

**Request for Strategic Director
(Regeneration & Environment) and Lead
Member (Regeneration, Growth,
Employment & Skills) Agreement**
8th December 2017

Wards affected:
Sudbury, Northwick Park

**Application to renew designation of Sudbury Town
Neighbourhood Forum**

1.0 Summary

- 1.1 This report includes details relating to the request from the Sudbury Town Residents' Association (STRA) to renew their Neighbourhood Forum status. The application was subject to consultation for a 6 week period ending 28 November 2017. Ninety eight responses were received. There were no objections to the application. This report recommends that the Lead Member approve the designation applied for.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 That the designation of Sudbury Neighbourhood Forum, as set out in the submitted application, be agreed.

3.0 Background

- 3.1 Neighbourhood planning was introduced through the Localism Act 2011. The Act enables communities to develop planning policies that will become part of the planning framework for their area. It also allows them to grant planning permission for certain types of new development.
- 3.2 Neighbourhood planning is delivered by 'Neighbourhood Forums' for their 'Neighbourhood Area'. Neighbourhood Forums and Areas need to be agreed by local planning authorities, following local publicity.
- 3.3 Sudbury Town Residents' Association has been designated as the Neighbourhood Forum for the Sudbury Neighbourhood Area since December 2012. Neighbourhood Forum designations expire after five years and this application seeks to renew the Forum's status for a further five years. Renewal of the Forum's designation means no other organisation or body may be designated for that Neighbourhood Area until the designation expires or is withdrawn.

The Application

- 3.4 In October 2017, the Sudbury Town Residents' Association applied to renew its status as a Neighbourhood Forum, maintaining the boundary of the current Neighbourhood Area as

adopted in 2012. The application, including a map showing the extent of the Neighbourhood Area, is included in Appendix A of this report.

- 3.5 The council assessed the application and is satisfied that it complies with the statutory requirements as set out in the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012. A summary of the assessment is included as Appendix B.
- 3.6 In line with the Regulations, the council published the application for a six week consultation period ending on 28 November 2017. During the consultation period application documents were made available to view online at a dedicated website www.brent.gov.uk/stnp. The consultation was publicised via site notices at 6 locations in the Sudbury Neighbourhood Area, and via Facebook and Twitter. The following groups were also invited to comment via email:
- All Brent Councillors via the Members' Bulletin
 - Members of the Sudbury Neighbourhood Forum
 - Relevant organisations and groups from the Local Plan consultation database, including neighbouring boroughs and community groups

Consultation Responses

- 3.8 Ninety eight responses were received to the consultation. There were no objections.
- 3.9 Sudbury Ward Councillors Aden, Hoda-Benn and Daly submitted a joint response in support of the renewal of the Forum, outlining the work the Forum has done and future plans which will continue to benefit the neighbourhood.
- 3.10 Various organisations responded in support of or without objection to the Forum renewal including:
- Highways England
 - Natural England
 - Historic England
 - The Canal and River Trust
 - Brent Indian Association
 - North Brent Parks and Residents Association Forum
- 3.11 In addition to this there were 91 responses from members of the public, all in favour of the renewal of the Forum. A summary of these responses is included in Appendix C.

4.0 Financial Implications

- 4.1 As the council has previously applied for and received funding towards the designation of STRA as the Neighbourhood Forum for Sudbury Neighbourhood Area, no funding is available for this subsequent designation. If the Forum reviews its Neighbourhood Plan the council can apply for £20,000 on successful completion of an examination into the Plan. This funding will go towards the cost of examination and a referendum.

5.0 Legal Implications

- 5.1 Once designated as the Neighbourhood Forum, no other organisation or body may be designated for that Neighbourhood Area until that designation expires or is withdrawn.

6.0 Diversity Implications

- 6.1 The Equality Act 2010 introduced a new public sector equality duty under section 149. It covers the following nine protected characteristics: age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation. The council must, in exercising its functions, have "due regard" to the need to:
1. Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act.
 2. Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
 3. Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- 6.2 The application has been subject to an Equality Analysis Assessment which is attached as Appendix D. The assessment identifies no potential negative impacts in relation to different equality groups.
- 6.3 The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 requires the council to ensure that those applying for Neighbourhood Forum status are representative of the area to be covered. Sudbury Town Residents' Association satisfies this requirement.

7.0 Staffing/Accommodation Implications

- 7.1 No additional staff resources will be necessary to support neighbourhood planning, depending upon the number of Plans that are taken forward, or staff resources will be diverted from other plan making projects to provide support and advice.

8.0 Environmental Implications

- 8.1 A Neighbourhood Plan will allow local communities to focus better on local planning issues relevant to their particular area and there is potential for measures to be proposed and implemented that would lead to improvements to the local area's environment.


9.0 Contact Officers

- 9.1 Henry Brown, Planning Officer, Planning Policy and Projects

E-mail: Henry.Brown@brent.gov.uk

Telephone: 020 8937 2645

Appendix A: Sudbury Neighbourhood Forum Application

	Sudbury Town Residents' Association and NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM
Cleaner Greener Safer Sudbury	<p>For more information Website: www.stra.org.uk email: info@stra.org.uk Postal address: c/o Church Hall, 809 Harrow Road, Wembley, Middlesex, HA0 2LP STRA contact: Deputy Chair – Renu Kaul, 07040 491 142; email: deputychair@stra.org.uk</p>

9th October 2017

Claire Jones
Principal Policy Officer
Regeneration & Environment Brent Council
London Borough of Brent
Civic Centre Engineers Way
Wembley, HA9 0FJ

Dear Claire,

Renewal of Sudbury Neighbourhood Forum

Sudbury Town Residents' Association (STRA) hereby requests that the Sudbury Neighbourhood Forum for the Sudbury Neighbourhood Area is renewed in December 2017. On behalf of STRA, the Chairman formally submits this request.

A map – **Appendix 1** - of Sudbury Neighbourhood Area (SNA) is attached.



STRA was awarded the status of Sudbury Neighbourhood Forum (SNF) when STRA was one of the front runners for a Neighbourhood Plan. After extensive consultation with the residents and businesses of Sudbury, a referendum relating to the adoption of the Neighbourhood Plan was held on Thursday 10th September 2015. An amazing result was achieved: 93% YES VOTE for the Neighbourhood Plan.

STRA's Neighbourhood Forum status has given an additional momentum to its

residents and businesses. Through its forum status, STRA is empowered to maintain its much-needed 'CLEANER, GREENER, SAFER SUDBURY TOWN, WITH A HIGH STREET AT THE HEART OF THE COMMUNITY THAT WE CAN ALL BE PROUD OF'.

As a neighbourhood forum, STRA is able to participate in and influence local planning policies. Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funds have been approved for a proposed Community Asset Trust (CAT) project that will rejuvenate a derelict asset in Sudbury and use it for the benefit of the community. STRA's forum status has also given access to High Street Funds which have brought about tangible changes to the High Street: disabled accessibility, murals and banners, in addition to sensor lighting and signage for local businesses so as to promote Sudbury as a place to visit and shop locally.

Renewing the forum status will give our residents and businesses a strong and united voice, to allow STRA to continue the good work achieved to date

The aims and objectives of the Association are non-party, non-sectarian and to encourage the residents and businesses to improve the community we live in.



Sudbury Town Residents' Association and NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM

For more information

Website: www.stra.org.uk email: info@stra.org.uk

Postal address: o/o Church Hall, 800 Harrow Road, Wembley, Middlesex, HA9 2LP

STRA contact: Deputy Chair - Renu Kaul, 07840 401 142; email: deputychair@stra.org.uk

Cleaner Greener Safer Sudbury

Currently, STRA has a membership of 173. Our SNF represents everyone with an interest in the local area; this includes residents that live in Sudbury as well as the businesses that operate here. Please see attached - **Appendix 2** - for a list of the members that also includes our local councillors.

The Constitution of the Sudbury Neighbourhood Forum (SNF) reflects the membership of Sudbury Town Residents' Association (STRA) and is chaired by John Carroll and Deputy Chair Renu Kaul with support from all members. A copy of the STRA Constitution - **Appendix 3** - is attached.

Please find attached a list of STRA's achievements - **Appendix 4**.

STRA has a Business Wing that meets on the first Wednesday of every month.

STRA has a website www.stra.org.uk. The website is in the process of being upgraded.

STRA designated the undersigned as its representative for the purpose of renewal of the Forum status for the next five years.

Yours sincerely

John Carroll
Chairman

Appendix B: Assessment of Neighbourhood Forum Application for Sudbury

Neighbourhood Forum

Criteria ¹	Evidence	Meets/ fail
Name of proposed neighbourhood forum	Sudbury Neighbourhood Forum	✓
Contact details of at least one member of the proposed neighbourhood forum	Renu Kaul, Deputy Chair Sudbury Town Residents' Association Church Hall 809 Harrow Road HA0 2LP E-mail: deputychair@stra.org.uk	✓
Does the proposed neighbourhood forum have a written constitution?	Yes; submitted with application.	✓
Has the proposed neighbourhood forum identified a neighbourhood Area to which the application relates and a map which identifies the Area?	Yes; adopted in 2012.	✓
Has the proposed neighbourhood forum demonstrated that the aim of the Neighbourhood Forum is to improve and promote the social, economic and environmental well-being of the defined Neighbourhood Area?	Yes; evidence in constitution and supporting statement.	✓
Does the purpose of the Neighbourhood Forum reflect (in general terms) the character of the Neighbourhood Area?	Yes; evidence in supporting statement.	✓
Is the membership of the Neighbourhood Forum open to those who live, work and who are elected members in the defined Neighbourhood Area?	Yes; evidence in application.	✓
Has the proposed Forum secured, or at least taken reasonable steps to attempt to secure, its membership of at least 21 members who live and/or work in the proposed neighbourhood Area and includes at least one elected member whose ward is covered by the proposed neighbourhood Area?	Yes; evidence in application.	✓
Is membership drawn from different places in the neighbourhood area concerned and from different sections of the community in that Area?	Yes; evidence in application.	✓
Has the proposed Forum been publicised in line with the Regulations and were any representations	Application dated 09/10/2017 was publicised on the council's website for six weeks, closing on 28/11/2017.	✓

¹ These criteria are taken from the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 and the Localism Act 2011 Schedule 9 61F

received?	Ninety eight representations were received.	
Reason for refusal	N/A	

Appendix C: Summary of Consultation Responses

Of the ninety eight responses received, thirty six submitted supporting comments which have been summarised in the table below.

Respondent	Comment
Highways England	No objection. There will be no impact on the Strategic Road Network
Natural England	No objection. Submitted advice highlighting potential environmental risks and opportunities that neighbourhood plans may present.
Historic England	No objection. Nothing to add since previous correspondence on 15/08/14 and 14/11/14
Cllrs Aden, Hoda-Benn & Daly	Support. The Forum has many future plans which will continue to enrich our community and is vital to the health and wellbeing of the community
Canal and Rivers Trust	No objection. No land or waterspace within the Sudbury area.
Brent Indian Association	Support. Highly support the work the forum does.
North Brent Parks and Residents Association	Support. In support of any groups involved with open spaces in Brent
David Puck	Support. A member of the STRA
[Redacted]	Support. Sudbury Neighbourhood Forum improves cohesion between businesses and residents to have a say in raising standards in the area
[Redacted]	Support. STRA have brought the community together and has successfully accessed funds to improve the high street
[Redacted]	Support. Delighted with the way the STRA is making Sudbury a better place to live
[Redacted]	Support. Would like neighbourhood area to be extended to include North Wembley Train Station, the nearby shops and Harrowdene Rd
[Redacted]	Support. Area should be extended to include shops by North Wembley Station
[Redacted]	Support. The Neighbourhood Forum has given the community a real interest in working to improve and look after their local area.
[Redacted]	Support. Neighbourhood Forum has improved the area and promoted Sudbury as a place to visit and shop.
[Redacted]	Support. Democratic decisions should be made as close to the people affected by them as possible
[Redacted]	Support. Happy to have been included in plans to improve the area
[Redacted]	Support. The forum allows residents to have a greater say in their area

[REDACTED]	Support. STRA bring a sense of community
[REDACTED]	Support. The forum works to improve the area
[REDACTED]	Support. STRA allows the voices of residents to be heard
[REDACTED]	Support. STRA have worked to improve the area for residents
[REDACTED]	Support. STRA are highly competent and an essential part of local democracy
[REDACTED] e	Support. STRA and its members work hard to improve the area
[REDACTED]	Support. STRA does a good job of looking after the interests of residents
[REDACTED]	Support. The forum is an essential link for us as a charity and arts organisation
[REDACTED]	Support. Happy to be included in the business wing of the STRA
[REDACTED]	Support. Happy to be part of the business wing
[REDACTED]	Support. STRA are doing good things in the neighbourhood
[REDACTED]	Support. Grateful for the STRA providing a ramp to her salon for disabled access
[REDACTED]	Support. STRA are a credit to the local area
[REDACTED]	Support. The Sudbury Neighbourhood Forum has done excellent work
[REDACTED]	Support. The forum is a vital link between the community and Brent Council
[REDACTED]	Support. The STRA does a good job in keeping the area clean
[REDACTED]	Support. Working as a group makes voices heard
[REDACTED]	Support. STRA has made a significant difference to the perception of the area

Appendix D: Equality Analysis Assessment

Sudbury Neighbourhood Forum designation

Department Regeneration and Environment	Person Responsible Henry Brown
Created 28th November, 2017	Last Review 28/11/17
Status Assessed	Next Review 28/11/18

Impact Assessment Data

1. What effects could your policy have on different equality groups and on cohesion and good relations?

1.1 Age

Neutral

The application has been assessed against the requirements of Section 61F (5) of the Localism Act 2011, which include demonstrating membership of the forum is open to everyone who lives, works or is an elected member in the area and that the forum is representative of the area to be covered. The application demonstrates that membership has been drawn from a cross section of the community and membership is spatially distributed across the neighbourhood area. The application demonstrates the forum have also endeavoured to engage widely with the community before establishing the forum. The forum's constitution states membership is open to everyone who lives, works, undertakes business or is an elected member in the area. Their key objectives reflect they wish to engage with the wider community and foster community spirit. At this stage there are no negative impacts on this specific group.

1.2 Disability

Neutral

The application has been assessed against the requirements of Section 61F (5) of the Localism Act 2011, which include demonstrating membership of the forum is open to everyone who lives, works or is an elected member in the area and that the forum is representative of the area to be covered. The application demonstrates that membership has been drawn from a cross section of the community and membership is spatially distributed across the neighbourhood area. The application demonstrates the forum have also endeavoured to engage widely with the community before establishing the forum. The forum's constitution states membership is open to everyone who lives, works, undertakes business or is an elected member in the area. Their key objectives reflect they wish to engage with the wider community and foster community spirit. At this stage there are no negative impacts on this specific group.

1.3 Gender Identity and Expression

Neutral

The application has been assessed against the requirements of Section 61F (5) of the Localism Act 2011, which include demonstrating membership of the forum is open to everyone who lives, works or is an elected member in the area and that the forum is representative of the area to be covered. The application demonstrates that membership has been drawn from a cross section of the community and membership is spatially distributed across the neighbourhood area. The application demonstrates the forum have also endeavoured to engage widely with the community before establishing the forum. The forum's constitution states membership is open to everyone who lives, works, undertakes business or is an elected member in the area. Their key objectives reflect they wish to engage with the wider community and foster community spirit. At this stage there are no negative impacts on this specific group.

1.4 Marriage and Civil Partnership

Neutral

The application has been assessed against the requirements of Section 61F (5) of the Localism Act 2011, which include demonstrating membership of the forum is open to everyone who lives, works or is an elected member in the area and that the forum is representative of the area to be covered. The application demonstrates that membership has been drawn from a cross section of the community and membership is spatially distributed across the neighbourhood area. The application demonstrates the forum have also endeavoured to engage widely with the community before establishing the forum. The forum's constitution states membership is open to everyone who lives, works, undertakes business or is an elected member in the area. Their key objectives reflect they wish to engage with the wider community and foster community spirit. At this stage there are no negative impacts on this specific group.

1.5 Pregnancy and Maternity

Neutral

The application has been assessed against the requirements of Section 61F (5) of the Localism Act 2011, which include demonstrating membership of the forum is open to everyone who lives, works or is an elected member in the area and that the forum is representative of the area to be covered. The application demonstrates that membership has been drawn from a cross section of the community and membership is spatially distributed across the neighbourhood area. The application demonstrates the forum have also endeavoured to engage widely with the community before establishing the forum. The forum's constitution states membership is open to everyone who lives, works, undertakes business or is an elected member in the area. Their key objectives reflect they wish to engage with the wider community and foster community spirit. At this stage there are no negative impacts on this specific group.

1.6 Race

Neutral

The application has been assessed against the requirements of Section 61F (5) of the Localism Act 2011, which include demonstrating membership of the forum is open to everyone who lives, works or is an elected member in the area and that the forum is representative of the area to be covered. The application demonstrates that membership has been drawn from a cross section of the community and membership is spatially distributed across the neighbourhood area. The application demonstrates the forum have also endeavoured to engage widely with the community before

establishing the forum. The forum's constitution states membership is open to everyone who lives, works, undertakes business or is an elected member in the area. Their key objectives reflect they wish to engage with the wider community and foster community spirit. At this stage there are no negative impacts on this specific group.

1.7 Religion or Belief

Neutral

The application has been assessed against the of Section 61F (5) of the Localism Act 2011, which include demonstrating membership of the forum is open to everyone who lives, works or is an elected member in the area and that the forum is representative of the area to be covered. The application demonstrates that membership has been drawn from a cross section of the community and membership is spatially distributed across the neighbourhood area. The application demonstrates the forum have also endeavoured to engage widely with the community before establishing the forum. The forum's constitution states membership is open to everyone who lives, works, undertakes business or is an elected member in the area. Their key objectives reflect they wish to engage with the wider community and foster community spirit. At this stage there are no negative impacts on this specific group.

1.8 Sex

Neutral

The application has been assessed against the requirements of Section 61F (5) of the Localism Act 2011, which include demonstrating membership of the forum is open to everyone who lives, works or is an elected member in the area and that the forum is representative of the area to be covered. The application demonstrates that membership has been drawn from a cross section of the community and membership is spatially distributed across the neighbourhood area. The application demonstrates the forum have also endeavoured to engage widely with the community before establishing the forum. The forum's constitution states membership is open to everyone who lives, works, undertakes business or is an elected member in the area. Their key objectives reflect they wish to engage with the wider community and foster community spirit. At this stage there are no negative impacts on this specific group.

1.9 Sexual orientation

Neutral

The application has been assessed against the requirements of Section 61F (5) of the Localism Act 2011, which include demonstrating membership of the forum is open to everyone who lives, works or is an elected member in the area and that the forum is representative of the area to be covered. The application demonstrates that membership has been drawn from a cross section of the community and membership is spatially distributed across the neighbourhood area. The application demonstrates the forum have also endeavoured to engage widely with the community before establishing the forum. The forum's constitution states membership is open to everyone who lives, works, undertakes business or is an elected member in the area. Their key objectives reflect their wish to engage with the wider community and foster community spirit. At this stage there are no negative impacts on this specific group.

2. Please provide a brief summary of any research or engagement initiatives that have been carried out to formulate your proposal. What did you find out from consultation or data analysis? Were the participants in any engagement initiatives representative of the people who will be affected by your proposal? How did your findings and the wider evidence base inform the proposal?

My analysis is based on the information provided in the neighbourhood forum application. In addition the council consulted on the application for a 6 week period. No objections were received.

3. Could any of the impacts you have identified be unlawful under the Equality Act 2010?

No negative impacts have been identified at this stage.

4. What actions will you take to enhance any potential positive impacts that you have identified?

No positive impacts have been identified.

5. What actions will you take to remove or reduce any potential negative impacts that you have identified?

No negative impacts have been identified.

6. Please explain the justification for any remaining negative impacts.

There are no negative impacts identified.

Comments

No negative impacts have been identified at this stage. The forum's constitution requires it to be an inclusive organisation.