

APPLICATION FOR RE-DESIGNATION OF GROVE NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM AND AREA

Contact:

Mr. Stephen Kenny,
Chair of the Grove Park Neighbourhood Forum
c/o The Ringway Centre
268 Baring Road,
Grove Park
London SE12 0DS
Phone: 0208 857 7980

Email: info@grovepark.org.uk

Website: <https://grovepark.org.uk/>

- 22 October 2014. The Grove Park Neighbourhood Forum and area was designated by Mayor and Cabinet.
- May 2017. The draft development plan was submitted to LBL planning.
- Sept–Dec 2017. Regulation 14 consultation.
- June 2019. The proposed (pre-submission draft) Grove Park Neighbourhood plan was submitted to LBL.
- Nov 2019-Jan 2020. LBL Reg 16 consulted on the plan.
- Oct 2019. The Grove Park Neighbourhood Forum 5 year period expired.
- Dec 16th 2019. LBL sent The Grove Park Neighbourhood Forum the application for re-designation.
- March 3rd 2020. The Grove Park Neighbourhood Forum and area re-designation was agreed and re-constituted at the Grove Park Neighbourhood Forum AGM.
- March 3rd 2020. The membership members and agreement is attached as appendix 5 and 6 dated
- March 24th 2020 The Grove Park Neighbourhood Forum re-designation application submitted to LBL

Statement explaining how the proposed forum is established to promote or improve the social, economic and environmental wellbeing of the area below

Statement explaining that membership is drawn from different places in the neighbourhood area, and from different sections of the community below

Historic and current statements: 2013-2020

1. Neighbourhood Forum Relevant Body Statement

The name of the proposed Neighbourhood Forum is Grove Park Neighbourhood Forum (GPNF).

Grove Park Neighbourhood Forum is a relevant body capable of being designated a Neighbourhood Forum for the purposes of section 61G of the 1990 Act. Our current list of agreed members, dated 03 March 2020, is attached (Annex 5/6). While this constitutes a core and more active members, we also have participation from the much wider community.

We actively seek to grow membership and participation with every community engagement event we run.

Initial designation came about after holding a meeting in April 2013 at the Ringway Centre, attended by over 70 local people. This led to the establishment of the Grove Park Neighbourhood Forum and the since, the production of a Neighbourhood Plan. Our first AGM was held on the 03rd December 2013.

The GPNF has also been successful in receiving grant funding and direct technical support from Locality which assisted in the production of the Neighbourhood Plan.

We attach a copy of the Forum's written Constitution (Annex 1). The constitution was further discussed during a public meeting at the Ringway Centre on 1 August 2013 and re-constituted more recently at the March 3rd 2020 AGM.

All current members of Neighbourhood Forum have signed up in agreement with the constitution and provided written evidence for that purpose.

The forum held AGMs and continued the best practice of engagement over the five year period, using events through local community venues and groups including masterplan exercises, at the Ringway Centre, The Baring Hall Hotel, The Crown, Grove Park Train Station, WG Grace, park Fayres, the local assembly, local schools, the library, and presented at various local meetings, working with the local assembly, LBL, create streets and the GLA.

2. Appropriateness of Area Statement

The Neighbourhood Area this relates to is the Grove Park Neighbourhood Area.

A map is attached showing the proposed area of the Grove Park Neighbourhood Forum (GPNF). It remains unchanged between August 2013 & 03 march 2020.

It is considered that this is the appropriate area for our Neighbourhood Forum because it is the area widely regarded as “Grove Park” by those who live and work in the area. The Grove Park Neighbourhood Forum; initially developed from Grove Park Community Group.

The Grove Park Community Group is actively improving people’s lives by offering activities and amenities for the local community. The production of a Neighbourhood Plan enables us to positively develop planning policies that are expected to have a positive impact on the social, economic and environmental well-being of the people that live, work and visit the area.

The proposed Neighbourhood Plan Area boundary was informed by:

- an initial assessment of the likely and desired planning policy aspirations, their spatial focus and who might be affected by them. As such, local people should have a strong stake in shaping the policies.
- the relationships and local knowledge we have developed as Grove Park Community Group and as a neighbourhood forum over many years, working with people and other organisations in the area (eg. two large public meetings held on the 24th of April and 2nd August 2013 and numerous others events dating from 2013-2020 ; bringing together local residents, businesses and organisations; the recent conversations around Neighbourhood Planning with support from the Prince’s Foundation, the Grove Park station and public realm improvement workshops, the Bridge Taskforce, the Baring Trust, the Big Local initiative in Chinbrook and many more local initiatives of new and established local groups.)
- an early assessment of the required input from for the emerging Neighbourhood Forum and its ability to bear the anticipated workload during the plan-making process.

In light of the above, the proposed Neighbourhood Plan Area boundary has been drawn up by employing a mix of physical, functional, administrative and practical considerations.

Baring Road forms the spine of the area with Grove Park station and town centre in the south and the junction with the A205 in the north. The proposed area coincides, in large parts, with the boundary of Grove Park ward which also concurs with the London Borough of Lewisham’s eastern and southern boundaries with the London Boroughs of Greenwich and Bromley. To the east and south, that boundary follows mostly ‘green’ frontiers created by open spaces; schools sports grounds and cemeteries. To the north, the A205 forms a discernible degree of separation between the neighbourhoods of Grove Park and Lee.

Exceptions to the Grove Park Ward boundary are proposed along the western Neighbourhood Plan area boundary. The proposed Grove Park Neighbourhood Forum Area includes the land east of Verdant Road and Ballamore Road. As indicated on the map

attached, this includes Cumberland Place, Hither Green cemetery and the streets in close proximity to the currently poorly maintained railway footbridge. These lands lie on the other side of the railway tracks and are part of Whitefoot and Downham wards. Reaching across the railway track and including these localities has received wide spread support from members of the community, the local Councilors and three Area Assemblies. The reasons for connecting these areas, separated by the railway track are the improvements the Neighbourhood Forum aims to achieve for people that live, work and visit Grove Park with regards to:

- Better use of facilities and amenities on both sides of the railway track, by facilitating the improvement of the currently poorly maintained and connected footbridge across the railway to aid mobility.
- An improved Grove Park local centre for all, to be enjoyed and provide easy access. Better north–south and east-west access to Grove Park station and the amenities of the local centre by all modes of transport, for people of different abilities, at all times;
- Better access to outdoor activities and outdoor/green class room activities as well as improved green network links between the impressive but poorly connected range of local open spaces and green corridors, as well as links to the limited and resource-strained community assets which include, but not limited to: Railway Children Walk, Heritage trail, Grove Park Nature Reserve and adjoining, biodiverse green corridors, The Willow Carr and Wetland meadows, Chinbrook Meadows, Ringway Community Center, Grove Park library, Grove Park youth club, cycling routes, Grove Park local Centre, Sydenham cottages Nature Reserve.
- The protection and enhancement of key community assets and sites that help to underpin the rationale for the boundaries and a Railway Children Urban National Park vision as a key approach to achieve ecological network recovery, inline with Government’s Environment Strategy.

3. Membership Criteria Statement

The Grove Park Neighbourhood Forum is open to all residents, workers and elected members in the plan area.

In order to ensure that membership of the forum was diverse and truly reflected all parts of the area, we undertook the following measures throughout the existence of the forum:

- Organised four community engagement events which, explained the concept and processes involved in producing a Neighbourhood Plan.

- Carried out a targeted flyer information campaign, both with local businesses, schools, surgeries and in-street handouts.
- Promoted the Forum and Plan at Ward assembly meetings.
- Set up a website page, and social media portals to promote, explain and answer questions.
- Ran engagement activities with six local schools.
- Distributed information through three local churches, two doctors surgeries and a dentists surgery.
- Spoke publicly at various community events throughout 2013-2020

4. Forum Member Information Statement

All forum members agree to have their names and status published by Lewisham Council. See Appendix 5_6.

5. Social, Economic & Environmental Benefit Statement

One of the key principles of this Forum is to promote and establish greater community networks, build community spirit and engender a sense of belonging that leads to positive behavioral change. This approach will have wide reaching benefits to all aspects of community life, from the economic and financial benefits to improvements in education, recreation and the environment that supports these aspirations. Land-use planning policies will be developed to help the delivery of social, economic and environmental benefits. Aspect that are likely be addressed by the Forum and Neighbourhood Planning process in Grove Park are:

Social

- Bring together diverse groups in a social context.
- Increase sporting activities and outdoor wellbeing pursuits and access to them.
- Engage all age groups, with emphasis on intergenerational activity and spaces that allow this to happen.
- Identify areas for future sustainable housing developments

- Reduce isolation and target better understanding of each others needs.
- Strive to improve education in areas that affect the neighbourhood, forming long term partnerships with relevant organisations.
- Promote artistic events and education.
- Enable a programme to improve literacy, focusing on Grove Park's literary history.
- Encourage community volunteering to help maintain public spaces and support local organisations.
- Encourage the improvement of community spaces, as key areas for social engagement and democratic exchange.

Economic

- Promote sustainable and meaningful 'good growth'.
- Encourage entrepreneurial schemes and start up businesses through eg land-use designations /change of use in appropriate places.
- Improve transport links and infrastructure.
- Help local businesses promote and develop what they offer and how they offer it.
- Source funding to start up and run community projects.
- Increase tourism by utilising local heritage assets and green spaces.
- Design an improved, functional and effective public realm.
- Devise a Shop Local scheme that encourages people to support local businesses.
- Reduce car use for local journeys.
- Protect and maximise all the historic elements and context of the plan area.

Environmental Wellbeing

- Employ sustainable design principles to be allied in any future projects.
- Maximise the existing biodiverse green corridor that runs through the plan area.
- Designate and create a Health, Well-being & Physic Community Garden.
- Improve existing community spaces as a centre of excellence for sustainability and health and wellbeing, that promotes nature, culture and an inclusive community.
- Encourage local food production and sourcing.
- Incorporate improve cycling provision and connectivity to nearby cycle routes as part of any public realm improvements.
- Promote community planting and gardening events.
- Protect flora and fauna through outdoor education and appreciation.
- Enhance existing natural flood management systems /SUDs
- Create a Dark Skies programme, for educational purposes

- Create a vision for the Railway Children Urban National Park to conserve and enhance the priority habitats contained within its setting (these include but are not limited to wet woodlands, willow carr, wetlands, chalk grassland, rivers, meadows, and ancient woodland).

The Forum's pro active approach will enable people and businesses to flourish and achieve their goals whilst also addressing the communities shared aspiration to improve the neighbourhood they live or work in.

Further information about Grove Park Neighbourhood Forum and its activities to date can be found at www.grovepark.org.uk

Appendix 1 Forum Constitution - 03 March 2020.

Appendix 2 re-designated map - 03 March 2020.

Appendix 3-4 Statement for re designation and Map of proposed Grove Park Neighbourhood Plan Area, 02 December 2013 and 03 March 2020

Appendix 5- 6 Neighbourhood Forum members - 03 March 2020

