

Somers Town application to become a Neighbourhood Forum.

Contact: Sarah Elie (chair) sarah@somertown.org.uk 020 7388 6088

1. The name of the proposed forum is **Somers Town Neighbourhood Forum**. Somers Town Neighbourhood Forum is a relevant body capable of being designated a Neighbourhood Forum in accordance with sections 61F and 61G of the 1990 Town and Country Planning Act.
2. The neighbourhood area is called **Somers Town (see boundary document and map)**. The neighbourhood lies within the following boundaries:

North: Oakley Square, Crowndale Road (B512).

East: Midland Road.

South: Euston Road (A501).

West: Eversholt Street (A4200), Barnby Street, Hampstead Road (A400).

3. Membership of the **Somers Town Neighbourhood Forum** is open to all people who live, work and study in the neighbourhood area, and to local councillors.

The forum has a core committee of 28 people, 50% of whom are representative tenants and residents from across the area. The other 50% are local stakeholders including local councillors, the voluntary and community sector, businesses and institutions. Some local business owners and voluntary sector participants are also local residents (see appendix 1 for committee members' details).

The forum has been set up to promote the social, economic and environmental wellbeing of Somers Town and has a constitution agreed and signed by the committee members.

4. The **Somers Town Neighbourhood Forum** has developed over the past year through a series of activities to engage different sections of the community (see appendix 2 for complete list of participating groups and organisations to date).

Open meetings are held monthly. A number of working groups also meet regularly to develop projects and increase involvement. All the working groups involve a mix of participants working together. These include tenants and residents, the British Library, St Pancras station, Francis Crick Institute, the police, schools, faith groups, housing providers, small businesses etc. The forum benefits from a wide range of local knowledge and expertise.

Activities have included planning for real type events and walkabouts to explore planning priorities and identify community members not yet involved. The forum is also working with the council to develop a consultation strategy and plan for the Community Investment Programme in Somers Town. Where gaps are identified new approaches are devised. For example, targeted outreach work has taken place with local mosque trustees and congregation, and the need for more visible community notice boards is being addressed. Regular coffee mornings for women, activities with older people and an interactive market stall are being planned for the next phase. The third large scale planning workshop for the whole community will be held in March at Regent High School.

The working groups are also pursuing initiatives identified by local people complimentary to a statutory neighbourhood plan. For example setting up neighbourhood watch schemes, developing local enterprises and creating connections between unemployed local people and opportunities in the area. Young people have recently set up their own youth forum to work with the neighbourhood forum and have made a film to highlight their perspective on Somers Town. They have also set up the Community Counts project with the business and employment working group

Each event and monthly forum meeting achieves an increase in participation. Meetings are well attended by people from across the neighbourhood. Activities and feedback are well publicised electronically, in local newspapers, through leafleting, through local organisations and businesses, and through word of mouth.

5. The priorities for the **Somers Town Neighbourhood Forum** are outlined in the constitution. The forum will create a neighbourhood plan to achieve sustainable neighbourhood development that generates economic and social opportunities and improves life quality for the local community. The Somers Town neighbourhood Forum will also work closely with neighbouring forums and communities and in developing a Neighbourhood Plan will cooperate over areas of mutual interest.

Appendix 1: Somers Town Neighbourhood Forum Committee members.

	Organisation, estate or street	Committee member
	Tenants and residents	
1		Afe Komlafe
2		Andi Whittaker
3		Anne Stannard
4		Barbara Hughs
5		Cathy Lettan
6		Dave Hoefling
7		Dervilla Carroll
8		Eashmota Khatoon
9		Jeanne Thomason
10		Jennifer Hugh
11		Jim Widdowson
12		John Wood
13		Lil Scott
14		Wendy Priolo
	Permanent places	
15	Ward Councillor	Cllr Roger Robinson
16	Somers Town Community Association	Sarah Elie
17	Francis Crick Institute	Katie Matthews
18	British Library	Susan Adams
19	Origin Housing	Claire Davis
20	St Pancras Station	Nicola Bell
	Voluntary and Community Sector	
21	New Horizon Youth Centre	Shelagh O Connor
22	Bengali Workers Association	Manoun Alam
23	CPCCG	Peter Ward
24	Plot 10	Sally Warren
	Schools	
25	Regent High	Peter Baines
	Businesses	
26	STABO (umbrella group)	Jaqui Jeans
27	Nisa Supermarket	Vijay Patel
28	OpenPathways	Ashley Adkins

Appendix 2: Participating organisations and groups to date.

Formal tenants and residents groups	Camden Federation of Council Tenants
	Camden Federation of Private tenants
	Ossulston Street TRA
	Origin TA
	Walker House TRA
	Goldington Estate TRA
	Oakshott Court TRA
	Mayford TRA
	Charrington Street TA
	Amphill Square TA
	Cooper Lane TRA
	Churchway TRA
	Godwin and Crowndale Tenants Management Committee
	Phoenix Court Community TA
Voluntary and Community Sector	Somers Town Community Association
	Bengali Workers Association
	Hopscotch Asian Women's Centre
	Nappy Ever After
	New Horizon Youth Centre
	Training Link
	Esforal
	St Pancras Community Association
	Plot 10
	Age Concern UK
	Attitude is Everything
	Somali Elderly and Disabled Centre
	Bengali Education Centre
	OpenPathways
	Camden Friends of the Earth
	Camden Bengali Cultural Association
	Somali Youth Foundation
	Somers Town Youth Project
	Fabien Society
	Stop HS2
	Camden Police and Community Consultative Group
	ESOL group
	START
Faith groups	Camden Islamic and Cultural Centre (mosque)
	St Pancras Old Church
	St Aloysius Church

	St Mary's Church
Public Sector	Safer Neighbourhood Team
	Metropolitan Police (various)
	NHS Healthy Eating Team
	NHS Health Improvement Team
	LB Camden (various)
Schools and colleges	Regent High School
	Edith Neville School
	Westminster and Kingsway College
	Working Mens College
	UCL
	Royal Veterinary College
	Bismillah Academy
	Architectural Association
Businesses	Network Rail / St Pancras Station
	Somers Town Coffee House
	Nisa Supermarket
	Superior Negotiators
	Small Green Shoots
	Land Use Consultants
	Chalton Street market
Other	British Library
	Origin Housing Association
	Francis Crick Institute
	Unison