

Matthew MacMillan  
Interim Chair  
Central Ealing Neighbourhood Forum  
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Date  
**27<sup>th</sup> March 2013**

Dear Matthew,

1. On 29 October 2012 the council formally designated the neighbourhood area for Central Ealing following a consultation during the autumn. On 11 January 2013, in accordance with Neighbourhood Planning Regulations 2012, the Council published for consultation the plans to designate a neighbourhood forum for this neighbourhood area. The consultation lasted for six weeks and closed on 22 February 2013. I promised to write to you again once the consultation had closed and after I had sufficient opportunity to reflect on any representations received and make a considered response on behalf of the LPA.

2. Five formal written representations were received as follows:

- a) Natural England – who wish to be consulted on the any future plans or proposals. This is duly noted as they do not propose any changes or alterations to the proposed forum.
- b) Transport for London – who made two separate representations and who are a landowner of assets around Ealing Broadway Station and have responsibility for the local bus network and the strategic road network and who wish to be consulted on the any future plans or proposals. This is duly noted as they do not propose any changes or alterations to the proposed forum.
- c) Cavalier House Residents Association – who represent one of the few large residential blocks in the designated neighbourhood area, numbering about 140 flats, and who would like to be formally represented on the forum and take an active part in the preparation of any future plan.
- d) Ealing Cycling Campaign – who made comments on the drawing of the neighbourhood area boundary which are now too late for me to consider. They also make valid points regarding the need to ensure that any future consultation includes residents from a wider catchment area than the neighbourhood area who have an equal interest in any proposals and again may be formally represented on the forum and/or wish to take an active part in the preparation of any future plan.

3. I would urge you to give active consideration to the points raised in Para 2 and will be happy to provide further advice and assistance if needed. The written

representations will be available to inspect and download from the Council's web pages at:

[http://www.ealing.gov.uk/info/1004/planning\\_policy/1377/neighbourhood\\_planning/5](http://www.ealing.gov.uk/info/1004/planning_policy/1377/neighbourhood_planning/5)

4. As well as taking on board comments received from the consultation the LPA must also consider a number of other factors including whether a group to be designated as a neighbourhood forum meets the criteria set out in the Localism Act 2011 and the Regulations. This includes having an open membership policy and the extent to which a prospective forum has included residents, business and local elected members from across the neighbourhood area. An application for neighbourhood forum designation must also include a copy of the forum's written constitution and a statement of how they will meet the conditions for designation as a neighbourhood forum set out in the Localism Act.

5. I understand that officers from the Council hosted a very productive meeting with you and colleagues on 8th January 2013 and that a number of helpful suggestions were made about how the interim forum could revise its membership policy and written constitution to ensure greater inclusivity and help gain the Council's formal seal of approval.

6. I am grateful that many of these suggestions have been taken on board. In particular, I am pleased that you have developed a model for decision making that ensures that the interests of both the local community and the local business community are reflected in the forum membership as equal partners in plan preparation. In my opinion this is vitally important as the Local Planning Authority have also formally designated Central Ealing Centre as a "business area." I also understand that you are in active discussion about how best to secure the widest possible engagement in plan preparation of both the wider local community and businesses and I will look forward to seeing your formal plans and proposals in due course.

7. I note that you have agreed in principle that in future the forum membership should include representatives from each of the three main political parties. Again it is important that plans are prepared so far as possible on a non-partisan basis and reflect the necessity to eventually submit any proposed plan for a referendum before it can be adopted. I would be grateful if you could confirm your amended forum membership to reflect this and, if considered to be appropriate, issues raised at Para 2 above please.

8. I also note that some further technical amendments have been suggested in relation to Schedules C and D. I am advised that Schedule C which explains that the organisation is a relevant body under the Act should now be amended to make clear that as well as being a statement in relation to the area application (61G), it is additionally a statement confirming that the proposed neighbourhood forum meets the requirements of 61F(5) (as it is the same information required, there is no need to do an extra statement). Furthermore, in relation to the written constitution (Schedule D) some suggestions were made in relation to a code of conduct for management committee members and regarding the management of any accounts. It would be helpful if these matters can be further clarified and a final revised constitution or protocol is provided.

9. Subject to confirmation the matters raised in Paras 6 and 7 above and receipt by the Council of the revised membership details, a statement explaining the organisation is a relevant body (Schedule C) and a revised written constitution (Schedule D), I have therefore concluded that the proposed forum of the neighbourhood area for the West Ealing Centre is acceptable and I am pleased to inform you that on behalf of the LPA I will be happy to formally designate it as such.

Finally, I look forward to working with you and your colleagues in the coming months regarding an emerging neighbourhood development plan for the area.

Yours sincerely,



**Pat Hayes**  
**Executive Director- Regeneration & Housing**