

# Hyde Park Paddington

## Frequently Asked Questions

### **What is a Neighbourhood Forum?**

A designated neighbourhood forum is an organisation or group empowered to lead the neighbourhood planning process in a neighbourhood area where there is no town or parish council. The forum must comply with certain rules set out in the Localism Act 2011 and must be registered with the local planning authority (in our case, Westminster City Council).

The ultimate purpose of the forum is to prepare and register a Neighbourhood Plan which focuses on the development and use of land in the neighbourhood area. Once approved and registered, the Plan forms part of the planning considerations which must be taken into account in development applications. In areas with a Plan, Westminster City Council must allocate a proportion of the Community Infrastructure Levy (“CIL”) collected from developers, in accordance with the Neighbourhood Plan.

As part of the application to set up a forum, the geographical area must be approved and registered with Westminster City Council (the “Neighbourhood Area”).

### **How is the HPP Neighbourhood Forum organised – does it have a constitution?**

The HPP Neighbourhood Forum has a constitution which has been approved by members at general meeting. You can [download a copy](#) of it from the downloads page of the website.

### **Who set up the HPP Neighbourhood Forum?**

The Hyde Park Estate Association, The Paddington Partnership and Paddington BID got together in 2013 to apply to designate the area as a Neighbourhood Forum. This was approved by Westminster Council in 2014. After a series of public meetings, we then decided to apply to designate ourselves a Neighbourhood Forum in 2016, and this was approved by Westminster Council in 2017.

### **I see that the HPP Neighbourhood Forum is designated as a Business Forum – what does that mean?**

Where the designated area has a significant proportion of business use, the forum will be designated as a Business Forum. This is the case in a number of the Westminster Neighbourhood Areas (Fitzrovia, Marylebone, Mayfair, St James’s, Soho, Victoria).

The constitution sets out the balance between the business and residential elements within the Forum. If a Plan is prepared and this then goes to a Referendum, local residents and local businesses vote.

### **What issues are within the remit of the HPP Neighbourhood Forum?**

The Forum's remit is to consider the development and use of land in the HPP Forum area, in accordance with its strategic priorities, and to prepare a Neighbourhood Plan which sets this out. It is essentially focussed on planning issues.

### **What area does the HPP Neighbourhood Forum cover?**

The HPP Neighbourhood Forum has registered an area which broadly runs from the Westway down to Hyde Park, and from Edgware Road to the West of Paddington Station. You can see a [detailed map](#) of our Neighbourhood Area on our website, and in the constitution.

### **Who can join the HPP Neighbourhood Forum?**

The HPP Neighbourhood Forum is open to residents who live in the area; representatives of businesses or organisations who operate from within the area; and people or organisations who own land or property in the area.

### **Can local Councillors be on the Forum?**

Local councillors can be members and attend meetings, but not vote. They cannot be elected to the Steering Group.

### **How often is the Steering Group elected?**

At each Annual General Meeting of the Steering Group members will be asked to vote on nominations.

### **How can I join the HPP Neighbourhood Forum?**

You can apply to join by completing the [online form](#) or complete a form at the next General Meeting.

### **How is the Forum financed?**

There are small-scale local government grants and other funding sources available to set up neighbourhood areas and forums, and to put towards the preparation of a plan. The Paddington BID (Business Improvement District) and The Paddington Partnership both generously provide a small budget to enable the Forum to hire rooms and hold meetings. The Forum itself has no bank account nor any income.

In order to fund the preparation of a Neighbourhood Plan, the Forum would need to consider additional sources of income.

### **Does the Forum have a Neighbourhood Plan?**

The HPP Neighbourhood Forum does not currently have a Neighbourhood Plan but this is under consideration.