

SECTION 3

Name of Neighbourhood Forum:

East Boldon Forum

Contact name:

Kirstin Richardson
Stratford House
Ferndale Lane
East Boldon
NE360LS

Proposed name of the neighbourhood area:

East Boldon Neighbourhood Area

Application for Neighbourhood Forum and Statement of compliance with section 61F (5) of the 1990 Act

Background

At a meeting of the East Boldon residents in January 2017, a decision was made to commence the process of preparing a Neighbourhood Plan by establishing a Neighbourhood Forum and defining a Neighbourhood Area.

Since then, representatives from the interim Forum have been working with support of local Councillors & from South Tyneside Council Planning Department to ensure that both the interim Forum and proposed Area are compliant with all relevant legislation in anticipation of making simultaneous applications for their designation.

This has involved further meetings of key representatives of the interim Forum, plus meetings and ongoing liaison with the Council, together with work to widen the membership and produce a final form of written constitution.

This has proved successful in bringing together a body of able and willing people representative of the East Boldon community, with the necessary working arrangements and relationships in place to take forward the task of preparing a Neighbourhood Plan.

The proposed East Boldon Neighbourhood Forum has now functioned for several months. Officers and sub groups have been elected and established. Work has been carried out in advance of this application to explain the mission of Neighbourhood Planning and to widen the membership base of the Proposed Forum.

The Proposed Forum have completed a leaflet drop to the whole community and businesses within the proposed boundary, as well as to the addresses situated adjacent to the proposed boundary. We contacted both the local authority planners as well as their legal team to get their approval of our leaflet before embarking on the delivery. The leaflet explained the aims and objectives of the proposed forum, included a plan of the proposed neighbourhood boundary and provided details of a 'drop in event'.

We have established a closed Facebook group whereby interested parties can apply to join - we currently have 56 Group members. This is another method, using social media, to inform our community of forthcoming events. We have set up a Twitter account utilising an alternative social media platform to contact our diverse community.
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2012907765662295/>

The Proposed Forum held its first 'drop in event' on the 15th July 2017 at Boldon United Reformed Church between 10am – 2pm. The event gave people the opportunity to find out more about the proposed forum and view the proposed neighbourhood boundary. The positive response to both this and the leaflet drop was such that at our forum meeting on the 17th July 2017 a motion to proceed with this application was formally agreed.

The Proposed East Boldon Neighbourhood Forum is ready to establish a neighbourhood Plan, the overarching purpose being to promote and improve the social, economic and environmental well-being of the East Boldon Neighbourhood Area. The extent of the East Boldon Neighbourhood Area is included in Section 1.

Membership Profile Including Equality and Diversity

Membership is open to all those above the age of 16 who live or work whether for businesses carried on there or otherwise in the East Boldon Neighbourhood Area, and to elected officials for the area.

The total membership of the proposed Forum currently stands at [91] members, as listed in Section 5. The membership is drawn from different parts of the Neighbourhood Area and from different sections of the community, including:

- Local residents from different parts of the area
- People who work there [(whether for businesses carried on there or otherwise)]
- Local ward councillor[s]

Section 5 includes a breakdown of the membership under the above category headings to help illustrate the nature and mix of members and demonstrate compliance with legislative requirements.

This confirms that, of the 91 members, 88 are residents of East Boldon, 1 works in East Boldon [(whether for businesses carried on there or otherwise)] and 2 are ward councillor[s].

The nature, spread and composition of the membership meets the necessary legislative requirements for the purposes of seeking designation as it closely reflects the demographic profile of this overwhelmingly residential community as demonstrated in the equality and diversity report. The proposed Forum will continue to actively encourage new members to promote the inclusivity and representativeness of the membership.

The Forum has a written constitution (see Section 4) which clearly sets out the aims, objectives and governance arrangements for the Forum.

Conclusion and Application

The members of the proposed Neighbourhood Forum are committed to formulating and producing a Neighbourhood Plan for East Boldon that will reflect as far as is practicable the aspirations of the wider East Boldon community, whilst also conforming with national and local planning policy frameworks.

Constructive working relationships have been established with officers of South Tyneside Council and this has provided a positive impetus and foundation to take forward neighbourhood planning in East Boldon.

We believe that the designation of the Neighbourhood Forum (and corresponding designation of the Neighbourhood Area) will provide the formal platform for the community to work together, with the Council, to plan positively and creatively for the future development of East Boldon through the preparation of a Neighbourhood Plan.

Please accept this document as a formal application for Neighbourhood Forum designation.

Signed:

K. Richardson