

PRE-DESIGNATION ACTIVITIES ABOUT THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN FORUM AND BOUNDARY AREA

OCTOBER 2013

A considerable amount of work has been undertaken to consider all aspects of the Neighbourhood Planning process and its application in East Shoreditch. A small working group was formed as a result of discussion about new provisions in the Localism Act to pursue the idea of a Forum and Plan area. This was Rebecca Collings, Martine Drodz, Naseem Khan, Will Nutland and Amanda Reynolds. They have reached out into their local networks to involve others in the process and collect information about what it involved.

Below is a summary of the work they and others have undertaken to date to inform the submission for designation of the area and Forum.

1. WORKSHOPS AND WALKABOUTS WITH LOCALITY ADVISOR

These workshops informed the group on how to enable involvement in the overall process of Forum and Neighbourhood area designation with stakeholders that were representative of the characteristics of the whole area.

Feb 23 2012: Workshop on Neighbourhood Planning and Stakeholder Involvement

Present : Will Nutland, Rebecca Collings, Dave Chetwyn (Locality Advisor), Rupert Cole (JAG), Daniel Ng, Oliver Dyer, Mark Walton (canal boat resident), Melanie Osbourne (Perseverance Works)

February 24th 2012: Area Walkabout

Will Nutland, Rebecca Collings, Dave Chetwyn (Locality Advisor)

March 12 2012: Workshop on Neighbourhood planning

Will Nutland, Rebecca Collings, Robin Fellgett, Dave Chetwyn, Amanda Reynolds, Martine Drodz Karen Janody , Andy Pierce, manager Owl and the Pussycat, Kate Beeching – Jago Action Group

2. COLLECTING BASELINE CENSUS EVIDENCE

To inform the process of establishing the forum and ensuring its inclusiveness, census data for the proposed neighbourhood area and beyond was collated by Martine Drodz from the working group. This provides census information on the local population which can be used to monitor and review progress on engaging all interests in the area in the development of the neighbourhood plan.

3. DEVELOPING AN ON LINE CONSULTATION APPLICATION TOOL WITH COMMONPLACE

The working group agreed a terms of reference for work to develop the app that was based on identifying key stakeholders for interview by Commonplace within the Shoreditch area to discuss their view of what constitutes their neighbourhood and the issues within it and their use of mobile

and on line technologies to gauge the capacity of people locally to use an app to map the “emotional topography” of the area – does it feel safe, does it feel cared for and so on.

The working group identified stakeholders across a range of age groups and ethnicities for interview to cover different perspectives categorised as follows: short leaseholders/tenants, artists/creative businesses, Retailers, Owner occupiers

4. MEETINGS WITH LOCAL ORGANISATIONS

The idea to pursue the new powers for neighbourhood plan originated in discussions at OPEN Shoreditch meetings. This is the main forum that has been used to discuss the Neighbourhood Forum and Area since it is an alliance of local tenants and residents organisations and groups concerned with neighbourhood action. The records below are a chronology of when discussions took place, the people who participated and direct extracts from the minutes of all OPEN Shoreditch meetings that discussed the proposal for a Neighbourhood Forum and area and neighbourhood planning.

In addition to this specific discussions have also taken place with:

- The Spitalfields Society
- Gascoigne Neighbourhood Association
- Columbia Tenants and Residents Association
- Virginia School

OPEN Shoreditch Meetings

30th July 2012

Katrina Blainin	Wingmore & Gascoigne Neighbourhood Group (WGNG)
Rebecca Collings (Chair)	Jago Action Group
Will Nutland	Jago Action Group
Karen Janody	Creative City
Amanda Reynolds	Columbia Neighbourhood Action Group
Rachel Munro-Peebles	Shoreditch Community Association

Guests:

John Pierce LBTH Weavers' Ward councillor

Presenting Curtain Road development proposals:

Therese Bak	Pringle Brandon Drew (Architects)
Moojan Kalbasi	Pringle Brandon Drew (Architects)
David Reid	Montagu Evans (Planners)

John P summarised the potential benefits of forming a Neighbourhood Forum and producing Neighbourhood Plans. They include: an empowered community; possible acquisition of assets for community use; a formal say in land use, such as appropriate locations for homes and businesses. However, the Tower Hamlets neighbourhood planning team is embryonic, so early support not likely to be forthcoming. *ACTION JP/AR to liaise Tower Hamlets re support for Forum.*

24th September 2012

Louise Alexander	Bethnal Green Transition
Rebecca Collings	Jago Action Group
David Donoghue (Chair)	Spitalfields Society
Jamie Fankcom	Burhan Uddin House Tenants' Association
Naseem Kahn	Wingmore, Gascoigne & Leopold Neighbourhood Group (WGLNG)
Rachel Munro-Peebles	Shoreditch Community Association
Amanda Reynolds	Columbia Neighbourhood Action Group
Linda Wilkinson	Jesus Hospital Estate Residents' Association

Tower Hamlets has now appointed a Neighbourhood Forum officer, but no processes are in place yet.

OPEN will aim to recruit 21 people by 21 December, to serve as forum members. At an initial Neighbourhood Forum meeting with the Tower Hamlets officer, some actions were agreed:

ACTION

Naseem/Will to scope the outreach strategy to recruit a representative cross section of the community, and to include who is to approach whom

Martine/Rebecca to draft leaflet content

Everyone to recruit 1 or 2 people

29th Oct 2012

Amanda Reynolds (Chair)	Columbia Neighbourhood Action Group
Martine Drozd	North Brick Lane Residents' Association
Louise Alexander	Bethnal Green Transition
David Donoghue	Spitalfields Society
Jamie Fankcom	Burhan Uddin House Tenants' Association
Naseem Khan	Wingmore, Gascoigne & Leopold Neighbourhood Group (WGLNG)
Will Nutland	Jago Action Group
Krissie Nicolson	East End Trades Guild
John Pierce	Ward Councillor

There has been no further action since the last meeting. Amanda expressed the need for some 'drive' behind the development of the forum to keep momentum going. **ACTION:** *Will and Naseem to review the draft recruitment list*

25th November 2012

Katrina Blannin (Chair)	Columbia Tenants' and Residents' Association
Amanda Reynolds	Columbia Neighbourhood Action Group

Martine Drozd	North Brick Lane Residents' Association
Louise Alexander	Bethnal Green Transition
David Donoghue	Spitalfields Society
Rebecca Collings	Jago Action Group
Brendon Pinch	Jago Action Group
Jamie Fankcom	Burhan Uddin House Tenants' Association
Krissie Nicolson	East End Trades Guild
Rachel Munro-Peebles	Shoreditch Community Association
Noah Crutchfield	Maiden
Jenny Brown	Shoreditch Community Association
Robbie Belmore	Shoreditch Community Association

Rebecca informed the meeting of the creation of a Neighbourhood Forum for Shoreditch under the Localism Act 2011. The forum must involve at least 21 members that represent the local community within the defined boundaries. Rebecca and Martine have drafted some materials to enable recruitment for local members of the forum. A contact list has been drafted but we have not as yet received any positive responses.

ACTION: Rebecca to send recruitment materials to Brendon for wider distribution

28th Jan 2013

Leila McAlister (Chair)	BNG & FOAC
Amanda Reynolds	Columbia Neighbourhood Action Group
Louise Alexander	Bethnal Green Transition
Brad Lochore	Jago Action Group
Will Nutland	Jago Action Group
Rebecca Collings	Jago Action Group
Anthony Hoete +1	What Architecture

Representatives of the QECH Joint Venture: Rydon and Family Mosaic plus the architects, HTA

Will informed the meeting that a list of potential forum members was ready, but we needed to commit to a firm timetable before approaching them. Amanda advised the meeting that LBTH organiser, Peter Farnham, expected to publish guidance by the end of February 2013. Will thought Dave Chetwyn could be of further assistance. Rebecca reported that she had made a central government contact and would follow up. *ACTION: core group to meet to agree a timetable and responsibilities.*

11th Feb 2013

Rebecca Collings (Chair)	Jago Action Group
Leila McAlister	Friends of Arnold Circus/Boundary Neighbourhood Group
Amanda Reynolds	Columbia Neighbourhood Action Group

Brendon Pinch	Jago Action Group
Katrina Blannin	Columbia Tenants' and Residents' Association
Naseem Khan	Gascoigne Neighbourhood Association
Will Nutland	Jago Action Group
Anissa Helou	Shoreditch Community Association
Louise Alexander	Bethnal Green Transition

Discussed NP boundaries that are in the OPEN area information from DCLG on Forums was shared at the meeting. Brendon agreed to circulate it to all members.

ACTION Amanda agreed to circulate the boundaries

11th March 2013

Katrina Blannin (Chair)	Gascoigne Neighbourhood Association/Columbia Tenants' and Residents' Association
Nicolette Cavaleros	Shoreditch Community Association
David Donoghue	Spitalfields Society
Rebecca Collings	Jago Action Group
Amanda Reynolds	Columbia Neighbourhood Action Group
Brendon Pinch	Jago Action Group
Will Nutland	Jago Action Group
James Frankcom	Burhan Uddin House Tenants' and Residents' Association/Spitalfields Society
Martine Drodz	North Brick Lane Residents' Association
Rachel Munro-Peebles	Shoreditch Community Association

Amanda reported that there has been a steering group meeting for the Neighbourhood Forum. The issue of the boundaries remains unresolved and requires the involvement of Tower Hamlets. James informed the meeting that the Boundary Commission is reviewing the electoral boundaries in Tower Hamlets. Spitalfields Society is having discussions as to where the boundary for the Spitalfields ends for the purposes of potentially establishing a Community Council for the Spitalfields Society, but not a Neighbourhood Forum at this point in time.

8th April 2013

Martine Drodz (Chair)	North Brick Lane Residents' Association
Katrina Blannin	Gascoigne Neighbourhood Association/Columbia Tenants' and Residents' Association
Nicolette Cavaleros	Shoreditch Community Association
David Donoghue	Spitalfields Society
Rebecca Collings	Jago Action Group
Amanda Reynolds	Columbia Neighbourhood Action Group
Brendon Pinch	Jago Action Group
James Frankcom	Burhan Uddin House Tenants' and Residents' Association/Spitalfields Society

Amanda informed the meeting that the boundaries for the Neighbourhood Forum are in the process of being finalised. Amanda and Rebecca are to attend a workshop run by the Department of Communities and Local Government about neighbourhood planning.

Jamie informed the meeting of an appeal that has been made to the Secretary of State in respect of the proposed redrawing of the boundaries for the new Spitalfields and Banglatown Ward. The appeal would move the northern boundary of the ward from the railway line up to Old Nichol Street. The outcome of the appeal remains to be determined with no fixed timetable.

ACTION: Amanda to send proposal for boundaries among steering committee for approval

ACTION: Rebecca to meet with Jamie to discuss proposed boundaries for the Neighbourhood Forum

13th May 2013

Nicolette Cavaleros (Chair)	Shoreditch Community Association
Katrina Blannin	Gascoigne Neighbourhood Association/Columbia Tenants' and Residents' Association
Jason Caffrey	Boundary Neighbourhood Group
Rebecca Collings	Jago Action Group
David Donoghue	Spitalfields Society
Martine Drodz	North Brick Lane Residents' Association
Naseem Khan	Wingmore, Gascoigne & Leopold Neighbourhood
Will Nutland	Jago Action Group
James Frankcom	Burhan Uddin House Tenants' and Residents' Association/Spitalfields Society

The working group updated the meeting on progress. Three of the working group had attended a Department of Communities and Local Government workshop on formation of a Neighbourhood Forum. It was both informative and useful networking, as both the Tower Hamlets and Hackney neighbouring planning officers were at the event and working group members were able to informally discuss the proposals.

Rebecca felt the most significant information gleaned from the event was the amount of central government resources and energy being devoted to Neighbourhood Planning. It appeared that Neighbourhood Planning may survive initiative fatigue and be here to stay, and would be preferable to local authority initiatives, such as LAPs, neighbourhood champions, etc, as these were so overtly political.

Jamie queried the logic of including the Goodsyrd in East Shoreditch, and proposed that it should be split in two. Rebecca, Will and Naseem thought it unlikely that the landowner would agree to this, thus unlikely that the local authority would support it. Will proposed that this was a hypothetical discussion because the local authority would be the decision maker.

ACTION : ESNPF to consult on all borders to establish a mandate for the area to be proposed.

Rebecca to meet with Jamie and David in particular, to review the southern border.

8th July 2013

Rebecca Collings (Chair)	Jago Action Group
John Pearce	Weavers Councillor
David Donoghue	Spitalfields Society
Leila McAlister	Friends of Arnold Circus
Amanda Reynolds	Columbia Neighbourhood Action Group
Brendon Pinch	Jago Action Group
Martine Drodz	North Brick Lane Residents' Association
James Frankcom	Burhan Uddin House Tenants' and Residents' Association/Spitalfields Society
Anthony Hoete	WHAT Architecture
Magda Szerla	WHAT Architecture

Amanda reported that Tower Hamlets and Hackney have said that the Goodsyard can never be included within the boundaries of any proposed Neighbourhood Forum on the basis that it is considered a strategic site.

ACTION Jamie and Amanda agreed to discuss boundaries for new Neighbourhood Forums for East Shoreditch and Spitalfields.

5. CONSULTATION DROP IN ON THE NEIGHBOURHOD AREA 19TH September 4-7pm St Hildas East and Virginia School

A specific public event was held to inform everyone locally about the plans for a forum and neighbourhood plan and to discuss the proposed boundary. The event was promoted by flyer and posters in the area and the event appeared on the JAG Facebook page. 22 people dropped in or were talked to outside Virginia school. A good range of people, particularly in usually under-represented groups) in terms of age (20 under or in their 30s, 2 over 30)), sex (20 female, 2 male) and ethnicity (14 Bengali, 2 black, 4 white, 2 mixed) were consulted and supported the proposed area and the idea of a plan that may be able to address local anti social behaviour, theft, provision of local safe play facilities and cleanliness.

6. DEVELOPMENT OF THE NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM

Inaugural Meeting of the Neighbourhood Forum 30th July 2013

The working group developed a constitution and membership form for the Forum with the help of another Locality Advisor Lorraine Hart.

This constitution was adopted by founding members in July 2013 and elected an interim management committee to take the designation process forward. It was attended by ward councillors in Hackney as well as residents, local community groups and local businesses with a view

to consulting further on the Constitution and Area so that a final first Annual General Meeting could take place to adopt a final constitution, elect a Management committee and agree the Neighbourhood Area.

First Annual General Meeting of the East Shoreditch Neighbourhood Planning Forum – 23rd September

The first Annual General Meeting was a great success, attended by 35 people with two Tower Hamlets ward councillor observing the proceedings. The meeting elected a new management committee, adopted its final constitution and agreed the final neighbourhood area for designation for a neighbourhood plan.

7. DEVELOPMENT OF AN ON LINE PRESENCE FOR THE FORUM AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

The group has commissioned a web page for the Forum to promote membership and future activities to help to provide accountability for the Forum and opportunities to contribute to the development of the plan going forward. It can be found at www.eastshoreditchforum.org.uk.