



R.E.A.C.T.

Residents of Edmonton Angel Community Together

STATEMENT FOR APPLICATION TO BE A NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM

INTRODUCTION

Under the Localism Act 2011 we would like to make a formal application to become designated as a Neighbourhood Forum.

The 2011 Localism Act provides an opportunity to build on:

- Setting up a Neighbourhood Forum which would have a distinctive legal entity with the local community, business and political representatives;
- Development of a Neighbourhood Plan (this would be building on priorities review process but would require technical details around building, planning developments and environmental considerations);
- The Neighbourhood Forum and plan would attract funding from e.g. Big Lottery around community engagement and commissioning/delivery of services;
- This would create the platform to buy or have assets transferred to the local community
- The forum would develop and provide the leadership and capacity skills for local people to engage with Enfield Council and other local partners.

THE APPLICATION

Please find attached the following documentation and information as evidence that the REACT Neighbourhood Planning Forum complies with the validation criteria for neighbourhood forums;

- Constitution of REACT Neighbourhood Planning Forum (Annex 1)
- Map of the proposed boundary for REACT Neighbourhood Planning Forum (Annex 2)
- Description of the proposed boundary for Neighbourhood Forum (Annex 3)
- Names and address of **21** local residents, workers/ businesses and councillors who are members of the Forum or show an interest in joining (Annex 4)• Footprints of meetings leading to developing REACT Neighbourhood Planning Forum (Annex 5)

THE NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM

REACT forum consists of residents of the previous Neighbourhood watch and newly joined residents. Our membership targets both young and old people from all walks of life living and working in the area. We recruit members by leafleting, dropping invitation letters through residential letterboxes, by emails, word of mouth and engaging with the council to reach all residents and businesses in the area.

To date, we have had constructive meetings with the planning department at Enfield Town. We have discussed our plans towards becoming a forum at every meeting since the regeneration team proposed the idea to the group.

THE NEIGHBOURHOOD AREA

The proposed Neighbourhood Forum area is bound by the railway line west of College Road junction, continuing up to Langhedge Lane up to the railway line east of Albany Road, extending beyond to the undeveloped land along the canal under the bridge, the undeveloped land along Kimberley Road up to Leaside Road. The boundary then moves north to A406 North Circular Road including the roads feeding alongside including the canal under the bridge and South along Middleham Road and continues across Fore Street into the border with Haringey. We are including the area East of Kimberley Road to the railway line. The reason is that new residences and businesses planned for the regenerated area will be readily integrated into the neighbourhood forum. To the West between Fore Street and the railway, the residents are already involved in our meetings so we are also including this area. Also the forum area defined in this way has natural and easily recognisable boundaries. For a full description of the boundary line see (Annex 3).

ADMINISTRATIVE BOUNDARIES

The High Street on Fore Street is a crucial part of our neighbourhood and it was considered the surrounding areas beyond to the west and up to the back of the railway bridge be included as part of the extended boundary. West of Fore Street is part of Upper Edmonton. It is crucial to include this area otherwise the residents would feel isolated and abandoned from regeneration planned for the rest of Forum areas. We also felt this area would benefit inclusion to our catchment area as some the residents already attend REACT meetings and are REACT members, who have asked for support at REACT meetings. There is no neighbourhood group on this side of A406 catering for the needs of residents in the same platform we work from. REACT aims to continue to target more residents to increase representation in the Langhedge and Snells park areas.

MERIDIAN UNDEVELOPED

REACT has vested interest in the underdeveloped areas east to the railway line beyond Kimberley Road. There is an on-going discussion with the Regeneration team, who have plans for land identified for a community centre and a public park in the undeveloped area. There is a physical and environmental impact the underdeveloped area will have on REACT community if it is excluded from our catchment area. There is added administrative benefit to include the undeveloped area creating a railway line to railway line totality.

REACT decided that our responsibilities should not extend beyond the borough. The residents on Brentwood Road have not shown interest in joining REACT because they consider that they are part of Tottenham than Upper Edmonton. They also belong to a different council and believe their interests will not be met by Enfield Council. REACT remains committed to working with external agencies/groups on the Haringey border. REACT have, however included residents on the border of Willoughby Lane N17.

SOCIO-ECONOMIC INFORMATION

Upper Edmonton is ranked amongst the top 15 per cent most deprived areas of the country with some neighbourhoods falling within the five per cent most deprived as part of the Forum area.

The large percentage of BAME population in Enfield, live in the proposed Forum area. Almost ten per cent claim jobseekers allowance in the deprived neighbourhoods and there is an above average proportion of out of work benefit claimants. Around a third of children live in poverty. There is a shorter life expectancy between people living in Upper Edmonton and 20 per cent of households have an annual income of £15,000 or less.

REASONS FOR IDENTIFYING THE AREA

Based on meetings attended by local councillors, local businesses and local residents, there is strong commitment for this part of Upper Edmonton to be part of the proposed REACT Neighbourhood Planning Forum and for the following reasons:

- Residents who live on "the spur" of Haringey borders and closer to the Meridian development feel that the Council either are not aware of their needs or have forgotten that they exist and do not identify with the rest of Enfield;
- REACT started as a Safer Neighbourhood Watch over 20years ago and has campaigned tirelessly working closely with local councillors, local businesses, POLICE, CAPE etc. The area is appropriate to be designated as a neighbourhood area because residents throughout the area tell us that they identify with the neighbourhood overall demise because the area is based on clear physical neglect and it includes areas already identified by Enfield Council for regeneration.

We recognise the Council's spatial vision for Enfield, as set out in the Core Strategy, and its designation of Upper Edmonton and its environs as a growth area and we wish to work with the Council to bring forward a planning document for the area. This will provide clear guidance and direction for developers as to the way local people want to see Upper Edmonton move forward.

VISION AND ASPIRATIONS

We have the following vision and aspirations building on the belief that the local community can be empowered and have a leadership role in developing a Neighbourhood Plan for the proposed area.

Namely:

- Working creatively using methods that are bottom-up, participative and consensual to develop a neighbourhood plan;
- Providing mutual support to local residents and businesses, community and voluntary sector groups on planning and community related issues;
- Putting Upper Edmonton back on the map by addressing poverty and the high numbers of young people without homes and jobs and bring services and projects to the area;
- Promoting the profile and image of the area as a destination point for investment, job creation and environmental improvement;
- Support employment and training initiatives which can raise the skills and knowledge of local people;
- Nurture existing businesses; attract new businesses so that the quality and variety of shops serves the community well;
- Improving health and education facilities to support wellbeing and quality of life including meeting spaces and activities that are fully accessible;
- Change the environment and culture of the area so young people feel safe and valued and to achieve their fullest potential through opportunities being available;
- Priority for building homes that are genuinely affordable and to address the homelessness of young people. New and existing homes and their environments must be well maintained.
- Local streets and roads, including adequate and affordable parking spaces should be designed and maintained to encourage people to drive, walk and cycle, and with better bus services.

These objectives provide a rationale for the boundary of the area. By establishing a Neighbourhood Forum, the local community will ensure that the much needed regeneration builds on the existing character of the area, promoting and enhancing existing businesses and services whilst also attracting new investment.

MEETINGS

Over the last several weeks we have had meetings with the ward Councillors who are supportive of our plans and vision. Enfield council have assisted us with printing and distribution of our general meeting letters because majority of the residents do not receive the two local papers. We have also used local shops, e.g. Tesco, Bees Pharmacy, Gift land, and Harrys Off license Willougby Lane N17.

We plan to have regular meetings of the Forum once the application is successful. With the support of Raynham School, they will provide free meeting space