

## **Sudbury Town Neighbourhood Forum**

### **1. Introduction**

We wish to apply for designation as the new Sudbury Town Neighbourhood Forum (STNF) (the Forum) for the Sudbury Neighbourhood Area.

The Neighbourhood Area (Area) boundary, previously approved by the London Borough of Brent (LBB), encompasses an area within the council ward of Sudbury, along with sections of Northwick Park and Wembley Central wards.

### **2. Review of Neighbourhood Plan and Potential Updating**

The Neighbourhood Forum's key purpose is to promote and improve the social, economic, and environmental wellbeing of the Neighbourhood Area. The Neighbourhood Forum will be the key focal point for the community to engage with planning related issues affecting the Neighbourhood Area.

The Sudbury Town Neighbourhood Plan needs to be actively applied. The fundamental policies are still applicable as we strongly believe that the Area's community should have a clear voice to help determine local planning initiatives and be at the heart of changes to our neighbourhood. This is even more important with the increased pace and intensity of local development in recent times within Sudbury and the Wards surrounding the Neighbourhood Area.

There is an awareness that the Neighbourhood Plan has areas such as climate changes and environmental / biodiversity which need clearly defined policies. There is also a need to consider future growth in the Area and potential housing and amenity developments. However, mindful of the huge amount of work involved, we have concluded that obtaining designation and establishing a good working relationship with the Council on any development plans for the Area will help to inform any future Neighbourhood Plan.

### **3. Neighbourhood Forum Area**

The Neighbourhood Area is outlined on the separately attached Appendix 1. It is an area of mixed occupation, namely:

- residential - owner occupied houses and apartments, private rented accommodation, social housing
- businesses - small shops, 'take-a-ways', restaurants, betting shops, licensed premises
- Institutions and places of social amenity – Sudbury Safer Neighbourhood Team, school, nurseries, religious premises, sports facilities, and a local theatre
- Solicitors, law practices
- Residents Associations
- Medical centres – doctor and dentists surgeries.

The Neighbourhood Area has mixed transport and traffic management arrangements which require a co-ordinated and sustainable approach to current and future needs.

Key roads such as the High Street, Watford Road and Harrow Road, along with bus routes connecting the Forum Area to A40/North Circular, Greenford, Harrow, Northwick Park Hospital, Wembley High Street and Stadium, encompass vital transportation links. Rail station links facilitate travel options to Central London and beyond.

Within the Forum Area, Sudbury & Harrow Road Station (Chiltern Line) enables train travel to London or the Midlands, while Sudbury Town Underground Station (Piccadilly Line) allows tube travel in West London to Uxbridge, East London or, via intersection at Acton Town, to all Heathrow Airport Terminals.

Outside the Forum Area, local bus routes allow access to alternative train and tube line travel from Harrow, North Wembley, Wembley Central and Wembley Park stations.

To ensure the efficiency of this extensive connectivity, there is a crucial need to ensure that traffic management arrangements cater to the diverse requirements of all users, including residents (able-bodied and disabled), pedestrians, cyclists, businesses, visitors and commuters.

The Neighbourhood Area has very mixed demographics. Whilst the Area does not cover the whole of Sudbury Ward, the Area's community reflects the demographics of the 2021 Census data:

- 24.4% White, 50.5% Asian, 13.2% Black, and 11.9% mixed, multiple or other ethnic groups
- Age distribution - 22.4% aged 0-17years, 67.2% 18-64years and 10.4% aged 65+ years
- Predominant religions - 33% Christian, 30.1% Hindu and 19.9% Muslim
- Languages - 42% of households had a main language other than English. 9% could not speak English well or at all
- Households - 47% of households were owner occupied, 13% in social rented housing and 40% were in private rented/other accommodation. 22.9% were showing as 'over crowded' under Occupancy (bedrooms).

The Neighbourhood Area has several green spaces, one of which is the historic Barham Park. Barham Park is a Site of Importance for Nature Conservation, and it is defined as an area of Local Green Space. The recent Covid pandemic highlighted the importance of green spaces for mental health, general wellbeing and recreational space. The value these open spaces provide through eco diversity, wildlife and tree cover adds to the need to protect and enhance these sites.

The Forum will be aiming to reach out to as many people as possible within the Neighbourhood Area. The Forum will keep them informed of development plans within the Area and current projects / activity, providing a Forum where their voices are being heard and their views are being included within the Neighbourhood Plan, together with collaboration and dialogue with LBB.

Membership and all our meetings will be open to anyone living or working in the area. While the Forum will be a non-political body, it receives support from the elected ward council

members representing the Forum Area Wards all of whom will be invited to attend meetings.

#### **4. Constitution**

A copy of the Sudbury Town Neighbourhood Forum Constitution is attached separately - Appendix 2. This document has been drafted with the support of Urban Vision Enterprise CIC.

#### **5. Membership of the Forum**

The Forum has a diverse group of residents, community organisations, businesses to support the Forum and some of whom are already involved with community and/or business activities. A list of members with names and postcodes is attached separately - Appendix 3.

We also have the support of the following Ward Councillors who are all members of the Forum:

- Sudbury – Cllr Teo Benea and Cllr Paul Lorber
- Wembley Central – Cllr Rajan-Seelan, Cllr Sonia Shah, Cllr Ketan Sheth
- Northwick Park – Cllr Narinder Bajwa, Cllr Diana Collymore.

Forum membership will remain accessible to all residents, employees and businesses within the Area. We are committed to welcoming as many members as possible to encourage inclusivity and community engagement.

#### **6. Engagement Strategy**

The Forum's proposed engagement and involvement strategy includes a multi-layered approach, namely:

- create and develop a communications strategy which will reach as many of the diverse sections of the community as possible
- increase a basic understanding and community awareness of the planning process
- create meaningful opportunities for sustained participation in the Neighbourhood Forum and local planning issues as they arise
- create a desire, ability and aspiration to be involved in planning decisions
- conduct regular Forum Meetings which will inform the current Neighbourhood Plan and also during all stages of any updates to or new Neighbourhood Plan to ensure compliance of regulatory requirements
- consider how to protect green spaces and a shared community engagement to bring environmental benefits to the area
- continue to engage a strong representative network of member partners which include local individual residents, community organisations, tenants/resident groups,

members of the retail and business community, local and adjoining ward councillors, and London Borough of Brent planning officers

- monitor post planning application construction management forums and agreements
- conduct workshops and focus groups at venues around the Neighbourhood Area;
- organise talks & presentations at various community venues
- distribute newsletters and leaflets
- utilise the Forum website and other social media to share information
- conduct Neighbourhood Area Walkabouts
- engage in door-to-door outreach across the Neighbourhood Area.

Having a constructive strategy is vital for the Forum to demonstrate effectively to our community and potential participants that their views will be heard and valued within the Forum's activities. Our initial engagement with stakeholders has laid the foundation, and we are committed to building and strengthening this engagement going forward.