

# 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](mailto:neighbourhoodplanning@towerhamlets.gov.uk) or call 020 7364 5009 to set up the meeting.

## Contact information

### Forum name

LIMEHOUSE COMMUNITY FORUM – (LCF)

### Contact details of the Forum (complete as relevant)

Email address	mark.slankard@limehouse.info
Website address	https://www.limehouse.info
Facebook page	https://www.facebook.com/groups/limehousematters
Twitter account	@LimehouseMatter
Other	Click here to enter text.

## 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	<p>The LCF was established in 2006, initially concerned with community safety. Since then its primary purpose has evolved to meet the objectives of this Condition. Membership is open to all residents, people who work in Limehouse, business representatives and elected Officials. We will continue to focus our attention on matters concerning community safety, sustainable living, community cohesion, wellbeing and inclusivity. Even before the Localism Act, a track record had been established in organising the annual Limehouse Festival ('LIMEfest'), re-opening the Limehouse Youth Centre and liaising with other groups, such as LBTH, Metropolitan Police, GLA, the GP Limehouse Practice and the Canal and River Trust. At the start of the Covid19 pandemic in 2020, we partnered with and supported a local entrepreneur to manufacture and distribute protective faceshields for the benefit of our community. This exercise ('LIMEshield') provided over 2000 faceshields to residents, carehomes, social landlords, volunteers and NHS workers, as well as the ICU at the Royal London Hospital. The exercise provided an opportunity for residents to engage in positive volunteer activity during the lockdown period, supporting frontline workers and the vulnerable in Limehouse and nearby wards. We also supported and mentored a new local volunteer group ('Limehouse Aid'), which was formed by young people looking to do positive good in Limehouse and Shadwell wards during the lockdown and beyond, such as a helpline, food and medicine deliveries for the vulnerable and assisting with the establishment of a foodbank.</p>
Economic well-being	<p>Limehouse is primarily a residential area. Notwithstanding this, 82% of residents are of working age (2<sup>nd</sup> in LBTH) and 73% (1<sup>st</sup> in LBTH) are in employment. Accordingly most economic activity occurs outside the ward. Reflecting this, LCF will support and promote local business / employment which reflects these characteristics, meets the needs of residents and is beneficial to the community. To this end LCF will ensure that planning, sustainable design, functionality and maintenance of public</p>
Environmental well-being	<p>LCF will continue to seek to identify new opportunities for environmental improvement and will establish policies and standards which will improve the sustainability and environmental quality of public spaces, open access to private land and streetscapes. We intend to nurture the open access enjoyed by residents by building upon our existing relationships with Canal and River</p>

	Trust (Limehouse Basin), Friends of Ropemakers Fields, GLA., as well as LBTH. Work is soon to commence on clearing and replanting parts of our park,(Ropemakers Field) working alongside children from the local primary school. LIMEgreen has been established not only for gardening projects but to address the growing issues of climate change, street use, recycling, air quality and greening.
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**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	<p>LCF has reviewed the policy objectives encompassed in the Community Plan. We see no inconsistency between these and LCF objectives.</p> <p>The LCF constitution is that our Forum membership is inclusive and open to all people, groups and organisations participating in the life of the neighbourhood. The decision-making processes set out in our constitution ensure that the Forum is accountable to its members, which includes all potential stakeholders in the neighbourhood area.</p> <p>We accept that an integrated approach across many service providers are needed (e.g. Youth Centre, Medical Centre, Met Police) although it should be acknowledged that LCF will have limited opportunity to have a major impact on housing, education, jobs or elderly care (n.b. only 4% of residents are 65+). Insofar as our Neighbourhood Plan can support the Plan, we are developing relevant proposals and policies for the Limehouse Ward.</p>
Core Strategy & Managing Development Document	<p>We accept that the Neighbourhood Plan which LCF is developing should be complementary to this document. Accordingly we have developed policies relating to the design, sustainability, location and environmental impact of any development planned for the ward. The membership of LCF considers that there is limited scope for large scale development and this is reflected in the plan as local adoption of the core policy document occurs. We note that population density in Limehouse ward exceeds the LBTH average by 15.4% already.</p>

**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?)**

The LCF frequently connects with other local groups, forming dynamic collaborative relationships to share views and resources as needed. Such collaborations promote community unity and enhance diversity of opinion and ethos. LCF offers such groups / organisations associate membership, giving leadership teams the opportunity to hear and better understand wider neighbouring needs and objectives. Examples of our relationships include Mile End Residents Association (MERA) and Burton's Wharf Residents Association to the north of Limehouse, Royal Foundation of St Katherine (RFSK) to the west of Limehouse, Isle of Dogs NPF and Neighbours in Poplar (NIP) to the east of Limehouse and the Bertholders Association (Limehouse Basin) at the centre of the ward. Such relationships have come to the fore during the 2020 pandemic: LCF engaged with the residents of Limehouse to donate crockery to support food deliveries to the elderly being carried out by NIP; worked with RFSK, Limehouse Aid and Bikeworks to establish a food bank and distribution network for the ward's vulnerable and needy families and helped promote local sewing charity Stitches In Time's production of facemasks. In the past year we have also been pleased to share information and resources with

Poplar NPF as it prepared to start work on its own neighbourhood plan.

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**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.**

The LCF has met at least tri-monthly for the past thirteen years and has interacted with local people in many diverse ways; the meetings have been minuted /recorded, and minutes are available to the public via a dedicated website page. The LCF hosts and sponsors hustings for local and General Elections with attendances in excess of 250 people. The LCF advertised, hosted and held an engagement event for the green space at Branch Road, soliciting opinion as to the future of the site. The annual LIMEFest summer festival is well publicised/attended; the most recent, in 2019, saw over 3000 people during the course of the day. LCF's stands at these events give us the opportunity to engage with local people, make them aware of our activities, discuss and get feedback about the production of our Neighbourhood Plan and offer them involvement / membership. Following residents' concerns around safety, the LCF organised a safety meeting, attended by the local borough Police Commander, local MP and the Mayor of LBTH, along with over 400 residents. Our constitution commits us to consultation and discussion with people and organisations within the neighbourhood area whether they are members of the LCF or not. Such consultations have included LBTH working alongside the pupils at Cyril Jackson School to design the refit of the childrens' play area at our park, Ropemakers Field. We also have an excellent working relationship with our elected Councillor with whom we have regular communications about a variety of local topics.

2020 has obviously been more challenging; we replaced LIMEfest with a childrens' art competition and a Blooming Limehouse photography challenge, posters /banners/ social media announcements for which provided details of our website, from which we could offer further engagement. We have also been producing a newsletter in lieu of meetings, which is emailed to members but also freely available via our website. Lastly we have social media presence where people discuss local concerns / interests / events. These groups do not require LCF membership but do allow us another platform through which we can engage with local people and keep them informed.

Our membership is drawn from residents (both social and privately-owned housing), local businesses and other associated bodies as diverse as Royal Foundation of St Katherine's, Canal and River Trust, the local primary school, and Limehouse Basin Berth Holders Association. The LCF intends to strengthen these bonds and forge new ones with other groups as they develop. Many in the groups, as well as individuals have been involved in the development of our community plan.

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**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.**

As outlined above we continue to be diligent in our attempts to include everyone as members and to keep them informed about plans for the Neighbourhood Area and the creation of a Neighbourhood Plan. With due governance we use data tools to ensure we can monitor our inclusivity going forward.

Since inception in 2006 LCF has met regularly. Our focus during that time has not been exclusively Planning related, and so we have extended an 'open door' policy of allowing local groups and elected representatives to address the LCF on a wide range of issues and opportunities affecting the neighbourhood. For example, the introduction of the Youth Ward Panel, to promote inclusive youth activity within the ward and the Police Ward Panel, to raise and promote residents' safety and concerns and to monitor ASB within the ward.

A regular newsletter, LIIMELight has been established for 2020, to inform members and residents about LCF activities and other local engagements.

**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	Mark Slankard	E14 8HH	Chair of LCF and owner of Urban Bars
2	Sue Stollery	E14 7HR	Resident and Chair of Governors, Cyril Jackson Primary School
3	David Garside	E14 8DP	Chair of Police Ward Panel and local resident
4	Helen Kenney	E14 8AA	Barley Mow estate
5	Richard Bray	E14 7HR	Rector St Anne's Church; Rep from Newell Street
6	Tof Ali	E14 8BS	Limehouse Community Initiative
7	Mark Kennedy	E14 7JG	Owner Bronze Age, Limehouse gallery
8	Eric Sorensen	E14 8AU	Property Owner Milligan Street
9	Richard Roberts	E14 8AA	Liaison Friends of Ropemakers
10	Gary Holden	E14 8BZ	Founder LCF; Rep for Papermill Wharf
11	Hodo Dirir	E14 8BN	Headteacher Cyril Jackson School
12	Jud Hoff	E14 8DB	Rep for Ropemakers Fields
13	Dorinda Osterman	E14 8EG	LimeGreen and Limehouse Marina berth holder
14	Lesley Balding	E14 8AP	Resident rep Basin Approach
15	Roger Preece	E14 8DS	Master St Katherines Foundation
16	Michael Dormer	E14 8DP	Resident
17	Lady Deborah Owen	E14 8HP	Rep for Narrow Street
18	Simon Rouse	E14 7HP	Community Transport Operator

19	Philip Saunders	E14 7JX	Rep for Berglen Court / Medland House
20	Akash Gharu	E14 8EA	Resident rep for Goodhart Place
21	Thea Reynolds	E14 8BB	Resident rep for Dunbar Wharf

<b>4</b>	<b>The Forum has a written constitution.</b>
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**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)**

We believe the constitution has been developed in the correct fashion, not only incorporating the requirements for a Neighbourhood Planning Forum but also (because LCF existed prior to becoming an NP, and would hope to continue after completion of the NP) supporting the additional activities we carry out for/with our community and our neighbours. In particular the constitution emphasises that membership is open to all who live, work, or have a business in the NP area, as well as to elected local officials. It also sets out the basis for associate membership, without voting rights, for those who do not meet the membership criteria but with whom a relationship is mutually helpful. We also lay out a transparent structure which is designed to facilitate the work of the Forum and ensure good governance. Along with the constitution, we have developed a website and social media presence which gives us greater opportunity for engagement, and we use software which enables us to maintain our membership database in accordance with GDPR rules and to verify the validity of membership and voting processes.

<b>Meeting Log: Please provide dates of your meetings with the Plan Making Team</b>	Email correspondence to discuss submission process, July 2020 (various dates) Remote meeting to further discuss application, 22 <sup>nd</sup> July 2020 Email correspondence to finalise submission, November 2020 (various dates)
<b>Applicant name</b>	Mark Slankard – Chair – Limehouse Community Forum
<b>Date</b>	24 <sup>th</sup> November 2020

*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.*