

## **Application For Designation of the North Kingston Forum and Neighbourhood Area. 19<sup>th</sup> August 2016**

1. The name of the prospective Neighbourhood Forum is the **North Kingston Forum**.

The purpose of the North Kingston Forum shall be to improve the social, economic and environmental wellbeing of North Kingston by engaging in the planning of the neighbourhood throughout the North Kingston Forum Area as provided for in the Localism Act 2011.

2. **North Kingston Forum proposed Neighbourhood Area:** It is considered that the area that combines Canbury and Tudor wards, with its natural boundaries of the River Thames to the West and Richmond Park to the East, borough boundary to the North and railway to the South, is an appropriate area to be designated as a Neighbourhood Area for planning purposes. Although the area is highly populated, it only covers an area of approximately 1sq mile (2.8 sq km). (**Annex 1 map**)

Residents of the proposed Neighbourhood Area wish to form a Neighbourhood Forum for the express purpose of promoting or improving the social, economic and environmental wellbeing of the area through the development of a Neighbourhood Plan.

The proposed area has a distinct identity and is locally referred to as North Kingston. Whilst predominantly residential the area also contains many local businesses, shops, schools, recreation facilities and open spaces. The population of 23,000 is consistent with the size of other Neighbourhood Plan Areas in London. We found that residents felt a greater attachment to, and recognition of, the area of North Kingston than either the electoral wards, or the RBK defined Kingston Town Neighbourhood when we completed our extensive consultation process of meetings, drop-in sessions, local posters and Internet postings.

We now want to work with our local communities, councillors, planners and developers to retain and enhance the character of North Kingston by developing a Neighbourhood Plan that will be a vehicle to guide, promote and allow balanced and sustainable change within the designated Neighbourhood Area.

The chosen boundaries have come about through extensive local consultation and the area known as North Kingston represents a strong and coherent spatial entity within which there are development opportunities that a Neighbourhood Plan can help guide.

The proposed Neighbourhood Area map has been available to view on the Forum website for more than 6 months. Apart from a minor modification in May 2016, no one has questioned the boundaries of the proposed area during this time.

3. **The North Kingston Forum** is the relevant body capable of being designated a Neighbourhood Forum for the purposes of section 61G of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.

At an open meeting on the 4<sup>th</sup> July 2016 attended by more than 40 members, the following were voted on:

- Our draft Constitution was considered, voted and adopted after being available to view for more than 6 months on the Forum website. It is believed that the North Kingston Forum Constitution meets the conditions outlined in section 61F(5) of the 1990 Act.
- The 3 key Committee officers: Chair, Treasurer and Secretary were nominated and elected with unanimous support.
- Our application for designation submission was unanimously supported.

It is anticipated our first AGM will be held autumn 2016. The Forum will be established as a non-political body and has received support from 3 ward councillors. (**Annex 2 Constitution**)

Our Constitution states that the North Kingston Forum is open to all those who live, work or are elected members in the proposed Neighbourhood Area, and that we will respect all differences including gender, age, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, disability and income.

Forum membership is not anticipated to be dominated by any one group, membership is limited to two representatives of any organisation as outlined in the Constitution document.

A general policy is to encourage residents, groups and businesses to become members of the Forum and to work alongside it to further joint objectives.

The Constitution document also details our objectives and working methods.

4. **Membership.** Our current membership totals 72, and 40 of those members have agreed to support the application and these are listed. This includes name, street address and local interest, and confirms widespread support from across the Neighbourhood Area. They include representatives of a range of local interest groups, residents and local businesses. 3 ward councillors are also listed covering both Canbury and Tudor wards. All agreed and confirmed by email to have their name, street

and status accompany the application and to be published on the council website **in redacted format. (Annex 3 Membership)**.

We are actively seeking to grow our membership in time with every community engagement event, and awareness building activities such as leaflet drops and questionnaires.

We have so far held 10 open discussion meetings and 2 local information events over the past 12 months covering both wards, where the proposed Neighbourhood Area and aim of producing a Neighbourhood Plan was openly discussed, and have spoken publicly at a community event in January 2016. Our venues range across both wards.

We have set up a website, email and Twitter accounts and will shortly develop a Facebook page. Our online details are listed here:

- [northkingstonforum@gmail.com](mailto:northkingstonforum@gmail.com)
- <https://northkingstonforum.org>
- Twitter: @nkforum

We advertise meetings on our website and various social media sources including the Kingston Town Neighbourhood Facebook group and 9 local Community Noticeboards covering both wards. In June 2016, we started the doorstep distribution (by volunteers) of an information leaflet to all homes in the area to:

- ensure a wider engagement,
- encourage membership
- establish a communications network.

To illustrate our current membership coverage, we include a membership distribution map covering the proposed Neighbourhood Area. (**Annex 4 Membership Distribution**)

**5. Funding Sources:**

Locality will be contacted for funding in the first instance, and an expression of interest application will be submitted. An advisor at Locality has been contacted. Funding will also be sought by local business sponsorship and donation where possible. Further funding requirements and opportunities will be reassessed as the plan progresses.

**6. Contact details:**

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