

**Andrew Fraser**  
**Forward Planning Manager**  
**Metropolitan Borough of Wirral**  
**Regeneration and Planning Service**  
**Wallasey Town Hall, North Annexe**  
**Brighton Street**  
**WALLASEY**  
**Wirral**  
**CH44 8ED**

**13 December 2016**

**My ref: 16.19.AB.NDP**

Dear Andrew

**APPLICATION TO DESIGNATE THE PROPOSED BIRKENHEAD NORTH NEIGHBOURHOOD AREA IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF REGULATION 5 OF THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (ENGLAND) THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING (GENERAL) REGULATIONS 2012 (S.61G(2)b. OF THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990)**

I am writing on behalf of ***Birkenhead North Neighbourhood Alliance*** (BNNA) to apply for the designation of this body's area of benefit as the **Birkenhead North Neighbourhood Area**.

This application should be read in conjunction with the application for designation of BNNA as a qualifying body for the purposes of Regulation 8 of the Regulations, which has been submitted concurrently with this application.

The following document is submitted in support of this application:

- A map identifying the proposed Birkenhead North Neighbourhood Area.

**Statement as to the suitability of the proposed neighbourhood area:**

Community organisers based at the *St James Centre* in Laird Street first contacted the Council about submitting designation applications in late November 2015.

The proposed neighbourhood area has been chosen principally on the basis of the existing area of operation of the *North Birkenhead Development Trust* and a list of 64 streets making up this core area has been submitted with the BNNA designation application.

The precise mereing of the proposed neighbourhood area boundary was then the subject of lively discussion between BNNA members during 2016. Inclusion or exclusion of the following areas was debated:

1. ***Flaybrick Memorial Gardens***. Inclusion of this area was rejected because there is already an active group working with *Wirral Council* and *Historic England* to protect the openness and heritage value of this area.
2. ***Homes in Boundary Road, Brow Road, Hoylake Road (southerly side from Bidston Village Road to Worcester Road), Observatory Road and Worcester Road*** were excluded because of lack of interest from residents due to their stronger identification with Bidston village rather than Birkenhead North.
3. ***Homes on the southerly side of Lansdowne Road (from Tollemache Road to Sumner Road)*** were excluded because of a lack of interest from residents due to their stronger identification with Claughton village rather than Birkenhead North.
4. ***The triangle of land bounded by Mallaby Street, Laird Street and Park Road North*** was included because of interest in developing neighbourhood plan policies relating to health and retail.
5. ***The triangle of land bounded by Price Street, Corporation Road and Cavendish Street*** was included because of interest in developing local employment policies and to help facilitate engagement with *Peel Ports* and *Wirral Council* in delivering sustainable dock regeneration.

6. ***The triangle of open land bounded by Valley Road, Gautby Road, Hillburn Drive and Wildbrook Drive.*** It was decided that this area should be included because of interest in protecting locally important areas of open land, both for their intrinsic value as allotments and recreation spaces but also to help focus future development on other more appropriate and sustainable sites.
7. ***Patricia Avenue.*** It was decided to include this road because it is geographically a part of Birkenhead North even though some BNNA members felt it should be excluded.
8. ***Carrodus Allotments, Hoylake Road.*** The protection of and efficient use of open spaces in the proposed neighbourhood area is an early priority for BNNA. The inclusion of the largest area of allotments in the area is therefore important.
9. ***Church of the Holy Cross, Hoylake Road.*** It was decided to include the church because it is Grade II listed<sup>1</sup> but vacant. Its preservation and possible future use(s) may be the subject of neighbourhood plan policies.
10. ***Southerly side of Norman Street.*** It was decided to include this area because one BNNA member lives there and residents there generally identify more with Birkenhead North than they do with Claughton village.

It should be noted that, although none of the 21 BNNA members who have formally confirmed their membership live in the area traditionally described as “the avenues”, there is at least one unconfirmed BNNA member who lives there.

There are no BNNA members (confirmed or unconfirmed) who live at the extreme east of the proposed neighbourhood area (Price Street/Brassey Street areas) but houses up to Cavendish Street are traditionally considered to be part of Birkenhead North in a geographic sense. Furthermore, the

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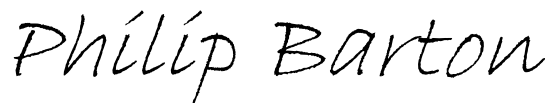
<sup>1</sup> Built 1957-1959, it is the last church designed by Francis X Verlade to be built in his lifetime and apparently his personal favourite.

Regulations do not require members to be present in every part of the proposed neighbourhood area in order to justify its designation.

The proposed **Birkenhead North Neighbourhood Area** has been chosen on the basis of traditional social and physical geographies and upon the sense of identification with Birkenhead North outside of these traditional areas.

It is considered that the proposed **Birkenhead North Neighbourhood Area** does represent a viable, justifiable and suitable planning unit for the purposes of neighbourhood planning. The application is therefore commended to the Council on this basis.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Philip Barton". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Philip Barton MCD BA(Hons) MRTPI  
*Independent Planning Consultant*

# Proposed Birkenhead North Neighbourhood Area Boundary

