

Supporting Statement

Application for the Designation of the
Sydenham Hill Ridge Neighbourhood Forum

1. A statement explaining how the proposed forum is established to promote or improve the social, economic and environmental wellbeing of the area.

Our constitution (copy enclosed) states that the purpose of the forum is to promote and improve the social economic and environmental well-being of the residents of, and businesses and voluntary groups located in the area, and that it shall address itself to issues of local concern including but not limited to the appearance and conservation of the area, its heritage, the safety and security of those living and working the area and standards of town planning, urban design, architecture and transport planning.

The constitution is published on the website and is the result of drafting and redrafting and has the support of all signed members.

Sydenham Hill Ridge is a natural entity defined and unified by topography and character but marginalised and divided by administrative boundaries. It is also a changing area. We believe that by providing a collective space where those from the neighbourhood can identify shared needs, and formulate their vision for the future of the area, and put a focus back on Sydenham Hill Ridge, the forum can catalyse improvements in the wellbeing of those in the area.

In early meetings, we have already seen for example discussion of the need to improve our integration into the public transport network and facilitate links with other local centres, of the need to work collectively to support our special natural environment in this heavily wooded area, of doing our best to ensure maintenance of the estates in the area, and to extend local play facilities and other public services, as well as around the distinctive architectural history and character of the Ridge. These themes all indicate that there is scope for the Forum to articulate an agenda which can promote and enhance connects to our economic, social and environmental wellbeing

2 A statement explaining that membership is drawn from different places in the neighbourhood area, and from different sections of the community.

Membership of our forum is voluntary and is open to all individuals who live in the area, who work for businesses carried on there or otherwise, or who volunteer for properly constituted voluntary groups in the area, to community

and not for profit organisations whose aims are consistent with those of the forum as well as to local councillors.

We attach at Appendix 2 a list of our current supporters. They come from across the area and meet the statutory minimum requirements.

To recruit members, we have used informal networks and organised various open meetings (all meetings were published and are listed on the website). We have set up a website for the Forum explaining what we are doing. The Sydenham Society have supported us by advertising our meetings and calling for members in their newsletters. If designated as a forum, we would hope to do more to widen membership further including working further with existing Tenants and Residents Associations.

We plan a number of local Neighbourhood Planning gatherings over the next 9 months to further increase our reach and engage local people in shaping our planning objectives, vision and policies.

3. A statement confirming that members of the proposed forum have all agreed to have their name, status and postcode published (their full address and preferred contact details will be redacted).

Our members are aware that the information they provided us with may be shared with the Council to support the application and Council officers may contact them to verify that the information provided with the application is genuine. We have not however sought their consent for their details to be published.

4. Conclusion

The above is considered sufficient in meeting test specified in the Town & Country Planning Act 1990 section 61F(7)(a).