

Neighbourhood Plan Area Designation and Forum Designation Application

Name of Neighbourhood Area *(the name by which your Neighbourhood Area will formally be known):* **Small Heath**

Name of Neighbourhood Forum: **Small Heath Neighbourhood Forum**

Relevant body *(Please confirm that you are the relevant qualifying body to undertake neighbourhood planning in your area in accordance with Section 61G of the 1990 Town and Country Planning Act and Section 5C of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 and the Localism Act 2011)*

YES

This is an application for the designation of the emerging Small Heath Neighbourhood Forum. The Small Heath Neighbourhood Planning Forum is being initiated by the Small Heath Neighbourhood Forum - a qualifying body for the purposes of the Localism Act 2011.

The proposal for a Neighbourhood Development Plan emanated from the exploratory discussions between residents, business owners, community groups, and other stakeholders. It has been in development for almost a year, led by a pre-steering group consisting of members of the community, local councillors and local stakeholders.

We are now seeking formal designation in accordance with the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations (2012). The content of this application fulfils the requirements of the Regulations and clearly highlights the extent of the proposed Neighbourhood Area and the Forum's desire to produce a Neighbourhood Plan.

Describe how the proposed Forum meets the requirements to be recognised as a Qualifying Body *(i.e. meeting requirements regarding being established with at least 21 members, to promote the social, economic and environmental well-being of the area in a manner that reflects the diversity, character and inclusivity of the area and includes people who live and work in the area and local councillors):*

The emerging Small Heath Neighbourhood Forum meets the requirements of the Localism Act 2011 to be recognised as a Qualifying Body. It has been established with 21 or more people to promote the social, economic and environmental well-being of Small Heath in a manner that reflects the diversity, character and inclusivity of the area and includes a variety of people who live and work in the area.

The Small Heath Neighbourhood Forum has been created for the purpose of preparing a Neighbourhood Plan for the Area. The Forum is a relevant body for the purposes of section 61G of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 and has a written constitution (Appendix 2) specific to the preparation of a Neighbourhood Plan.

The Forum will vote on the adoption of the written constitution and on the election of officers to form a Management Committee at their first General Meeting.

The Management Committee, once elected, will amongst other matters, manage the finances of the Forum.

The Forum meets the conditions contained in section 61F(5) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, as required by the Regulations as follows:

- It seeks to promote and improve the social, economic and environmental well-being of the residents, businesses and other stakeholders in the proposed Neighbourhood Area (see Constitution Clause 2).

- Its membership (Constitution Clause 4) is open to:

I) Individuals who live in the Neighbourhood Area concerned;

II) Individuals who work in the Neighbourhood Area;

III) Voluntary organisations operating in the Neighbourhood Area;

IV) elected members of Birmingham City Council whose wards fall within Small Heath Neighbourhood Area.

- The Forum consists of at least 21 individuals, each of whom fulfils at least one of the above conditions (see Appendix 3 on Membership).

Forum members have been recruited through information circulated to all households, through community organisations, through the local press, social media and at events held in a variety of online and in person settings. The community events have been extensive and targeted and are listed on the emerging forum's website ([Small Heath Plan Website](#)).

A detailed summary of events is also attached herewith under Appendix 4.

Mr Omar Hanif will be the main point of contact for the emerging Forum, until a Management Committee is voted at the first General Meeting).

Tel: 07791776147

Email: smallheathplan@outlook.com

We trust that the information submitted meets the requirements set out in the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations. We look forward to formal designation to enable us to progress with the Plan, helping to realise our regeneration aspirations for the area.

Intention of Neighbourhood Area *(Please indicate which of the following you intend to undertake within your Neighbourhood Area):*

The intentions of the emerging Small Heath Neighbourhood Forum are to sustain a long-term residential population and embrace the needs of a diverse community.

Small Heath is a suburban area with a growing, diverse and vibrant population. There are some development pressures as well as significant community aspirations.

The creation of the Forum represents the increased cohesiveness of this part of the existing Small Heath ward. The Forum and the Plan will enable community involvement in how this takes place and will help ensure development contributes to a sustainable and vibrant neighbourhood.

A Neighbourhood Plan will seek to balance the aspirations of individual property owners with the needs of the community.

The Forum initially intends to establish five working groups to explore the following issues (subject to views expressed at the first General Meeting of the Forum):

Local planning (incorporating: Housing and employment)

Open spaces and green spaces

Planning and development of the Coventry Road High Street

Reduction of poverty and promotion of opportunities for residents and businesses

Youth initiatives and development

It will become the basis for a long-term delivery plan, for implementation by a variety of partners.

Should the Neighbourhood Area be proposed as a Business Area? *(i.e. Is the area proposed for designation wholly or predominantly business or residential in nature? See [section 61H of the of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990](#)).*

No, we believe this area should not be designated as a Business Area, as the area is predominantly residential in nature. However, business uses still cover a significant part of the area and therefore, the concerns of businesses and their employees are also important to the emerging Forum.

Proposed Neighbourhood Plan Area Description: *(extent, boundaries, what landmarks it includes / does not include, does it follow an administrative / statistical boundary etc)*

The A45, Coventry Road runs through the heart of the proposed area, with the Small Heath Highway running to the south of the boundary, in tandem with the railway line leading from Solihull into the Birmingham city centre.

There are a number of local centres within the proposed boundary, including Coventry Road and neighbouring roads. Micro centres like Green Lane to the North of Small Heath and green spaces including Small Heath Park, Digby Park, Sara Park as well as the Hay Mills and Ackers activity centre are spread around the area, which has a history of industry and as a home for Birmingham's vibrant migrant community.

The proposal for a Neighbourhood Plan emanated from the emerging Small Heath Neighbourhood Forum, a consultation forum of community groups, residents, businesses, and other stakeholders. It has been in development for almost a year, led by a pre-steering group of members which include local residents, local councillors and other community activists.

We are now seeking formal designation in accordance with the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations (2012). The content of this application fulfils the requirements of the Regulations and clearly

highlights the extent of the proposed Neighbourhood Area and the Forum's desire to produce the Neighbourhood Plan.

Appendix 1 highlights the proposed Neighbourhood Area, marked by a blue line. There are a number of local centres within the proposed boundary and there are a number of potential development sites.

Appropriateness of Neighbourhood Area *(describe how the boundary has been determined, how it has a coherent physical and functional identity, alignment with ward or statistical boundaries etc; if possible exclude a bullet list of contentious areas where a specific argument was built on why these should be included or excluded)*

The proposed boundary defines the area of Small Heath with a coherent physical and functional identity provided in large part by significant roads and railway lines. The boundary has been consulted on with local residents, businesses, and other stakeholders, and is consistent with the area perceived as Small Heath by consultees.

It is a suburban area with a growing, diverse and vibrant population. There are some development pressures as well as significant community aspirations. The creation of the forum represents the increased cohesiveness of Small Heath. Community organisations have worked closely together in recent years in support of local facilities and parks and on campaigns.

The Forum and the Plan will enable community involvement in how future development takes place and how community aspirations are realised, and will help ensure development contributes to a sustainable and vibrant neighbourhood.

The Neighbourhood Plan will seek to balance the aspirations of individual property owners with the needs of the community.

Producing a statutory spatial framework will provide clear guidance and direction to investors, developers, and Birmingham City Council, as to the way local people wish to see the area move forward and thrive in the future. It will become the basis for a long-term delivery plan, for implementation by a variety of partners.

The Neighbourhood Planning Forum has been created for the purpose of preparing a Neighbourhood Plan for the Area. The Forum is a relevant body for the purposes of section 61G of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 and has a written constitution (Appendix 2) specific to the preparation of a Neighbourhood Plan. The Forum meets the conditions contained in section 61F(5) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, as required by the regulations (as set out above).

Membership statement: *(how were members sought through engagement; what is the policy regarding membership in the constitution; what is profile of membership and is it representative of the area / different parts of the area / different sections of the community; how did the group secure, or take reasonable steps to secure, membership from at least one person falling within each of the required categories)*

Membership is open to all people who live and work in the area, as well as elected members, without distinction or discrimination on the grounds of sex, disability, sexual orientation or race, or of political, religious or other opinions (Constitution Clause 2).

Membership has been sought from a variety of individuals and organisations, representing different sections of the community, as well as from different geographical areas within the Neighbourhood Area.

This has been done by holding engagement events in a variety of locations spread throughout the area, and venues which represent different community groups and religious groups present in the area, as well as in neutral venues, such as the local Council library. Events have been held in person as well as online, over a period of more than 12 months, and clearly advertised in a variety of ways, including online, on local radio and TV, as well as on paper flyers distributed to individual households and displayed in local venues.

This comprehensive approach was aimed at ensuring that nobody in the area was excluded who is eligible for membership and who supports the aims of the aims and objects of the Forum, in line with its constitution.

The constitution states that Small Heath Neighbourhood Forum will “use best endeavours to reflect the diversity, character and inclusivity of the area”, and these endeavours will be the basis of all future meetings and engagements.

The steering group and officers will be elected through open meetings.

The Forum aims to reflect the diversity of the interests in the area, which will continue to be discussed at open meetings once the Forum is established.

Applicant details

Title: Mr

Name: Omar Hanif

Address: 393 Coventry Road Small Heath Birmingham B10 OSP

Email smallheathplan@outlook.com

Tel: 07791776147

Additional Contact 1

Title Dr

Name Qaarey

Address XXXXXXXXXXXX

Email XXXXXXXXXXXX

Tel XXXXXXXXXXXX

Additional Contact 2

Title Councillor

Name Shabino Bano

Address XXXXXXXX

Email XXXXXXXX

Tel XXXXXXXXXXXXXx

Declaration

I/we hereby apply for designation of a Neighbourhood Area and Neighbourhood Plan Forum as described in this form, for the area shown on the accompanying map

Signature(s)

Name

Date

Appendices

Appendix 1: Map which identifies the area to which the area application relates (*attach*)

Appendix 2: Written Constitution of the proposed neighbourhood forum (*attach*)

Appendix 3: Membership (*attach a list of members, showing for each member whether they are a resident / business owner or employee / representing a community organisation / elected member / more than one of these*)

Appendix 4: Detailed Summary of Consultation Events