



Woodford Community Council

WOODFORD NEIGHBOURHOOD AREA APPLICATION

Statement that the applicant fulfils the conditions of being a ‘relevant body’ – Regulation 5. (1) (c)

The application for the Woodford Neighbourhood Area is being made by the proposed Woodford Neighbourhood Forum, which fulfils the conditions of being a ‘relevant body’ for the following reasons:

a) Our constitution (Document 5) clearly defines our overall objectives, of seeking establishment for the express purpose of improving the Area as outlined, known as Woodford, for the benefit of the inhabitants of the Area, by promoting the social, economic and environmental well-being of the Area, encouraging the goodwill and involvement of the wider community, and fostering community spirit.

We would further add that the efforts of the Woodford Community Council (WCC) established 1974, Woodford War Memorial Community Centre (WWMCC) established 1953, and many of their members in the past have illustrated these same overall concerns. The Woodford Neighbourhood Forum Constitution (Document 5), which is submitted with this application, amplifies and numerates specific objects relating to the overall mission, many of which also formed part of WCC’s constitutional aims and objectives. As can be seen, a number of the persons supporting the application are senior members of both WCC and WWMCC.

In addition to those objectives stated in the constitution, we would add that we appreciate the consequences that we believe will ensue from the establishment of a Neighbourhood Forum. Indeed we believe the consequences will be to lend much more weight and recognition than in the past to the community who live and work in Woodford as the major stakeholders in whatever developments and decisions are being considered for its community to live with.

If established as a Forum we anticipate that the Woodford Neighbourhood Forum will work cooperatively and productively, particularly with SMBC officers, and look to garner the support of those elected representatives, developers and businesses who seek to contribute to the same overall objective stated as the main objective in the Localism Act and in our Constitution. We also believe that whenever appropriate and possible the Forum should also be a medium for initiating endeavours in keeping with those objectives and for supporting those who contribute to the well-being of the community in Woodford.

b) Membership of the proposed Woodford Neighbourhood Forum is open. As can be seen from the Forum Constitution (Document 5), in compliance with the Localism Act, we nominate as members all local residents, individuals who work in the area and all persons elected to represent the area including our ward councillors and MP. We would also expect to include any business man or woman or their representative who has a business in Woodford but who does not actually live in Woodford.

We have clearly stated in the Constitution that the Forum is to be non party political and that its business is constitutionally designed to sustain that statement in practice. There are also mechanisms to deal with vested interests.

c) Membership includes at least 21 individual members, each of whom lives in the proposed Woodford NA, works in the proposed Woodford NA or is an elected member. We have attached the names and addresses of more than twenty one qualifying persons (Document 6). The addresses represent a spread over Woodford, as can be seen from the address list. The representation includes amongst others, residents, people who work in the area, businesses, land owners and a local councillor.

d) The proposed Woodford Neighbourhood Forum has a written constitution (Document 5).

The proposed Neighbourhood Forum may currently be contacted through the Secretary of Woodford Community Council on the following email address:

info@woodfordcommunity.co.uk

and further information is available on the Website:

<http://www.woodfordcommunity.co.uk>