

30 September 2015

**Andrew Fraser
Forward Planning Manager
Wirral Council Regeneration and Planning Service
North Annexe
Wallasey Town Hall
Brighton Street
WALLASEY
Wirral
CH44 8ED**

Dear Andrew

DESIGNATION AS A "QUALIFYING BODY"

Thank you for inviting the Forum to confirm that it continues to meet the statutory conditions for designation as a "qualifying body" for the purposes of neighbourhood planning as set out in s.61F(5) of the ***Town & Country Planning Act 1990*** (the 1990 Act).

Following the fifth general meeting of the Forum on 28 September 2015 I am now in a position to confirm that the Forum is still willing to act as the qualifying body for the designated Neighbourhood Area and that the Forum will continue to meet the relevant statutory requirements for designation.

To this purpose the Forum makes the following declarations:

The name of the proposed forum is: Birkenhead & Tranmere Neighbourhood Planning Forum.

The name of the designated neighbourhood area is: Birkenhead & Tranmere Neighbourhood Area (as designated by *Wirral Council* on 27 July 2015 (Cabinet, Minute 44 refers)).

A map which identifies the designated Neighbourhood Area is provided at: Appendix A of our revised constitution, adopted 28 September 2015 (attached) and is the same as that provided on the Council's website. Our own website will be updated to reflect these changes in due course.

The contact details which can be made public are:

Mr Philip Barton
Chair, Birkenhead & Tranmere Neighbourhood Planning Forum
1 Lorn Court, Lorn Street, BIRKENHEAD. CH41 6SA
0151 666 2938
chair@batnpf.org

The Forum makes the following statement in support of its application:

The object of the Forum, as set out in Clause 2) of its constitution (attached), is: **“to promote or improve social, economic and environmental well-being”** within its area of benefit, which includes the Neighbourhood Area designated by the Council.

The area of benefit for the Forum as a whole is the Birkenhead and Tranmere Ward, which is larger than the Neighbourhood Area designated by the Council. The revised constitution (attached) therefore provides for two classes of membership and establishes voting rules to ensure that only those who live in, work in or have been elected to represent the Neighbourhood Area will be involved in any decisions related to neighbourhood planning within the designated Neighbourhood Area.

The Forum as a whole currently has 43 members, 28 of whom live in, work in or are elected to represent the designated Neighbourhood Area. This exceeds the minimum of 21 individuals required to establish a qualifying body for the designated Neighbourhood Area.

The Council's Forward Planning Manager has already verified that: 21 of these qualifying members live in the designated Neighbourhood Area; 5 work in the designated Neighbourhood Area, and 2 are Ward Councillors elected to represent the Neighbourhood Area.

The Annex to this letter sets out the profile of Forum members as a whole. It is not possible to separate out qualifying members from other members because the socio-economic information has been collected anonymously from all members. Nevertheless, the Forum considers that its qualifying membership is broadly representative of the population of the designated Neighbourhood Area and the Forum will continue to encourage additional people who qualify to become members.

Clause 5) of the constitution ensures that membership will continue to remain open to anyone who lives in, works in or has been elected to represent the Neighbourhood Area.

The wider Forum emerged from a pre-existing community group named *These Streets Are Our Streets*, which has already worked with Ward Councillors, Merseyside Police and other local civil society groups to achieve environmental improvements and tackle anti-social behaviour across Birkenhead & Tranmere Ward. However, it was recognised that wider issues, such as the withdrawal of national funding from the Housing Market Renewal Initiative and a lack of

financial and human resources, which is arresting the growth of local civil society, need to be tackled too. A more structured approach was considered necessary to address these issues.

The Forum has made significant efforts to attempt to secure a representative qualifying membership, including at least one individual from each of the sub-groups identified in Section 61F(5) of the 1990 Act and from different places and different sections of the community within the area and to ensure that its object reflects the character of the area.

Prior to the more formal inauguration of the wider Forum in December 2014, about 3,000 leaflets were distributed to homes and businesses across the Ward. More than 21 people signed up as members at the Forum's inaugural meeting and it was clear that there was sufficient interest to continue with the process.

A neighbourhood planning bridging grant of £5,250 was awarded to the Forum in January 2015, which was spent on branding, developing a website and preparing for the designation of both the Forum and its Neighbourhood Area.

In April 2015 a further £5,000 neighbourhood planning grant was awarded to the Forum, which was spent on preparing a project plan and advertising the Forum with a further leaflet campaign to 7,000 homes and businesses.

The membership has continued to increase since the initial application was submitted to the Council in March 2015.

If designated as the qualifying body for the Birkenhead & Tranmere Neighbourhood Area, the Forum will make preparations to conduct an initial public consultation across the designated Neighbourhood Area in order to establish the broad policy areas to be included within a future Neighbourhood Development Plan.

The Forum considers that the information provided above shows that it meets the prescribed conditions for designation and is therefore an appropriate organisation to be designated as the qualifying body for the Birkenhead & Tranmere Neighbourhood Area, for the purposes of statutory neighbourhood planning.

Yours sincerely



Philip Barton MCD BA(Hons) CertIT(cantab) MRTPI
Chair, Birkenhead & Tranmere Neighbourhood Planning Forum

Enclosure: *Forum Constitution adopted 28 September 2015*

Annex

The profile of Forum members as a whole is as follows:

Age:

18-29	3%
30-39	6%
40-49	18%
50-59	29%
60-69	32%
70-79	12%

Prevalence of disability:

Disabled	15%
Able-bodied	85%

Racial identity:

Chinese	24%
White	76%

Cultural identity:

African	3%
British	56%
English	35%
Irish	3%
North American	3%

Sexual orientation:

Asexual	4%
Bisexual	3%
Heterosexual	93%

Gender:

Female	51%
Male	49%

Political affiliation:

BNP	4%
Conservative	3%
Green	17%
Labour	24%
None	52%

Religion/Belief:

Agnostic	16%
Atheist	6%
Buddhist	3%
Christian	60%
Hindu	6%
Humanist	3%
Shintoist	3%
Taoist	3%

Household income:

£5,001 to £10,000	19%
£10,001 to £20,000	33%
£20,001 to £40,000	48%

Home tenure:

Owner-occupier	72%
Tenant (social)	22%
Tenant (private)	6%