

Andrew Fraser
Forward Planning Manager
Wirral Council
Regeneration and Planning Service
North Annexe, Wallasey Town Hall, Brighton Street,
Wallasey
Wirral
CH44 8ED



Date: 29th January 2014

Dear Andrew,

Re: Neighbourhood Forum and Neighbourhood Area Designation Application

Please accept this as an application pursuant to Parts 2 and 3 of the Town and Country Planning, England, Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (SI 2012 No. 637), for the designation of Unity in Our Community Neighbourhood Planning Forum as a neighbourhood forum for the purpose of preparing a neighbourhood plan and for the designation of Leasowe as a neighbourhood planning area.

- a) The name of the proposed neighbourhood forum will be Unity in Our Community Neighbourhood Planning Forum (the proposed forum)
- b) The proposed forum has a written constitution which includes the express purpose of promoting the social, economic and environmental wellbeing of the Community within the Neighbourhood area
Please see attached Appendix – Constitution Leasowe Neighbourhood Forum 2013
- c) The constitution was adopted by Forum members at meeting on 6th Aug 2013

The name of the neighbourhood area to which the application relates is Leasowe (the area). Having considered options for the neighbourhood area, the prospective neighbourhood forum would like the area indicated on the enclosed plan to be designated. *Please see Appendix 2 – Map of the Area*

The area defined in *Appendix 2* is chosen for designation because of its high levels of Multi Deprivation (6%) as shown in the Indices of Deprivation for England. Our designated area takes in Wirral 009A rank 231, Wirral 006c rank 2848, and Wirral 006b rank 4691.

Note: A lower rank means the area is more deprived (1=most deprived, 32482=least deprived).

The focus of the plan is not primarily building but social and the use of existing buildings to ensure they are used to maximum potential to help reduce the levels of deprivation over a 5 to 10 year period.

The area has been mapped specifically to ensure we take in those areas with high levels of multi deprivation as stated above.

The land at Bidston Moss M53 roundabout has been included because of the potential opportunities that exist to create youth activities and employment opportunities. The use of this underdeveloped area would benefit the people of Leasowe, Wallasey, Bidston and Wirral .

The inclusion of this area has been discussed with the Ward Members Bidston St and James and they are in agreement with the inclusion in the Leasowe Neighbourhood Plan.

People affected by developments or work being carried out within the designated area (including those living or working in Bidston) will be notified via our web site, local newsletters and, when necessary, Wirral-wide papers such as the Wirral Globe and Wirral News. For those affected by the proposed work or developments who wish to contribute, they may do so by attending the various meetings or by submitting their concerns/comments to the Strategy Group, who will inform the Forum through its agreed processes and feed back accordingly.

We have excluded the private housing to the West of Reeds Lane for two reasons:

- a. When carrying out our research in 2012 it was evident that residents in the area did not associate themselves with Leasowe.
- b. The area Wirral 006A is not ranked as being a multi deprivation area in the indices of multi deprivation (rank:23950) and therefore does not meet the criterion for selecting the area chosen.

The contact details for the proposed forum are as follows :-

Roy Sheriff, Leasowe Development Trust, Leasowe Millennium Centre, Leasowe, Wirral, Merseyside, CH46 1PQ
Tel 01516389599 Email roy@leasowedt.org.uk

These contact details are provided to Wirral Borough Council for publication on their website and in such other manner related to the Neighbourhood Plan as the Local Authority considers appropriate pursuant to Regulation 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10 of the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations.

In addition, the contact details will be made available to the public via the Leasowe Development Trust website, Facebook page, and posters put up in the area.

The proposed neighbourhood forum meets the conditions contained in Sections 61F and 61G of the 1990 Town and Country Planning Act as follows:

a). The proposed forum is established for the express purpose of promoting the social, economic and environmental well being of the area and to prepare a neighbourhood plan for the area

Please see attached – Constitution, Sections 2 and 3

Background to establishing the Forum

At a Joint Management Council meeting held at Leasowe Community Centre in 2008, a discussion took place regarding increased anti social behaviour amongst young people on the Leasowe estate, especially around the shops and the community centre. A local resident and active citizen, Ken Williams, made a very significant statement that prompted a chain of events to address issues on the estate through a strategic process. He said “I find it hard to believe that everyone is complaining about young people and there is nothing for them to do, you are all employed to sort this out, so why has nothing been done and it is getting worse“. Around the table were youth workers, community development officers, councillors, local organisations and residents.

On the way back from the meeting Mary Quigg and Roy Sheriff talked about what had been said and the lack of action that followed such a direct question. It was from this point that Leasowe Community Homes and Leasowe Development Trust through its directors decided to facilitate and lead on a programme that would address such issues on the estate.

It was acknowledged that the process would be slow and involve lots of stakeholders but essential if we were to make a greater impact on the high levels of multi-deprivation that exist within the area of Leasowe.

The concept of Unity in Our Community was born: young people in the area helped design and produce the logo, which is now being used to show those organisations, groups and buildings that support the work. It replaces the need for multiple logo production and represents those organisations that want to make a difference in the community.

Throughout 2010 and 2011 Leasowe Development Trust and Leasowe Community Homes worked closely with organisations, statutory bodies, local groups and residents to form the basis for a strategy that would produce an action plan that we could work to, that would help address those issues resulting in Multi-Deprivation. From this work we produced a format that would be a point from which we could start. The following diagram shows the groups that represent all people working, living or having a vested interest in the area. The strategy group, which is now applying to be designated as the

neighbourhood forum for the area, consists of key decision makers in the area and representatives from each of the sub groups.

Already working with partners and residents to reduce deprivation in the area, the Localism Act of 2011 was an ideal opportunity to formalise our work through the development of a Neighbourhood Plan.

The diagram printed on Appendix 2 page 12 of the constitution shows the structure that has led to the development of a Neighbourhood Forum

b). The membership of the proposed forum is open to

- i. Individuals who live in the area; and
- ii. Individuals who work there; and
- iii. Individuals who are elected members of Wirral Borough Council whose area falls within the neighbourhood concerned

Please see attached – Constitution, Section 4.1

Forum meetings will be advertised for a minimum of 21 days before a meeting takes place via LDT website, Facebook and posters.

Leasowe Strategy Group will make reasonable endeavours to make contact with individuals who live and / or work in the area for the purpose of inviting membership of the proposed forum via email, Facebook, Websites and posters delivered to local shops and businesses (including religious and not for profit organisations), social media and by direct invitation.

It is open to individuals who work in the area to attend the forum meetings .

Leasowe Strategy Group will make reasonable endeavours to ensure that membership of the proposed forum reflects local diversity with reference to any such population profiling as may be provided by the local authority.

- c). At the time of application the Forum has 21 registered members. The current distribution of Strategy Group members, who also are members of the Forum, is as follows.
- i. Individuals who live in the area: 8
 - ii. Individuals who work in the area (either for business carried out there or otherwise): 5,
 - iii. Individuals who are elected members of Wirral Borough Council whose area falls within the neighbourhood area concerned : 3
 - iv. Individuals who live or work in Health in the area 3
 - v. Individuals who live or work in Education in the area 2

A list of members is held by the Secretary and will be made available to Wirral Borough Council on request in a form to be agreed with due regard to privacy and data protection requirements.

The Leasowe Strategy Group will monitor membership in accordance with the Constitution and reserves the right to update the number of members stated in this application prior to Examination of the Neighbourhood Plan and supporting documents submitted to Wirral Borough Council.

Should you require any further information in support of this application please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light yellow background, reading "Roy Sheriff".

Roy Sheriff

Unity in Our Community Neighbourhood Planning Forum