**Draft Statement explaining why we want to extend the area covered by the Churchdown Neighbourhood Plan, to include the whole of the Hill . V3 (7 Nov 2025)**

We are writing to propose, as part of the review of the Churchdown Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP), to extend the boundary to include the whole of Churchdown Hill and its lower slopes. This area currently sits in Hucclecote Parish, and its parish council fully supports this proposal.

The formal parish boundaries between the two councils do not consider the natural topography of the area, or the current wildlife movements on the Hill; the boundary has roughly one half of the Hill in Churchdown and the other half in Hucclecote.

This extension would aim to provide comprehensive protection and planning for the area, ensuring that development is managed in a way that respects the natural environment and enhances the local landscape.

By working together with Hucclecote Parish and Tewkesbury Borough Council, we can ensure that our NDP aligns with the strategic vision outlined in the Tewkesbury Borough Plan (2011-2031) and the emerging Joint Core Strategy for Cheltenham, Tewkesbury, and Gloucester.

This approach will enable us to:

- Protect Environmental Assets: Preserve the natural beauty of the hill and its lower slopes, maintaining and protecting the Hill's biodiversity and wildlife habitats/corridors.
- Promote Sustainable Development: Encourage development that is environmentally sustainable, respecting the character of the area while meeting local needs.
- Enhance Community Engagement: Foster greater community involvement in planning decisions, ensuring that local voices are heard and valued.
- Ensure Consistency with Local Policy: Align our NDP with the Tewkesbury Borough Council's neighbourhood planning policies and the emerging Strategic and Local Plan.

We believe that this extension will not only benefit our parish but also contribute to the broader goals of sustainable development and environmental stewardship in the region. We look forward to working closely with Tewkesbury Borough Council and the adjoining parish to bring this proposal to fruition.

**Confirmation of Hucclecote's support – this is an extract from the Draft Minutes of Hucclecote parish's meeting on 20 October 2025**

MINUTES TO BE CONFIRMED AT THE NEXT COUNCIL MEETING 17TH NOVEMBER 2025

**d) Campaign to protect Churchdown Hill**

A report was circulated giving an update on the campaign to give better protection to the hill and proposed further actions. Churchdown Parish Council is in the process of updating the Churchdown Neighbourhood Plan and has agreed to extend the boundary to include the rural areas around the hill within Hucclecote Parish; a map showing the area was provided.

It was resolved that an application be made jointly with Churchdown Parish Council to apply to Tewkesbury Borough Council to designate the areas identified on the map as a "neighbourhood area" and that Hucclecote Parish Council's functions to make an application be delegated to Churchdown Parish Council.

(Section 61G (2) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1991)
(Section 101(1)(b) of the Local Government Act 1972)

**Confirmation of Innsworth's Exclusion from the New Neighbourhood Area Designation from Draft Minutes of Innsworth's Parish Meeting on 28th March 2025.**

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| 16. | **Council agreed that Innsworth Parish Council wishes to have a separate NDP to Churchdown PC** |

**Map showing the boundary of the Parish of Churchdown (in blue) and part of Hucclecote Parish (the South side/slopes of Churchdown Hill and the Horsebere Brook Nature Reserve) that would be included in the updated Churchdown Neighbourhood Plan (tinted yellow/light orange).**

