

Appendix 3 – Council’s assessment of the application

Redesignation of the Hadley Wood Neighbourhood Forum

The requirements for the Council to redesignate this group as a recognised forum for neighbourhood planning purposes is considered below.

The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 provide that specific information should be supplied in making an application for a neighbourhood forum. These are itemised below with a comment indicating what information has been supplied.

1. Name of the proposed neighbourhood forum

The Forum is named Hadley Wood Neighbourhood Planning Forum.

2. Copy of its written constitution

A copy of the constitution has been supplied setting out matters such as the name, purpose, membership and term of the organisation thereby covering each of the basic requirements in the Regulations.

3. Name of the neighbourhood area to which application relates and a map which identifies the area.

The name for the neighbourhood area is Hadley Wood Neighbourhood Planning Forum. A map of the neighbourhood area has been submitted by the applicant.

4. Contact details of at least one member that can be made public

David Harbott (resident) has supplied details as the main contact.

5. Statement explaining how the proposed forum meets the following conditions:

a) Is established to promote or improve the social, economic and environmental wellbeing of an area that consists of or includes the neighbourhood area for the neighbourhood development plan (this can also relate to businesses)

This objective is expressly referred to in the constitution as the purpose of the forum. The constitution includes within it, a statement as follows: “The purpose of the Forum is to promote or improve the social, economic and environmental wellbeing of the neighbourhood area. It shall operate without distinction or discrimination on the grounds of gender, disability, sexual orientation or race, or of political, religious or other beliefs. Its activities shall include neighbourhood planning.”

b) Has 21 individual members and membership is open to the following groups:

- **people living in the area;**
- **people who work there; and**
- **elected councillors for the area.**

The applicant has supplied supporting information that shows that they have over 21 members and that these include membership from each of the three groups set out above. Membership is comprised primarily of residents but includes an individual who works in the neighbourhood area and three ward Councillors (Cllr Alessandro Georgiou, Cllr Edward Smith, and Cllr Elaine Hayward). The constitution sets out eligibility for membership which is consistent with the above stipulation.

It is considered that sufficient detail had been supplied for this to be regarded as a valid application on which to consult.

Analysis of any representations received as part of the consultation has been undertaken below.

Additionally, the **local planning authority**:

- a. **must, in determining whether to designate an organisation or body as a neighbourhood forum for a neighbourhood area, have regard to the desirability of designating an organisation or body**
 - i. **which has secured (or taken reasonable steps to attempt to secure) that its membership includes at least one individual falling within each of the above groups**
 - ii. **whose membership is drawn from different places in the neighbourhood area concerned and from different sections of the community in that area, and**
 - iii. **whose purpose reflects (in general terms) the character of that area,**
- b. **may designate only one organisation or body as a neighbourhood forum for each neighbourhood area,**
- c. **may designate an organisation or body as a neighbourhood forum only if the organisation or body has made an application to be designated, and**
- d. **must give reasons to an organisation or body applying to be designated as a neighbourhood forum where the authority refuse the application.**

The Forum membership has been the subject of a registration and its constitution states that the Forum “shall operate without distinction or discrimination on the grounds of gender, disability, sexual orientation or race, or of political, religious or other beliefs.”

The Planning Forum regularly reports in the Hadley Wood News, delivered to every household in the designated area, on a dedicated webpage on the Hadley Wood Association website, and by email, WhatsApp and other social media.

This shows the group to be generally representative of the area.

Furthermore, the Hadley Wood Neighbourhood Planning Forum is the only body seeking this status for the Hadley Wood Neighbourhood Area whose purpose reflects (in general terms) the character of the area.

Consultation Responses

41 responses were received and are tabulated at Appendix 2. 35 responses were supportive of the redesignation of the Forum and six responses raised no objections. No issues were raised in relation to the redesignation of the neighbourhood forum.

Conclusion on Neighbourhood Forum

Having regard to the above Officers are satisfied that the Hadley Wood Neighbourhood Planning Forum is an appropriate body under section 61F(5) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 and the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012.