on the union in the MCNP area would be contrary to good governance.</p>

	<p>The Mid-Cherwell neighbourhood area is an ‘entire community’ where facilities in Heyford Park are utilised by those in other parishes and there has been no evidence presented by Heyford Park Parish Council of ‘overwhelming support’ for the initiative. MCNP is unaware of any consultation exercise conducted by HPPC, or anyone else, to elicit the views of the local community on this question.</p> <p>They are unaware of any criticism that the MCNP is too big, and object to the comment that the MCNP forum is ‘private’ and notes that Dorchester Group is also an Associate Member of the MCNP Forum.</p> <p>It is highly desirable to maintain the existing boundaries of the neighbourhood area for reasons including protecting Local Green Space nominations suggested by Heyford Park Parish Council in the MCNP review, reaching the minimum (10,000) population to support an application for a new GP practise and to form a Green Infrastructure Network including Heyford Park Parish in the MNCP Review.</p> <p>We are open to mediation. We, District Councillors and the Dorchester Group have offered to help repair relations.</p>
Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire, and Berkshire West Integrated Care Board	No objection to the neighbourhood area application but notes that Policy PC2 in the adopted MCNP and Policy MC12 in the draft MCNP review includes a health centre at Heyford Park.
Daniel Scharf	Due to the scale of development at Heyford Park there is a good case for a distinct neighbourhood forum area to be designated and suggests the area is called ‘Heyford’ only.
Canal and River Trust	No comments to make.
Historic England	No objection to Heyford Park being designated as a neighbourhood area but highlights the need to sustain the heritage significance of the former RAF site.
Duns Tew Parish Council	<p>Understands the desire to have an independent and separate neighbourhood plan for Heyford Park but does not support it.</p> <p>There are mutual benefits of collaboration.</p> <p>Heyford Park's commitment to openness is also shared by the Duns Tew Parish Council (DTPC), indeed the MCNP's established practices appear to have proven largely effective in community engagement and feedback resolution.</p> <p>The claim that District Councillors have advised HPPC of the need for separation cannot be evaluated without supporting evidence. Likewise, HPPC reports overwhelming parish support for its plans. Transparency regarding the extent of support and specific feedback would help us better understand such claims. What is on record, however, is Cherwell Council's intentional support in 2015 for a unified Neighbourhood Plan that emphasizes the value of collaboration for local cohesion and effective governance.</p>

	<p>The MCNP already encompasses the entire Mid-Cherwell community, demonstrating interconnectedness. A separate boundary risks creating artificial divisions, overlooking shared facilities and services.</p> <p>The MCNP has actively engaged with neighbouring parishes, fostering collaboration and ensuring a unified approach to planning.</p> <p>The involvement of Dorchester in Heyford Park's Neighbourhood Plan Working Group raises concerns about potential conflicts of interest and plan impartiality. However there is also the potential opportunity to work together from the early stages to influence a good outcome for all communities.</p> <p>A separate development plan for Heyford Park could add to the administrative burden and costs of resource-strapped Cherwell District Council, an important factor when evaluating the merits of the proposed plan.</p> <p>In conclusion the DTTPC are concerned that a separate Neighbourhood Plan for Heyford Park would have a negative impact on collaborative planning efforts, on our infrastructure and services, and also the potential (and unnecessary) increased administrative burden on Cherwell District Council. It is in all the Parish Councils within the MCNP's interest to work together within the present MCNP for the good of all the communities. It is hoped that a way can be found to accommodate HPPCs concerns within the existing structure.</p>
Upper Heyford Parish Council	<p>Objects to Heyford Park being designated as a neighbourhood area. Heyford Park (HP) is a burgeoning community and may appear, from the inside, that they have outgrown the MCNP and its goals, however we would argue that this is exactly the time when HP should be working harder with the surrounding parishes in order to stop the growing village being 'cut off' from their neighbours in terms of development, to the mutual benefit of all.</p> <p>Whilst the MCNP is not a public forum, it is made up of public bodies, mostly parish councils, and as such these are obliged to share information that is relevant to their parish – something UHPC have always taken great care to undertake, so the suggestion that the forum is private and not transparent is a white elephant in our view. We would strongly advise that the application for designation be refused, and that HPPC be encouraged to reengage with their wider community partners to make the MCNP an even stronger force in neighbourhood planning for the future.</p>
Steeple Aston Parish Council	<p>The current situation has arisen because of the creation of Heyford Park as a new parish, formed out of parts of three of the other original parishes in the MCNP Forum. It is completely understandable that the new parish council wishes to make a mark, and to establish a clear role for itself. It can and should do so. However, the PC's sudden departure from the Forum in November 2023 was viewed with dismay and a lack of comprehension by us and our fellow parish councils.</p>

	<p>The proposal to establish itself as a separate neighbourhood plan area is of serious concern.</p> <p>We fear this action will in fact disadvantage Heyford Park parishioners and that they know little or nothing about the consequences of this decision for themselves and the wider community.</p> <p>Steeple Aston Parish Council therefore wishes to express its hope that Cherwell DC will refuse the application for a separate neighbourhood area for Heyford Park, and instead support our wish and that of the Forum that HPPC be encouraged to return to working together with its neighbouring parishes.</p>
Somerton Parish Council	<p>Wish to oppose the application.</p> <p>There is a lack of convincing argument being made to warrant Heyford Park becoming a neighbourhood area.</p> <p>Overall, there are more similarities than differences between the different parishes in the MCNP. Continuing as MCNP including Heyford Park will strengthen the level of influence the group has in the area.</p> <p>Somerton Parish Council along with many of the other Parish Councils within the MCNP has many interdependencies with Heyford Park.</p> <p>We believe that the MCNP should remain because it is more cost effective and efficient to serve the whole area working together as one.</p> <p>We are concerned that there have been recent public postings from Heyford Park Parish Council on social media channels that have been inaccurate, disrespectful, and frankly not acting within the Good Councillors Guid.</p> <p>We are also concerned these may not be the views of the majority of the resident population of Heyford Park or the voice of the resident population is not being heard by those they have voted to represent them if the Parish Council is made up of co-opted members.</p>