

Application for the redesignation of our Neighbourhood Forum
Updated January 2023 (per further comments from Camden and Islington)

Dear Sir/Madam,

Please find attached the relevant documentation pertaining to the application for the redesignation of the Mount Pleasant Neighbourhood Forum.

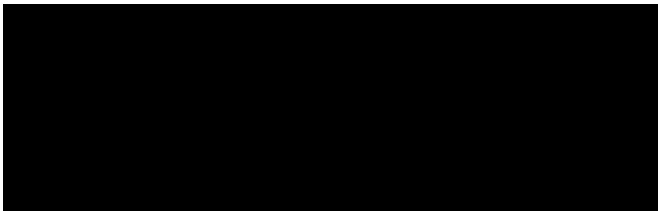
This application contains:

1. A map of the neighbourhood area boundary proposed for re-designation
2. Contact details
3. The Forum's aims
4. Statement of legitimacy
5. Membership
6. Community engagement & activities

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any further queries.

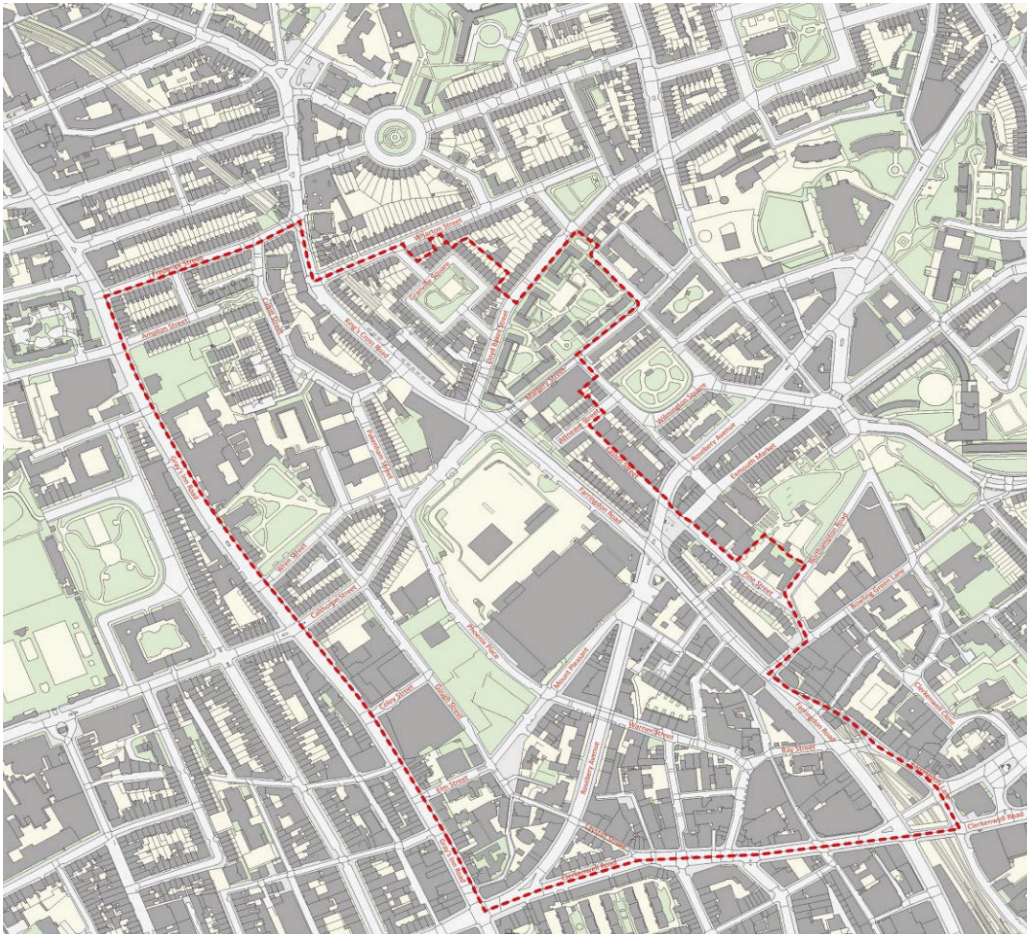
We look forward to hearing from you in due course.

Kind regards

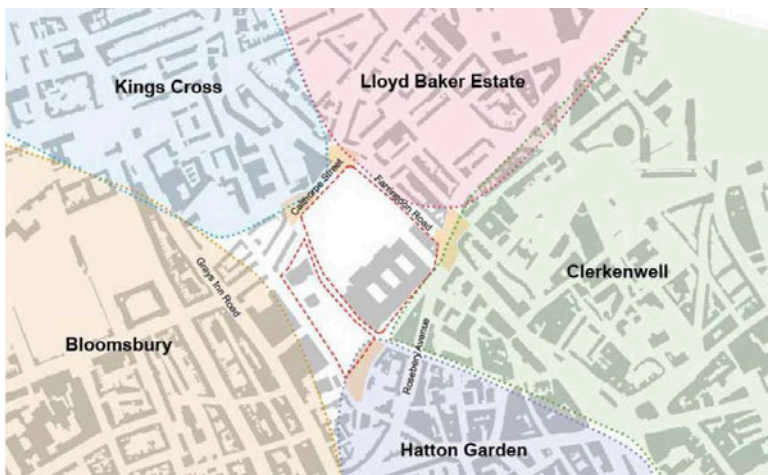


Julie Riley and Gail Sulkes (Interim Chairs)
On behalf of the Mount Pleasant Neighbourhood Forum

1. The name of the proposed, redesignated forum is “The Mount Pleasant Neighbourhood Forum” and the name of the neighbourhood area is “Mount Pleasant”. The Mount Pleasant neighbourhood boundary is outlined below.



Statement Explaining the Neighbourhood Area:



The neighbourhood boundary encircles an area surrounded by five established neighbourhoods: King’s Cross; Lloyd Baker Estate; Clerkenwell; Hatton Garden; and Bloomsbury – as defined in the Mount Pleasant Supplementary Planning Document, 201. The creation of this neighbourhood area derives from the successful integration of the Royal Mail Group’s proposed Mount Pleasant development and the peripheries of the surrounding five established neighbourhoods

2 CONTACT DETAILS:

The Mount Pleasant Neighbourhood Forum

Email: mpforumwebsite@gmail.com

Website: <http://www.mountpleasantforum.org.uk/>

Interim Chairs and public contacts:

Julie Riley, Camden

Gail Sulkes, Islington

3 AIMS OF THE MOUNT PLEASANT FORUM

The MPNF exists for people in our Area to influence planning decisions that impact us and for the express purpose of promoting and improving the social, economic and environmental well-being of individuals living and working in the area including promoting the carrying on of trades, professions or other businesses, primarily through the development and implementation of a Neighbourhood Plan and such other purposes as the Forum may from time to time decide. Emerging from the Mount Pleasant Association the MPNF now has a broader purpose: consulting on and representing local views, needs and desires regarding development plans and projects.

The Forum does this by:

1. Inviting dialogue among and between local community groups within our Area and providing a constructive platform for making suggestions, objections and alternate proposals directly to developers, council planners, and other stakeholders.
2. Developing a Neighbourhood Plan and overseeing its approval, implementation and future development.
3. Monitoring planning announcements in the Area with the potential to impact our community.

4 LEGITIMACY

The Mount Pleasant Neighbourhood Forum was born out of the Mount Pleasant Association, which was established in 2012 as a cooperative group of individuals, communities and businesses concerned with the Royal Mail Group's proposals for the redevelopment of the Mount Pleasant site. The Mount Pleasant Association stood up for the neighbourhood in public meetings and forums, including deputations at Camden (28 February, 2014) and Islington (10 March, 2014) Town Halls and the Great London Authority (3 October, 2014), communication with Members of Parliament, and the Greater London Authority, and voiced the views of the neighbourhood through a wide range of media outlets, including BBC London News, London Live, The Guardian, The Evening Standard, Camden New Journal, Islington Tribune, Islington Gazette, Monocle Radio, Building Design, and the Architects' Journal

4.1 We believe that the Mount Pleasant Neighbourhood Forum meets the conditions contained in section 61(F) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 and is a relevant body capable of being re-designated as a Neighbourhood Forum.

4.2 Mount Pleasant Neighbourhood Forum (MPNF) is a well-established and publicly recognised community group of diverse local residents and stakeholders living in and working around Mount Pleasant established to promote and / or improve the social, economic and environmental well-being of individuals living and working in the area; to promote sustainable development in the area; to help create, maintain and foster good relations between all the stakeholders which share the area; and to help to preserve and enhance the integrity of the conservation areas. It has been well attended for the 7 years it has existed, circulating newsletters to a subscription of over 200 people. It has successfully represented the views of local people and has been a 'go to' for various incoming developers who want to work with the local community. Through involvement in the forum, many local community members have

become regularly active in local issues, representing local views and influence outcomes on behalf of the community.

4.3 The area proposed for re-designation is under threat of over/inappropriate development so, now more than ever, a collective body is needed to protect the existing community and help the incoming to integrate the new ventures to create optimal outcomes for all. The Forum is also uniquely positioned to provide input and influence on the cumulative impact of development taking place at the boundary of and across the two boroughs.

4.4 We have held many public meetings attended by local residents and business owners, Council Planning Officers, Ward Councillors and local members of Parliament, as well as other stakeholders in the area, including representatives of the Royal Mail Group, Taylor Wimpy and UCL Estates. We have successfully assisted with the applications for designations of Asset of Community Value for two of our valued hubs, Calthorpe Community Gardens and the Calthorpe Arms. We have assisted with the setting up of the Friends of St Andrews Gardens, and helped to rebut a licencing application on Cubitt St. (Please read more about our recent work below in Section 6: Activities) We host a public meeting approximately every quarter, though this fluctuates depending on the frequency of impending events. Details of these meetings, including minutes, can be found on our website.

5 MEMBERSHIP

5.1 The Mount Pleasant Neighbourhood Forum is a public forum open to all, including protected characteristics as defined in the Equalities Act. Membership is open to those who live or work or are a councillor in the Mount Pleasant Neighbourhood area in accordance with Section 4 of the constitution.

We have an active and diverse membership of individuals and other stakeholders from across the neighbourhood and in surrounding communities that is representative of the areas demographic character. We have engaged with people of all ages, from young pupils at Christopher Hatton Primary School, those that take part in activities at the Calthorpe Community Garden, local businesses and older people, and those of all ethnic groups, who are mostly fairly represented on their respective residents' associations.

Based on 2011 Census data (the 2021 Census data is not yet available but generally we feel the demographic of our neighbourhood remains largely the same). the combined breakdown of the Clerkenwell, Holborn & Covent Garden and King's Cross Wards by age and ethnicity is as follows:

Combined population of three wards split by age

Age	Residents	%	% (not inc. children)
0-18	6,089	17%	-
19-39	18,058	50%	60%
40-59	7,816	21%	28%
60-79	3,549	10%	12%
>80	844	2%	3%
TOTAL	36,356	100%	100%

Source: 2011 Census

Combined population of three wards split by ethnicity

Ethnicity	Residents	%
White (all groups)	21,978	60%
Mixed (all groups)	1,964	5%
Asian (all groups)	7,862	22%
Black (all groups)	3,344	9%
Other (all groups)	1,208	3%
TOTAL	36,356	100%

Source: 2011 Census

The very local population within our area boundary may be slightly less diverse than the wider area (which includes the more ethnically varied large council holdings such as the Bourne Estate and those around Cromer Street) – probably more in line with the Clerkenwell specific details where <30% of the local population is non-white.

As required, we have recently re-surveyed our registered Forum members (November 2022) to update the following information:

76% are of working age
24% are of retirement age
17.5% of members are of non-white ethnicity

We have also made (and will continue to make) a concerted effort to bring diverse views to the membership and to engage even more local business owners. Harder to reach communities are sometimes represented by their community leaders (like tenants and residents associations).

It is of note that further to named forum members we have a mailing list of over 200 interested local people. We expect our membership to grow as the Mt Pleasant site is completed and residents move into the area.

The Forum is and will continue to be as inclusive as possible and we will continue to work to identify diverse members of our community who may be “hard-to-reach” and develop opportunities to make the forum approachable and inclusive for them.

5.2 The Forum and its members aim to follow the ‘Nolan Principles’ of public life and are committed to equality of opportunity and maintains and applies an Equal Opportunities Policy in all of its activities.

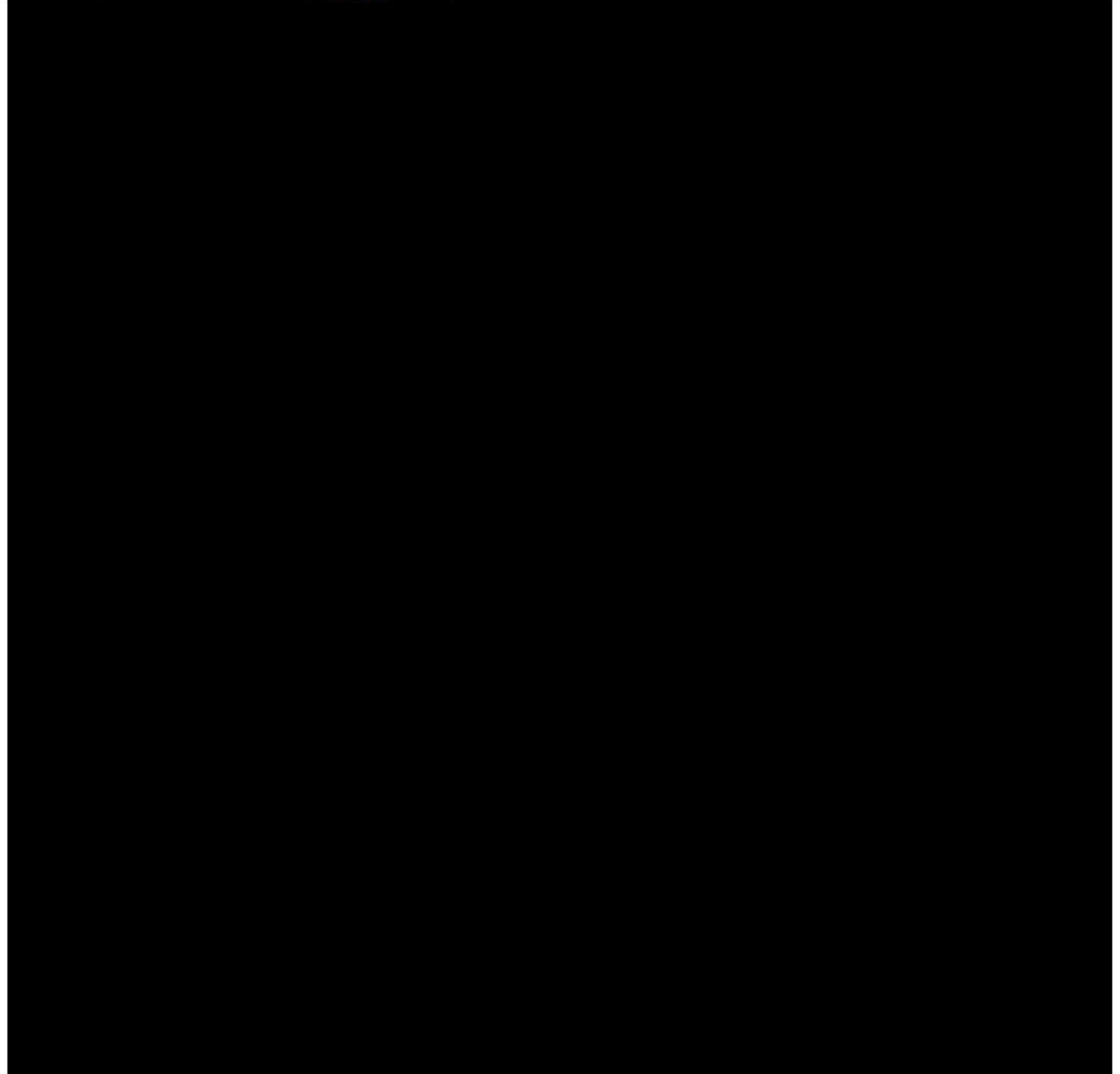
5.3 Forum Members

While our engagement in the wider community stretches to almost 200 people as evidenced by those signed up to our mailing list, the following are registered forum members for the purposes of this application that live or work in the area or are local councillors. Please see the attached separate document with required detail of full home addresses for forum members and signatures for Islington members.

		Name	Postcode	Email
1	Ward Councillor, Islington	Matt Nathan		Matt.Nathan@islington.gov.uk
2	Ward Councillor, Camden	Julian Fulbrook		Julian.Fulbrook@camden.gov.uk
3	Ward Councillor, Camden	Sue Vincent		Sue.Vincent@camden.gov.uk
4	Ward Councillor, Camden	Jonathan Simpson		Jonathan.Simpson@camden.gov.uk
5	Resident	Julie Riley		



10	Resident	Gail Sulkes		
----	----------	-------------	--	--



6 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND ACTIVITIES

Community Engagement, Membership and Public Meetings:

Over the past seven years, the MPNF has expanded to include more community members and executive representatives from Islington. The Executive continues to have six officers from Camden and how additionally has two from Islington.

In 2017 and each year since, we have held at least 3 public meetings including an AGM. We make the minutes available on our website for anyone that can't attend. In between sessions, we have regular and meaningful contact with local residents around important issues related to planning, traffic, environment, etc. We continue to use the constitution ratified by the forum in January 2022.

We adapted well to Covid organising well attended community meetings over Zoom and publicising both meetings and opportunities for local neighbours to contribute to consultations and discussions through our website and social media. We built and solidified engagement with local councillors and others in relevant roles in both councils.

We engage consistently and committedly with other local community groups such as the Calthorpe Street Residents Association, The Cubitt Street Residents Association, The Amwell Society, The Margery Streets Residence Association, BRAG, etc.

Our Executive has 6 members:

[REDACTED]
Julie Riley: Interim Chair & Treasurer (Camden)

Gail Sulkes: Interim Chair (Islington)
[REDACTED]

The Mount Pleasant Neighbourhood Forum mailing list is comprised of subscribed individuals, many of which are members of local residents' groups (see list below) and businesses. In addition to the 200+ individuals and other local businesses signed up to our email list, many members communicate and disseminate information through their respective neighbourhood groups, networks and organisations, reaching thousands of individuals across the area from all ethnic and socio-economic backgrounds. These groups include:

Tenants' and Residents' Associations:

Calthorpe Street (86 members)

Churston Mansions (27 residential units)

Granville Square (45 houses, many subdivided)

Holsworthy Square (65 residential units)

Laystall Court (30 residential units)

Margery Street Estate (225 residential units)

Mullen Tower (33 residential units)

New Calthorpe Estate Tenants' and Residents' Association (100+ residential units)

Warner Building (23 residential units)

Residents /Members of:

The Amwell Society (231members)

Calthorpe Community Gardens
Cubitt Street
Holborn Community Association
Lloyd Baker Street
Pakenham Street
Pine Street
Rosebery Avenue
Warner Street
Wharton Street
Wren Street
Yardley Street
St George the Martyr Primary School (210 pupils)
Christopher Hatton Primary School (210 pupils, plus nursery)

The Forum is committed to working closely and collaboratively with adjacent neighbourhood forums and other organisations on matters and areas of mutual interest.

Neighbourhood Plan:

Our overall vision remains consistent with previous drafts of our plan:

The Mount Pleasant Neighbourhood Plan (Plan) seeks to retain and enhance diverse residential and working communities as well as varied, innovative and rich urban character in the Area. The Plan promotes the health and well-being of residents by supporting the highest environmental standards. This will be achieved through the influencing design of buildings and open spaces, promoting walking, cycling and public transport, improving air-quality and encouraging the 'greening' of the streets.

In implementing the plan, we will achieve more active community participation and influence in key decisions and investments, The plan provides a platform to engage further with local businesses, supporting their involvement (alongside individuals and community groups).

In the past two years, we have considered extensive comments and input from both Camden and Islington councils, as well as additional input and consultation with individuals and community groups in the neighbourhood. We have also taken additional advice from our planning advisor Vincent Goodstadt and after extensive revisions and updating, our plan is now finalised and ready to be submitted immediately after re-designation.

Funding:

In the early days of the forum, we received a small grant which was carefully used to build our website and focused on engagement and communication with the local community. Beyond that we have had no further formal funding and operate on a completely volunteer basis with a significant commitment of time and effort from members of the local community and our executive.

Activities:

The forum has been involved in many local issues and priorities. Members have at times been highly aligned, and in other cases with a wide range of passionately held views. We continue to aim to create the space for robust and respectful debate, representing and communicating the views of the neighbourhood and advocating on behalf of the local community as aligned with the intended vision and objectives of our draft plan.

Some of the issues we have actively been involved with are:

- Eastman Dental Hospital Redevelopment: representing views and concerns of residents in the New Calthorpe Estate (including the reformation of a resident's association) as well as wider traffic and construction management issues around the area
- Panther House redevelopment: community input and consultation
- Mt Pleasant Pocket Park: consultation on naming and design
- Edward Rudolph House (former Children's Society) redevelopment: community input, consultation, representation at public hearing and appeal
- Camden Consultation on Forming Areas of Cumulative Construction
- Mt Pleasant Development: construction impact and further redevelopment proposals, regular participation in the CMG and review and input to change in planned development
- LTNs and traffic re-designations on Gray's Inn Road: consultation and input
- Application for ACV protective order for the Calthorpe Community Gardens
- Application for ACV protective order for the Calthorpe Arms
- Charles Rowan House: consultation and input
- Formation of The Friends of St Andrews Gardens

Conclusion:

The MPNF continues to be an active and effective Forum since its original designation. We have successfully adapted and evolved to be active across a full range of relevant areas covering both Camden and Islington and bringing new members and relationships into our work. We also adapted well during the pandemic continuing and building engagement with the local community to provide input and positively influence outcomes in favour of local residents.

It has taken longer than planned to complete and submit our Neighbourhood Plan. This is due to Covid related delays and other health problems for some of our Executive as well as the requirement to address input and comments from both Islington and Camden Councils. We trust both councils will acknowledge these challenges and our commitment to listen to and incorporate their comments and look favourably on this new draft.