

## **Statement explaining how the proposed designated area is appropriate for meeting the objectives of the Knighton Forum Neighbourhood Plan.**

The designated area was decided as a result of much discussion and refinement at several public and many steering group meetings. It is designed and intended to capture an area which its residents feel is consistent, coherent, has a variety of housing, but also many broadly similar types within that range, and within which people have many things in common and are concerned about similar issues.

The initial proposed designated area was mainly south Knighton, to the east of Welford Road, but it rapidly became clear at public consultations that a majority wanted the area to include the west of Welford Road up to the ward / city boundary and railway line – that is 'West Knighton'. This brings in shops and facilities widely used by local people, and also means that west Knighton, on the southern border, is not left separated and unable to join sensibly with another area of the city.

The Overdale School catchment was put forward at the first public meeting as an already existing 'official' boundary and key social hub, which means people have something in common, which they identified with, and which means many also often meet at the school gates. The proposed designated area is therefore quite close to the school catchment, with some extension at the northern periphery where local people felt that a few streets were more linked to the other side of Church Lane and so was essentially part of 'old Knighton'.

It is possible to walk from one side of the area to the other comfortably within an hour, a maximum distance of about two and a half miles. The designated area contains about 4,900 households and 12,400 people of all ages, The demographics and social economic profile of the area are different from that of the wider city, with an older population: an average age of just over 40, compared to 35 in Leicester overall, and 22% aged over 60 compared to 15% in the city as a whole.

The area will therefore assist the Knighton Forum in developing planning policies to help promote a mixed and balanced social composition and maintain a pleasant and healthy environment. A local understanding of the needs applicable for the demographic profile of the area will help the Neighbourhood Plan to better meet the needs and wishes of the population. This could include aspects such as:

- more downsizing properties for older empty nesters who want to stay in the area, so releasing family housing;
- more starter and affordable housing for younger people - often the children of existing residents;
- more community facilities and services;
- environmental promotion and improvement.