

3. Application for Neighbourhood Forum

Name of Neighbourhood Forum:

Whitburn Neighbourhood Forum

Contact name to be published:

Philip Leaf

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Sunderland

Whitburn

Tyne & Wear

SR6 7SG

Proposed name of the neighbourhood area:

Whitburn Neighbourhood Area

Statement confirming how the proposed neighbourhood forum meets the conditions in section 61F(5) of The Town & Country Planning Act 1990 (introduced by Schedule 9 of the Localism Act 2011) –

The Forum was established for the purpose of promoting the social, economic and environmental well-being of the Whitburn Area, as included in the constitution.

Membership is open to all residents who live in Whitburn, those who work in Whitburn and those who are elected members of South Tyneside Council for the Whitburn area.

At the time of the application, the Forum has 35 members. Of these members, 34 are residents of Whitburn, 1 works in Whitburn and one is an elected member of South Tyneside Council for the Whitburn area.

Potential members have been engaged with and acquired via the following methods:

- The creation of a Facebook group (July 2016), initially aimed at consultation participation for residents of Whitburn in response to the South Tyneside Strategic Land Review, but which soon included discussions on creating a neighbourhood forum. There are now regular updates posted about forum meetings on this group. The group has 820+ members and its existence is advertised throughout the village and in various shops in Whitburn.

- A leaflet drop of approximately 4000 leaflets throughout the whole village, explaining the purpose of the Forum and a call for more members.
- Forum members have approached shops in Whitburn directly to explain the purpose of the Forum and how people working there can join
- Discussions in the Whitburn residents' association
- Discussion in the Whitburn and Cleadon Junior Football Club
- Contact with all three local councillors, of whom one replied
- Word of mouth
- Advertising of Forum meetings in the Barnes Institute and the hairdresser's shop next door
- The creation of a Facebook Page (September 2016) for the Whitburn Neighbourhood Forum (WhitburnNF) with a growing membership number.

The Forum has at the date of the application had two Forum meetings. At the first meeting (27 August 2016) the Forum was established and a committee was chosen. At the second meeting (10 September 2016) the constitution was approved by members.

Membership is expected to grow as a result of the leaflet drop and word of mouth spreading. However, at present Whitburn Neighbourhood Forum is already complying with above legislation, as we have a good diversity of type of member as well as geographical spread combining both residents from the North of the village to the South.