

LONDON BOROUGH OF CAMDEN	WARDS: Fortune Green and West Hampstead
REPORT TITLE Formal redesignation of Fortune Green and West Hampstead Neighbourhood Forum (SC/2019/27)	
REPORT OF Executive Director Supporting Communities	
FOR SUBMISSION TO Cabinet Member for Investing in Communities	DATE 12 April 2019
SUMMARY OF REPORT <p>This report seeks Cabinet Member approval to redesignate the Fortune Green and West Hampstead Neighbourhood Forum for a further period of five years. The Forum was originally designated for five years from 9 May 2013. The Forum have submitted an application to the Council for redesignation to continue to operate across the Fortune Green and West Hampstead neighbourhood area. In line with the regulations, the Council has consulted the local community on the application.</p> <p>Neighbourhood planning accords with Our Camden Plan objectives, in particular those relating to safe, strong, and open communities. Designation allows neighbourhood forums to play an active role in planning for their community and local area.</p> <p>A Single Member decision is required in line with the Council's Constitution.</p> <p>Local Government Act 1972 – Access to Information There are no documents used in the preparation of this report that are required to be listed.</p> <p>Contact Officer: Kate Goodman, Planning Policy, Regeneration and Planning, 5 Pancras Square. Tel: 020 7974 2254; Email: kate.goodman@camden.gov.uk</p>	
RECOMMENDATIONS The Cabinet Member for Investing in Communities is asked to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (i) note the responses to consultation on the application for the redesignation of the Fortune Green and West Hampstead Neighbourhood Forum and the Council's assessment of the Forum's application set out in Appendices 2 and 3; (ii) agree the re-designation of the Fortune Green and West Hampstead Neighbourhood Forum as a neighbourhood forum for a period of five years. 	

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Hope'.

Signed:

Date: 3rd April 2019

1. CONTEXT AND BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The Fortune Green and West Hampstead Neighbourhood Forum and Area were designated by the Council on 9 May 2013. The Forum has since prepared a neighbourhood plan for the neighbourhood area. Following independent examination and a local referendum the Fortune Green and West Hampstead Neighbourhood Plan was adopted by Camden Council on 16 September 2015 and it now forms part of the statutory development plan for the area, the starting point for making decisions on planning applications.
- 1.2 The Localism Act 2011 provides that neighbourhood forums are designated for a period of five years. The five year designation of the Fortune Green and West Hampstead Neighbourhood Forum has now expired. The Forum is therefore seeking re-designation as the body responsible for facilitating neighbourhood planning in the Fortune Green and West Hampstead neighbourhood area. (Unlike forums, neighbourhood areas are not designated for a time-limited period.) An application for re-designation was initially submitted to the Council in October 2018 with the complete application information being submitted in late December. If it is re-designated the Neighbourhood Forum will continue to use their planning powers within the designated Fortune Green and West Hampstead neighbourhood area.

2. PROPOSAL AND REASONS

- 2.1 When the Council receives an initial application to designate a neighbourhood forum, it is required to consider whether the proposed body meets various criteria set out in the legislation and regulations. Provided it meets the criteria the forum is designated for a five year period.
- 2.2 To be re-designated, a forum must again submit an application to the local planning authority and the Council must consider it against the same criteria used to assess the original application. The Fortune Green and West Hampstead Neighbourhood Forum's application for re-designation is set out in **Appendix 1**. The following information was submitted in the application to inform the Council's decision:
- Written constitution of the Neighbourhood Forum;
 - Evidence relating to the forum's membership;
 - Groups and organisations who have been, and continue to be, involved;
 - Map of the designated neighbourhood area; and
 - Fortune Green and West Hampstead Neighbourhood Plan – Community engagement and involvement strategy.
- 2.3 The Council carried out a consultation on the application between 10 January and 22 February 2019. As required by the regulations, this was brought to the attention of people living or working in the area through a variety of methods (see section 6 of this Report). 17 responses were received and these are set out in **Appendix 2**.

- 2.4 Officers have considered the responses to the consultation exercise. Of the responses received, 12 were in support, while the other five, which were from statutory consultees (Natural England, Highways England and Historic England, Sports England and Brent Council), raised no objections.
- 2.5 The conditions which a Forum must meet are set out in the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 section 61(F). The Council's assessment against this section of the Act is set out in **Appendix 3**, and considers that the Neighbourhood Forum is a suitable body to be re-designated.
- 2.6 The Council has assessed the application to redesignate the Neighbourhood Forum against relevant regulations and considers that it meets the relevant requirements and is therefore a suitable body to be re-designated. The reasons why the Forum should be re-designated are set out in the Council's assessment of the Fortune Green and West Hampstead Forum's application in Appendix 3.

3. OPTIONS APPRAISAL

- 3.1 The two options available to the Council are to approve or refuse the application received from the Fortune Green and West Hampstead Neighbourhood Forum. If the Council is minded to refuse the application, then it must give reasons.
- 3.2 Officer assessment of the application (see Appendix 3) shows that Fortune Green and West Hampstead meets the criteria for re-designation. The consultation responses received show strong support for the re-designation of the Forum.
- 3.3 This report therefore recommends that the Fortune Green and West Hampstead Neighbourhood Forum is a suitable body to be re-designated for a further period of 5 years.
- 3.4 Legislation allows a local planning authority to withdraw a forum's designation if it considers the forum is no longer meeting the conditions for designation.

4. WHAT ARE THE KEY IMPACTS / RISKS? HOW WILL THEY BE ADDRESSED?

- 4.1 It is not considered that this application raises any significant impacts or risks. The Council works closely with neighbourhood forums in providing advice on neighbourhood plans. This allows issues to be raised concerning any potential impacts, including consistency with Council plans and strategies.
- 4.2 Officers from the Council have worked closely to support the Forum through the neighbourhood planning process, including on the application for redesignation, to ensure the relevant procedures are met. This reduces any risk of legal challenge.

5. LINKS TO OUR CAMDEN PLAN

- 5.1 Neighbourhood planning accords with Our Camden Plan commitments, in particular those relating to safe, strong, and open communities. Our Camden Plan shares a range of local and neighbourhood planning objectives with the Fortune Green and West Hampstead Neighbourhood Plan such as the need for good quality, affordable homes; access to jobs; safe, strong and open communities; a clean, vibrant and sustainable environment and supporting people to live healthy, independent lives. Designation allows neighbourhood forums to play an active role in planning for their neighbourhood. It encourages joint working between the Council and communities and helps ensure people have a voice in the development of plans and projects for their local area.

6. CONSULTATION/ENGAGEMENT

- 6.1 The Council was required to publicise the application for redesignation to people living and working in the designated neighbourhood area. A consultation was undertaken to meet the regulatory requirements between 10 January and 22 February 2019.
- 6.2 All consultees on the Council's database were sent a notification by e-mail. A hard copy of the application were also made available in West Hampstead and 5 Pancras Square libraries. The application was advertised through site notices in the Fortune Green and West Hampstead Neighbourhood Area and a public notice in local newspapers (Camden New Journal and the Ham & High).
- 6.3 Detail on of the responses to the consultation are set out in section 2 of this report. Please also see Appendix 2 for a schedule of comments received.

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 Legal Comments are incorporated.

8. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 Finance have been consulted and there are no significant financial implications from this report'

9. TIMETABLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION

- 9.1 If the Cabinet Member agrees to the Forum's re-designation, no further action is required. The Forum would then be designated for another five years to April 2024.
- 9.2 Members of the public and interested parties are able to draw the Council's attention to issues regarding the operation of neighbourhood forums at any time. Six Camden Councillors also form part of the membership of the neighbourhood forum and are able to participate in, and monitor, neighbourhood planning activity.

10. APPENDICES

- Appendix 1 Fortune Green and West Hampstead Neighbourhood Forum
Application for redesignation
- Appendix 2 Consultation schedule of responses
- Appendix 3 Council's assessment of application

REPORT ENDS