APPLICATION FOR DESIGNATION AS A NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM UNDER LOCALISM ACT 2012:

COURTFIELD NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM

This document constitutes an application from the Ashburn Gardens Square Garden Association ("AGSGA") and Stanhope Mews East Residents Association ("SMERA") for designation of an area for Neighbourhood Planning purposes, and for the designation of a Neighbourhood Forum, under Schedule 9 of the Localism Act 2011.

The proposed name of the Forum is Courtfield Neighbourhood Forum. The geographic area covered lies in the Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea.

This application is submitted in accordance with Section 61c of the 1990 Act (Town and Country Planning Act) and the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012.

Designation of Neighbourhood Planning Area

1. The geographic area for which we are applying for designation is that shall be bordered (approximately) by Cromwell Road to the North, Queens Gate to the East, Old Brompton Road to the South and Knaresbrough Place/Bolton Gardens to the west. A map showing the proposed area is attached;

2. This area includes that covered at present by AGSGA and SMERA;

3. We believe this is the appropriate area for our Neighbourhood Forum because it is the area covered by the Courtfield Ward (and a small corner of the Redcliffe Ward) and is not a “place” under the Local Plan and for the following reasons:
   (a) The Area is the catchment area for walking to the local services such as shops, primary schools, doctors surgeries and other facilities in or around Gloucester Road;
   (b) The Area does not form part of the catchment area of South Kensington, Kensington, Chelsea or Earls Court and thus forms a coherent estate for residents in the Area;
   (c) The boundary roads are major roads (Knaresbrough Place to a lesser degree);
   (d) The majority of properties are houses converted to flats with access to a communal garden, of which there are several in the Area;
   (e) It is estimated that there are approximately 4,000 people living in the Area.

4. We have contacted the neighbouring communities in the Boltons and Wetherby Garden Committee, as well as the Onslow Neighbourhood Association and South Kensington and Queens Gate Residents Association;

5. The Chair is the Treasurer of South Kensington and Queens Gate Residents Association. Another Committee member is a committee member of the Earls Court Residents Association. We have consulted with the Boltons Residents Association and the Earls Court Residents Association and invited them to join as individual members;

6. We intend to work closely with neighbouring residents' associations or communities that have decided not to have a forum in developing our Neighbourhood Plan and will co-operate over issues of mutual interest.

7. We are a relevant body to make this application under the terms of Section 61F(5) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 and the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations because:
   (a) Our membership is open to everyone who lives, works or has a sufficient interest in the area and to Councillors;
(b) We have more than 21 members (as of February 2017, we have more than 80);
(c) We have a written Constitution (attached CNF constitution);
(d) We have been established to promote the social, economic and environmental well-being of our area;
(e) We have a membership drawn from different places in the neighbourhood area;
(f) We have membership drawn from different sections of the community in the area.

Statement explaining how the proposed neighbourhood forum meets the conditions contained in Section 61F(5) of the 1990 Act and qualifies as a relevant body for the purposes of Section 61(G) of the 1990 Act.

1. The Courtfield Neighbourhood Forum has been established with the express purpose of promoting and improving the social, economic and environmental well-being of Courtfield (as defined by the attached map). In addition, the first of the principles outlined in our Constitution states that the Courtfield Neighbourhood Forum will take the distinctive character and heritage of the Area into account in all its actions, and will aim to ensure that all development in the Area preserves or enhances this character;

2. Membership of the Forum is open to all individuals who live, work or who have a sufficient interest in the area and also to elected members representing the area. We are endeavouring to recruit members from across the geographical area and from different sections of the community. We currently (October 2016) have more than 60 individual members (see attached CNF Individual and Business Members) and expect to recruit many more through active encouragement (see below). Considerably more residents are kept in touch with Forum activities via their residents’ associations and/or action groups (see attached list of Affiliates). We therefore have considerably more than the legislative requirement for 21 members and can confirm that they are predominantly residents of the area but also include people with businesses here and at least one of our councillors;

3. Members can participate in the Forum in a variety of ways. We will publicise all the forthcoming events to our database of members (to whom we send regular updates), our Affiliates (who represent hundreds), and through our local businesses;

4. We have a written Constitution (attached);

5. We have a Committee of eight people (CNF Committee Addresses attached), which includes one Councillor from the Courtfield ward. The other Courtfield ward Councillor is very supportive of the Forum. The Constitution calls for an annual election of the Committee at the AGM;

6. The geographical spread of our membership is across our area;

7. We are reaching out to all sectors of our community before applying for designation, but our efforts are ongoing and will, no doubt continue throughout the life of the Forum. In the first instance, we contacted all the local residents’ associations and action groups and asked them if they were interested in being involved in the proposed Neighbourhood Forum;

8. We plan to hold several workshop engagement events, to solicit local views by circulating a questionnaire, and to hold walkabouts. We will then proceed to form a vision of how we would like the Area to develop in the future. This vision will form the basis of our Neighbourhood Plan;
9. We have made strenuous efforts to engage the businesses in and around Gloucester Road and will continue to do so;

10. In short, we have made great efforts from the beginning to be as inclusive of all groups within our community as possible – we want everyone to feel included in the Courtfield Neighbourhood Forum. We don’t underestimate the scale of our ambition, but our main focus over the next few months will be to engage with as many people as we possibly can, of all age groups and interests, and in the many and varied types of housing within our community. We are determined that the generated vision will be genuinely representative of the whole community with no pre-suppositions on our behalf.

David Neville
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