

At this initial meeting we started to look at constituting the neighbourhood forum and focused on:

Neighbourhood Planning Regulations

Objectives of neighbourhood forum

Membership of the forum

The following points are suggestions for comment and discussion:

1. The constitution to initially follow the Charity Commission template or similar model for 'small groups'. It can develop more clauses and reassess as activity increases.
2. The objectives to be based on known neighbourhood priorities to date. These are some 'first try' objectives for discussion and development:

THE PURPOSES OF THE NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM ARE:-

To promote sustainable development* in the neighbourhood of Somers Town (see map of area) by:

- **Promoting sustainable means of achieving economic growth and regeneration.**
- **Improving the opportunities for and abilities of local people to secure jobs in the local and London labour market.**
- **Promoting a distinctive, healthy, safe and sustainable environment where people feel valued, secure and committed.**
- **Encouraging young people to realise their potential and play a full and active part in the local community.**
- **Bringing people together and celebrating cultural diversity.**

***sustainable development means "development which meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."**

3. We have based the membership suggestions on the following criteria:

- Regulations requiring a Forum to have at least 21 members who live or work in the neighbourhood area.
- An eventual referendum on the neighbourhood plan where people on the electoral register living in the neighbourhood and rate paying businesses and organisations will have one vote each.
- A majority of people who live in the neighbourhood.
- Consistent membership of organisations and institutions that are active and influential in the area and will consider the neighbourhood forum and plan in their long term planning.

Suggested neighbourhood forum structure and membership:

- i. All people who live in the area are automatically members and can attend open forum meetings and register to vote in Annual General Meetings.
- ii. People who work in the area can be registered as members, attend open forum meetings and vote in Annual General Meetings.
- iii. The forum committee will comprise at least 21 members but no more than 27 members. Additional expertise can be co-opted as necessary (e.g. Safer Neighbourhoods Team).
- iv. Forum working groups will advise and influence the open forum and forum committee. They will have their own membership and decision making arrangements but should have at least one forum committee member each.
- v. Meetings should, within reason, remain 'open' to non committee members.
- vi. Suggested forum committee membership of 27:

14x people who live in the neighbourhood (reps of TRAs and / or with a commitment to talk to neighbours and build constituency).

6x permanent places: 1x local councillor (can be shared), Somers Town Community Association, Origin Housing, Francis Crick Institute, British Library, St Pancras Station.

3x local business places (currently Coffee House, Nisa, Superior Solutions).

4x voluntary and community sector places (currently New Horizons, Open Pathways, Nappy Ever After, CCPCG).

1x Safer Neighbourhoods Team co-optee.