

Neighbourhood Planning Forum Application Form



This form should be completed electronically.

Important Information:

This application form should be completed using the information provided in the Tower Hamlets [Neighbourhood Planning Guidance Note Stage 1](#).

In order to increase the speed and ease of decision making, and to make the process more manageable for prospective Forums, the Council strongly suggests that this application should be completed and submitted after a Neighbourhood Area application. Once the Neighbourhood Area has been formally designated, a Neighbourhood Forum application can be submitted.

The Council wants to ensure that your applications are approved in a smooth and timely manner. In order to support this process, we encourage interested groups to meet and begin discussions with the Plan Making Team, well in advance of submitting an application.

This meeting will provide advice and guidance on key considerations, which will help to ensure that the Area and Forum, as applied for can be designated without delays.

Email neighbourhoodplanning@towerhamlets.gov.uk or call 020 7364 5009 to set up the meeting.

Contact information

Forum name

Poplar Regen Alliance

Contact details of the Forum (complete as relevant)

Email address	
Website address	www.splashcommunity.com – in progress
Facebook page	Click here to enter text.
Twitter account	Click here to enter text.
Other	

Public Information

Contact details of one Forum member

Name	Christine Frost
Email	
Address	
Postcode	
Telephone	

Confidential information

Contact details of an additional Forum member (optional)	
Name	Muna Ali
Email	
Address	
Postcode	
Telephone	



Neighbourhood Planning Forum application information

Public information

This section needs to be completed to ensure the Council has the information needed to determine whether the Forum meets the **four conditions** stated in the Localism Act. The four conditions are numbered below.

1	The Forum is established to promote or improve the social, economic and environmental well-being of its neighbourhood.
1a. How will the Forum seek to promote or improve the Neighbourhood Planning Area in terms of its social, economic and environmental well-being?	
Social well-being	The Forum will address the 7 items on our Charter which have been discussed in many different contexts and at consultation meetings, since 2016. Our social well-being is inextricably linked with safe and secure socially affordable houses. We believe that “Houses are homes and neighborhoods that needs to be shaped by our vision of community, not simply by the market”. Our key social well-being requirement is the provision of socially affordable housing in the Poplar Regen Alliance (South Poplar OAPF Area). We will work together with the council to maintain and improve existing stock. We will work with developers to explore other ways of providing socially affordable housing in the area. We will actively involve residents in discussions and workshops around holistic planning and out committee is especially interested in the developments in “human spaces for human and community living”. Our holistic plan will include provision of Schools, Health Centers, healthy play areas and community leisure space. We are very interested in the development of the Poplar Play Site and the opening of the Moduler Building on Poplar High Street.
Economic well-being	Training for employment is high on our list of priorities. We are very aware of the high unemployment in the Poplar Ward (6 th highest in Tower Hamlets). Bearing in mind our proximity to Canary Wharf, this is appalling. New developments will bring new jobs in the DLR area, Billingsgate, McDonalds, Poplar High Street New City College Campus and The Workhouse. We are worried that not many local residents will have the training to benefit from these opportunities. Therefore, Training for Employment, apprenticeships and Job Training opportunities are an essential part of the economic growth

	and well-being of this Ward. Working with WorkPath and Canary Wharf are an essential part of our future strategy.
Environmental well-bring	We will be working to promote our 4 heritage assets in the area, their environments and their use. Poplar Ward contains four Grade Two Listed buildings. These are: St. Matthias Community Centre, The Old Council Chambers (Lansbury Heritage Hotel), All Saints Anglican Church and Poplar Baths. Some of these would benefit by community planning so that their usage is increased. We also have the fantastic Poplar Park with its open play area, football pitch and extremely well used tennis courts. There are areas in the Ward which require investment and planning in order to be of greater service to people in the local community (Cottage Street Square and Pennyfields). All the Estates on Poplar High Street have environmental well-being possibilities and opportunities and many more would benefit from Gardening Projects.
1b. How will the Forum embed the Council's guidance and aspirations within the Community Plan, Single Equality Framework, Core Strategy, and Managing Development Document into their activities?	
Community Plan and Single Equality Framework	The Neighbourhood Forum plan to run a series of workshops during the coming year, relating to the community planning themes, which are: • A great place to live • A fair and prosperous community • A healthy and supportive community • A safe and cohesive community These themes are very close to our aspirations and allow us to promote inclusive programs to all. This community, led by SPLASH, has always had inclusion and equality at its core values. Throughout our years, we have planned community celebrations and meetings, which were inclusive of everyone in the community. The creation and encouragement of a confident community, in which people feel both safe and valued and have a voice is an essential part of our vision. The forum supports the aspirations of the councils Single Equality Framework, and we have already involved the local Mosque community and the All Saints Congregation in our discussions. We have identified two Primary Schools, one Health Centre, one College, the Poplar DLR Station and St. Matthias Community Centre as being essential partners to our meetings. We will set up meetings with local residents to study the importance of the opportunity area planning framework (OAPF) and the management development document. We will need time as a Forum to understand the implications of these two documents in our plans and the limitations and possibilities they will allow.
Core Strategy & Managing Development Document	The Isle of Dogs and South Poplar Opportunity Area Planning Framework has identified areas of development within South Poplar, identifying it as "The gateway to the Docklands" with Blackwall and South Poplar designated as "areas of change". Awareness of the OAPF is placing added importance on the activities we carry out in ensuring that local people who live, study and work in the area, have an understanding of the policies and projects proposed for this Ward and

which will absorb all our energies over the coming 25-35 years! Workshops looking at the character, issues and opportunities for different places within the neighborhood, including existing housing estates, will be extremely important. Currently within the area we have five large Council Estates contrasting Manhattan Plaza and Woodstock Terrace, properties which sell for upwards of £800,000! On the edge of our area is the enormous Blackwall Reach Project with its 1575 homes, spanning an area of 20 acres, this will change the character of the area, necessitating new schools, health centers and other social amenities. This will also introduce to the area a new community which will need to integrate with the existing communities. We are concerned about how the Trafalgar Way project with its huge student population will impact on the local community. One of the activities we will need to carry out is a policy review: looking at the specific policies in the Managing Developments Document (MDD) and ensuring that we aren't duplicating or contradicting these in the local plans. We will ensure that any documents such as these are available for the community to scrutinize and discuss.

1c. How will the Forum envisage engaging with other local forums and groups? (for example, has a Memorandum of Understanding, which could provide the basis for joint working agreements with other local forums/groups been explored?)

Members of the group have attended several meetings organised by the Isle of Dogs Neighbourhood Forum and were present at the recent Examination of the Plan by an independent examiner. We are also in communication with Canary Wharf PLC, who have discussed with us the possibilities of setting up a Neighbourhood Plan. We would hope to continue liaising with both bodies as we are close in proximity. The consultation has been in progress for over 2 years with Estate based groups covering Birchfield, Will Crooks, Cottage Street, Bazley Street and Blackwall Reach. During the course of the coming years, it is hoped that the plans will be discussed by residents and community groups. The Primary Schools and the College have also been involved and will be much more so during the coming years. We have been in touch with the College with a view to have some of their students assist us with consultation. The group under Churches and people of Faith Together in Poplar, have discussed the Vision which has been drawn up by the steering group.

2

The Forum’s membership is open to everyone who lives in, works in or represents the area as an elected member.

2a. How have the Forum taken steps to promote the opportunity to be involved in the Forum and engage with local people prior to submitting this application? This may include evidence of discussions, meetings and consultations.

Members of SPLASH registered Charity (1056985) have been meeting since August 2018, when the first draft of our Charter was produced. Since then, we have had several meetings, (obviously excluding the COVID year) some small community estate based at which residents were able to examine the Charter and make amendments; others were public meetings attended by local Councilors: August 2023, May 2024, June 2024, July 2025 and September 2025. At the end of April 2020, SPLASH celebrated its 30th Anniversary with a weekend of activities at which the Charter was further discussed. The Charter describes the priorities expressed by the community over the last two years, which would form the basis of our planning. And on April 10th 2025, the priorities were further discussed at our Job Fair.

All our meetings have been inclusive, and we have been careful to include residents who are not fluent in the English language. During the coming summer months, we hope to increase our planning and workshop opportunities, leading to an open public meeting in September. Our new local Councillor, Sufia Alam, has shown strong support for our Plan.

3

The Forum's membership includes a minimum of 21 people, each of whom lives in, works in or represents the area as an elected member.

3b. Does it have a membership of at least 21 people?

Yes ☒ No ☐

3b. How have the Forum secured (or taken reasonable steps to attempt to secure) at least one person from those who live in, work in or represent the area as an elected member in its membership? This may include evidence of discussions, meetings and consultations.

Our members have come from the local community which has included members of our local Round Table (a quarterly meeting of Police, Housing Officers, Council Officer, New City College, the local Health Directorate and community groups) ; DLR Reps, with whom we are discussing the "adoption" of the Poplar DLR Station; Woolmore Primary School and Our Lady and St. Joseph's School; Hale Street Mosque and All Saints Health Centre. We have had estate-based meetings on St. Vincent's. Birchfield, Will Crooks, Cottage Street, Holmesdale and Robin Hood Gardens.

3c. Do members come from different places within the neighbourhood and do they reflect the diversity of the people within the neighbourhood? Please provide the name, postcode and interests & relevant background of each member.

#	Name	Postcode	Interests & relevant background
1	Muna Ali		School Governor
2	Christine Frost		School Governor
3	Junur Wahab		Accountants
4	Soyful Ahmed		Youth Representatives
5	Asma Begum		Resident
6	Manna Mahmadur		Legal Advisor
7	Patrick Devereux		Head Teacher
8	Faruk		Manager of Hale Street Mosque
9	Martina Logan		New City College
10	Sophie James		Resident
11	Stacey Haig		Resident
12	Thufayel Hasan		Apprentice Youth Rep
13	Alkhad Ali		Manager Workhouse
14	Chris Ley		LAP 7 Health Director
15	Nadir Rahman		Mosque Secretary
16	Abdul Hasnath		Chair of Blackwall Reach
17	Rinkal Kothari		Local Resident
18	Emma Leung		SPLASH Youth Representative

19	Gulam Kibria Choudhury		Poplar Ward Councilor
20	Lucy McLagan		Chair of Cottage Street
21	Nizam Uddin		St. Matthias Community Centre Manager

4	The Forum has a written constitution.
4a. Has the Forum completed and attached a written constitution?	
Yes	☒ No ☐
4b. Has the written constitution been developed in a correct and proper manner? (in accordance with Locality Guidance)	
Yes.	

Meeting Log: Please provide dates of your meetings with the Plan Making Team	August 2023 May 2024 June 2024 July 2025 September 2025 10 th April 2025
Applicant name	Christine Frost
Date	10 th October 2025

Please note: Forums will be required to inform the Council of any change to the original content and intentions detailed in its application form. Specifically, any change to the membership of the Forum and written constitution will require the Forum to immediately notify the Council of these changes, in writing to the neighbourhood planning email address.