

# Neighbourhood Planning Forum and Area Application Form



This application form should be completed using the information provided in the Tower Hamlet's Neighbourhood Planning Guidance Note.

This form should be completed electronically. If you require a printed version please download the printable version from the Tower Hamlet's website or collect from the Council's Planning Reception at the Town Hall.

## Contact information

### Forum name

LIMEHOUSE COMMUNITY FORUM – (LCF)

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

|                 |                           |
|-----------------|---------------------------|
| Email address   | urbanbar@compuserve.com   |
| Website address | To be developed           |
| Facebook page   | Click here to enter text. |
| Twitter account | Click here to enter text. |
| Other           | Click here to enter text. |

Public information

## 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.

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>1</b>   | <b>The Forum is established to promote or improve the social, economic and environmental well-being of its neighbourhood.</b>  |
| <b>How will the Forum seek to promote or improve the neighbourhood area in terms of its social, economic and environmental well-being?</b>   |  |
| Social well-being  | The LCF was established in 2006, and was concerned with community safety. Since then its primary purpose evolved to meet the objectives of this Condition. Membership is open to all residents whether as individuals, group delegates (e.g. TRA) or business representatives. We will continue to focus our attention on matters concerning community safety, sustainable living, community cohesion and inclusivity. Even before the Localism Act a track record had been established in organising the annual Limehouse Festival, re-opening the Limehouse Youth Centre and liaising with other groups, such as LBTH, Metropolitan Police, GLA, the Limehouse Practice and the Canal and River Trust. |
| Economic well-being  | Limehouse has been zoned as 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 infrastructure all contribute to the health of the local economy.   |
| Environmental well-bring   | LCF will 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 build upon the open access enjoyed by residents by building upon our existing relationships with Canal and River Trust (Limehouse Basin), Friends of Ropemakers Fields, GLA.  |
| <b>How will the Forum embed the Council's guidance and aspirations within the Community Plan, Core Strategy, Managing Development Document and Diversity and Equalities Statement in their activities?</b> |  |
| Mayor's Priorities and Community Plan  | LCF has reviewed the policy objectives encompassed in The Mayor's Priorities and Community Plan. We see no inconsistency between these and LCF objectives. We accept that an integrated approach across many service providers will be 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 243 residents are 65+). Insofar as our Neighbourhood Plan can support the  |

|   |   |
|---|---|
|   | Mayor's Plan we will develop relevant proposals and policies for the Limehouse ward.  |
| Core Strategy & Managing Development Document | We accept that the Neighbourhood Plan that LCF will develop should be complementary to these documents. Accordingly we will develop policies relating to the design, sustainability, location and environmental impact of any development planned for the ward. The membership of LCF considers there is limited scope for large scale development and this will be reflected in the plan as local adoption of these core policy documents occurs. We note that population density in Limehouse ward exceeds the LBTH average by 15.4% already. |
| Diversity and Equalities Statement            | Since inception LCF policy 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 will ensure that the Forum is accountable to its members which includes all potential stakeholders in the neighbourhood area.   |

**How will the Forum envisage engaging with other local forums and groups including the Local Community Ward Forums ?**

The LCF has long established productive relationships with our neighbouring action groups, including Mile End Residents Association (MERA) and Burton's Wharf Residents Association to the north of Limehouse, SaveKEMP (Save King Edward Memorial Park), and Friends of St. Katharine's Dock to the west of Limehouse, and the Isle of Dogs NPF to the east of Limehouse. We expect to exchange liaison membership (Associate) with these groups to maintain open lines of communication and to insure the betterment of the larger geographic area.

**2**

**The Forum's membership is open to everyone who lives, works and represents the area as an elected member.**

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

As stated, membership of LCF is as diverse as possible. The LCF has met bi-monthly for the past eight years and has interacted with local people in many diverse ways; these meetings have all been minuted and recorded, and they will soon be available to the public via a dedicated website. The LCF hosted and sponsored a hustings for the 2010 General Election with an attendance of +250 people. The last LimeFest was well attended with over +3000 people during the course of the day. 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. In the future many groups will be able to join the LCF and be involved in decision making about the community plan as it is developed. Our membership is drawn from residents, residents' associations, local businesses and other associated bodies as diverse as St Katherine's Foundation, Canal and River Trust and Limehouse Basin Berth Holders Association. The LCF intends to strengthen these bonds and forge new ones with other groups as they develop.

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. We are currently formalising a plan to ensure all areas of the ward are encompassed within 40 'Neighbourlets' and we envisage creating

opportunities for consultation and engagement in all of these whether or not they have formally applied for LCF membership.

3

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

Does it have a membership of at least 21 people?

Yes  No

How have the Forum secured (or taken reasonable steps to attempt to secure) at least one person from those who live, work or represent the area as an elected member in its membership? This may include evidence of discussions, meetings and as outlined in 2 above we have been diligent in our attempts to include everyone as members and let them know about plans for the Neighbourhood Area boundary and the Forum to create a Neighbourhood Plan and to ensure that we can monitor our inclusivity going forward. Do members come from different places within the neighbourhood and do they reflect the diversity of consultations.

As outlined above we continue diligent in our attempts to include everyone as members and to keep them informed about plans for the Neighbourhood Area boundary and the creation of a Neighbourhood Plan, 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.

We have received an endorsement and commitment from our one elected LBTH councillor, Craig Aston, to support the NPF application from the LCF.

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 | Geoff Sumnall  | E14 7JT  | Founder LCF and Rep for Limehouse West          |
| 3 | John Fortescue | E14 7JX  | Rep for Berglen Court (and Basin boat owner)    |
| 4 | Angus Collin   | E14 7HQ  | Rep from Barley Mow estate                      |
| 5 | Richard Bray   | E14 7HR  | Rector St Anne's Church; Rep from Newell Street |
| 6 | Anthony Fisher | E14 8BZ  | Rep for Water Gardens                           |
| 7 | N Turner Didem | E14 7JA  | Rep for Marina Heights, Chair of TRA            |
| 8 | Eric Sorensen  | E14 8AU  | Property Owner Milligan Street                  |

|    |                    |         |  |
|----|--------------------|---------|--|
| 9  | Richard Roberts    | E14 8AA | Owner Arches Nursery; Liaison Friends of Ropemakers  |
| 10 | Gary Holden        | E14 8BZ | Founder LCF; Rep for Papermill Wharf                 |
| 11 | Robert Meyrick     | E17 8BG | Rep for Victory Place                                |
| 12 | Jud Hoff           | E14 8DB | Rep for Ropemakers Fields                            |
| 13 | Rae Hoffenberg     | E14 8DG | Rep for Sun Wharf; Chair of Narrow St. Residents Gp. |
| 14 | Lesley Balding     | E14 8AP | Owner London Link, Three Colts St.                   |
| 15 | Robert Cherry      | E14 8HF | Rep for Gill Street                                  |
| 16 | Brenda Mobbs       | E14 8BD | Limehouse Basin resident (Boat owner)                |
| 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 | Michael Harrington | E14 8BD | Limehouse Marina Resident                            |
| 21 | Gurnam Kaur        | E14 8HH | Director Providence Row H.A.                         |

4

**The Forum has a written constitution.**

Has the Forum completed and attached a written constitution?

Yes

No

## Neighbourhood Planning Area application information

**Has a clear map of the proposed Neighbourhood Planning Area been attached?**

Yes

No

**Why is the boundary of the Neighbourhood Planning Area considered to be appropriate?**

How does the boundary taken into account the physical, economic and social characteristics of the area?

The proposed Neighbourhood Planning Area is considered to be appropriate as it has successfully functioned within the boundary already established by the Limehouse Community Forum to promote and improve social, economic and environmental well-being for nearly ten years.

The area is physically bounded on three sides by major road arteries and on the fourth side by the River Thames, all of which are effective barriers to neighbourly interaction, but within the established area a close relationship has been achieved and is being further developed between all those that live and work within the area.

The Boundary Commission revised Limehouse Ward in 2014 and the new ward boundary closely follows that proposed for the Neighbourhood Planning Area. Amongst the benefits of this obvious consistency, it establishes a single policing and political entity to the area, which greatly improves interaction with those that represent these functions.

Finally, being classified as a Neighbourhood Planning Forum will be of great benefit to the Limehouse Community Forum to carry its existing constitutional objectives which include endeavouring to maintain and improve Limehouse as a place to live, work or visit and to enjoy.

#### Boundary Extension Options Considered

During its preparation for a NPF Application, the Limehouse Community Forum was requested by LBTH Planning to consider several extension options to its proposed NPF boundary.

These options comprised a group of essentially residential properties centred around Garford Street beyond Westferry Road to the east of the proposed boundary; a linear grouping of industrial and residential properties in the region of Lowell Street on the opposite side of Commercial Road to the north of the proposed boundary; and the section of predominantly retail and commercial properties along Commercial Road, in the vicinity of its crossroads with Butcher Row, to the north west of the proposed NPF boundary. This options are shown in Appendix Map 1

#### Garford Street and Lowell Street Options

The Garford Street and Lowell Street area options, lying on the opposite side of busy major roads are effectively severed from the area bordered by the proposed boundary and therefore have little if any neighbourly contact. As such these areas have never been considered part of, nor have residents from them made any approaches to become part of the neighbourhood covered by the Limehouse Community Forum, which has always kept an open mind to its exact boundary. There seems to be no good reason now to attempt the difficult task of including these two outlying areas into the proposed Limehouse NPF area and the request to include them has, therefore, been respectfully rejected.

#### Commercial Road Option

The retail and commercial development along Commercial Road around the Butcher Row crossroads has been suggested as the neighbourhood centre of Limehouse but this is not the case since it does not relate to Limehouse either in location or function. Geographically it lies outside the area considered as Limehouse for the last ten years by the Limehouse Community Forum, by the 2014 Boundary Commission in establishing the Limehouse ward boundary, and by LBTH in their acceptance of that boundary. The heart of Limehouse is the "T" formed by Narrow Street and Limehouse Causeway with Ropemakers Field, and its riverside pubs and store, school, historic buildings and nearby waterways. The activity created by these is complemented by the leisure and recreational activity which takes place in the Field, climaxed by the annual Limehouse Festival run by the Community Forum. The Commercial Road retail area provides out-of-centre convenience shopping for the west side of Limehouse as Canary Wharf does for the east side but neither are part of Limehouse. As is the case for the other extension options considered above, but to an even greater extent, in seems unreasonable now to attempt to include this area into Limehouse when its area characteristics are so different, so again the request to include it has been respectfully rejected.

|                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| <b>Applicant name</b> | Mark Slankard – Chair – Limehouse Community Forum |
| <b>Date</b>           | 30 <sup>th</sup> March, 2015                      |

APPENDIX – Supplementary List of LCF Members supporting this Application:

|    |                  |         |                                      |
|----|------------------|---------|--------------------------------------|
| 22 | Lee Carr         | E14 8AU | Rep for Milligan Street              |
| 23 | Penny Rees       | E14 8BG | Resident of Victory Place            |
| 24 | Akash Gharu      | E14 8EA | Rep for Goodhart Place               |
| 25 | Thea Reynolds    | E14 8BB | Rep for Dunbar Wharf                 |
| 26 | Mark Kennedy     | E14 7JG | Owner Bronze Age /Limehouse Gallery  |
| 27 | Randy Ashie      | E14 8BN | Youth Worker, Limehouse Youth Centre |
| 28 | Inti van Ritchie | E14 8BP | Architect, Three Colts St.           |
| 29 | Alfie Hatt       | E14 8BD | Owner Moo Canoes, Limehouse Basin    |
| 30 | Catherine Gilson | E14 7JT | Rep for Limehouse West               |
| 31 | Derek Cuttler    | E14 7HQ | Rep for Barley Mow Estate            |
| 32 | Helen Kenny      | E14 8AA | Rep for Ropemakes / ASB Monitor      |
| 33 | Mark Aitken      | E148DS  | Master; St. Katherine's Foundation   |
| 34 | Craig Aston      |         | LBTH Councillor                      |

NOTE; This is NOT a finite list. It would have been possible to add further individuals as well as representatives of various organisations, but for administrative ease we took a list of 34 active members as suitable for the purposes of this application.