LONDON BOROUGH OF CAMDEN

WARDS: Kentish Town North, Kentish Town South, Camden Town, Gospel Oak

REPORT TITLE

Redesignation of Kentish Town Neighbourhood Forum (SC/2025/16)

REPORT OF

Executive Director Supporting Communities

FOR SUBMISSION TO

Cabinet Member for Planning and a Sustainable Camden

DATE

4 March 2025

STRATEGIC CONTEXT

We Make Camden is our joint vision for the borough, developed in partnership with our community. Neighbourhood planning accords with the ambitions set out in We Make Camden, in particular those relating to safe, strong and open communities and Camden being a green, clean and sustainable place where everyone is empowered to contribute to tackling the climate emergency.

The Way We Work is the Council's response to We Make Camden. The proposals set out in this report contribute to the commitments and ambitions in the way the Council works to supports its citizens as designation allows neighbourhood forums to play an active role in planning for their community and local area.

SUMMARY OF REPORT

This report seeks Cabinet Member approval to redesignate the Kentish Town Neighbourhood Forum for a period of five years. The Forum has submitted an application to the Council for designation to continue to operate in the Kentish Town neighbourhood area. The Forum was originally designated from April 2013 and redesignated for a further five years in June 2018. In line with the regulations, the Council has consulted the local community on the application.

Under the Council's Constitution, decisions whether to designate a neighbourhood forum are to be made by the Cabinet Member for Planning and a Sustainable Camden.

Local Government Act 1972 – Access to Information

There are no documents used in the preparation of this report which are required to be listed.

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RECOMMENDATIONS

The Cabinet Member for Planning and a Sustainable Camden is asked to:

- (i) Note the responses to the consultation on the application for the redesignation of the Kentish Town Neighbourhood Forum and the Council's assessment of the Forum's application set out in Appendices 2 and 3 to the report; and
- (ii) Agree the redesignation of the Kentish Town Neighbourhood Forum for a further period of five years.

Signed:

Dave Burns

Director of Economy, Regeneration and Investment

Date: 21/02/2025

1. CONTEXT AND BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The Kentish Town Neighbourhood Forum and Area were designated by the Council on 10 April 2013. The Forum was redesignated by the Council for a further five year period on 1 June 2018. Forums have a specific role set out in legislation to prepare or review neighbourhood plans and comment on individual planning proposals.
- 1.2 A neighbourhood forum is designated for a period of five years, and must reapply to continue its function after that time. The designation of the Kentish Town Neighbourhood Forum (KTNF) has expired and the Forum is seeking redesignation as the body responsible for facilitating neighbourhood planning in the Kentish Town area. The application for redesignation was submitted to the Council in November 2024. If it is redesignated, the Neighbourhood Forum will use its planning powers within the designated Kentish Town neighbourhood area. (Unlike forums, neighbourhood areas are not designated for a time-limited period.)
- 1.3 The Neighbourhood Forum prepared the Kentish Town Neighbourhood Plan, which was adopted by the Council in September 2016. The Forum continues to informally engage on local issues and in the context of ensuring that the policies and ambitions set out in the adopted Plan are achieved. They have been an active as a local stakeholder in commenting on emerging plans for sites in their area, on planning applications and local public realm and open space projects.
- 1.4 The Forum has not commenced an update of the Neighbourhood Plan; however, the Council understands this remains an ambition. KTNF are monitoring progression of the Camden Local Plan review and submitted a representation to the Council's Draft New Local Plan consultation early last year. Under the relevant legislation, neighbourhood plans are required to be in general conformity with strategic policies set out a local plan.

2. PROPOSAL AND REASONS

- 2.1 When the Council receives an application to designate or re-designate a neighbourhood forum, it is required to consider whether the proposed body meets criteria set out in legislation and regulations. Provided it meets the criteria, the forum will be designated for a five year period.
- 2.2 The application for redesignation is set out in Appendix 1. The Council carried out a consultation on the redesignation application for Kentish Town Neighbourhood Forum between 5 December 2024 and 29 January 2025. This was brought to the attention of people living, working or carrying out business in the area through a variety of methods. Representations were made by local organisations and individuals, and these are set out in Appendix 2 'Consultation schedule of responses'.
- 2.3 The conditions under which a Forum must meet are set out in section 61(F) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990. An assessment has been taken

- against this section of the Act, see Appendix 3 to this report 'Council's assessment of application', which concludes that the Kentish Town Neighbourhood Forum is a suitable body to be redesignated.
- 2.4 Since the previous designation decision in 2018, the Council has adopted its Diversity in the Public Realm Strategy. This features a specific action in relation in relation to neighbourhood forums and planning: "Review how Neighbourhood Planning Forums are established and how to ensure their members are representative of diverse communities". Planning Officers have been working with colleagues in the Council's Equalities team to advise forums on ways they can become more inclusive, diverse and representative in their membership and activities, and how they can demonstrate this in their applications for redesignation.
- 2.5 The assessment set out in Appendix 3 found that the Forum's redesignation application had given sufficient consideration of diversity and inclusion matters. This includes the following:
 - The Committee's membership includes representation from a variety of local groups / organisations including residents' associations, Transition Kentish Town, Think & Do Environmental and Social Action, Kentish Town Business Association and Tenant and Resident Associations: it is considered these organisations represent a cross-section of the local community;
 - KTNF attends meetings of the Kentish Town District Management Committee and has participated in estates days with residents to discuss local planning proposals. This has allowed KTNF to more widely publicise its function and activities and attract new members;
 - Stalls/fairs have been organised to canvass opinions on local matters and sign up new members, helping to bring KTNF's activities to the attention of residents outside of more formal public meetings;
 - Engagement with local schools (Acland Burghley and French School) with opportunities given for students to attend KTNF meetings;
 - Setting up of a consultative sub-committee to consider how groups with protected characteristics can be engaged and their participation secured. This includes representatives from the Bangladeshi, Black African and disability communities;
 - The running of a Kentish Town Film Festival and film making workshop to build connections with younger people;
 - In 2024, the KTNF Constitution was formally reviewed by the main Committee and updated to include a section on Equality, Diversity and Inclusion with a commitment to review the composition of the Forum's Committee annually;
 - Participation in KT Connects events to build relationships and exchange information across communities.
- 2.6 The application sets out KTNF's aim of engaging with people of all ages, along with local businesses and organisations and committees representing all sections of Kentish Town society. The Constitution confirms that the organisation has an open membership and that residents living in the

neighbourhood area are entitled to become registered members if they opt in and can vote at relevant meetings. The Constitution states that representation should broadly follow the demographic information provided by the Census and the Forum commits to use this data to inform the recruitment of new members and their community engagement activities more generally.

3. OPTIONS APPRAISAL

- 3.1 The two options available to the Cabinet Member are:
 - Option one Approve the application received from the Kentish Town Neighbourhood Forum (recommended).
 - Option two Refuse the application. If the Council is minded to refuse the application, then it must publish its reasons.
- 3.2 Officer assessment of the application (see Appendix 3) shows that the Kentish Town Neighbourhood Forum meets the criteria for redesignation. The consultation responses showed a mixture of resident, community, and local organisation support for the redesignation of the forum.
- 3.3 This report therefore recommends that the Kentish Town Neighbourhood Forum is a suitable body to be redesignated for a further period of five years.
- 3.4 Legislation allows a local planning authority to withdraw a forum's designation if it considers the forum is no longer meeting the conditions for designation.

4. WHAT ARE THE KEY IMPACTS / RISKS? HOW WILL THEY BE ADDRESSED?

- 4.1 It is not considered that this application raises any significant impacts or risks. Officers from the Council have provided advice to the Forum on its application for redesignation. This reduces the risk of legal challenge.
- 4.2 The Council works with neighbourhood forums in providing advice on neighbourhood plans. This allows issues to be raised concerning any potential impacts, including consistency with Council plans and strategies.

5. CONSULTATION/ENGAGEMENT

- 5.1 The Council was required to publicise the application for redesignation to people living, working and carrying out business in the designated neighbourhood area. A consultation was undertaken to meet the regulatory requirements between 5 December 2024 and 29 January 2025.
- 5.2 All consultees on the Council's planning policy database were sent a notification by e-mail. The Neighbourhood Forum also made people aware of the application in the neighbourhood area. A paper copy of the application was made available in Kentish Town Library. The application was advertised

- through site notices in the Kentish Town neighbourhood area and a public notice in the Camden New Journal.
- 5.3 There was a limited response to the consultation. This may simply be indicative of the fact this is the third time the Forum has sought redesignation. KTNF has established itself as a local stakeholder, particularly with regards to planning, and no objections have been received either to the redesignation application or in relation to the Forum's activities. Should KTNF decide to commence a review of the Neighbourhood Plan, residents and businesses will have the ability to comment on any proposed changes as part of the normal consultation process.

6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The designation of a neighbourhood forum must comply the legislative provisions set out in s61F of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as introduced by the Localism Act 2011).
- 6.2 The Council can designate an organisation or body as a neighbourhood forum if it is satisfied that it is established for the express purpose of promoting or improving the social, economic and environmental wellbeing of an area that consists of or includes the neighbourhood area concerned. A neighbourhood forum must have a minimum membership of 21 individuals who live or work in the neighbourhood area and/or are elected members of the Council whose ward includes all or part of the forum area. There can only be one designated neighbourhood forum for each neighbourhood area and the forum must have been designated as such by the Council.
- 6.3 Officers have assessed the above in the body of this report and its appendices and concluded that the application meets the legislative requirements.
- 6.4 The Cabinet Member, in considering the recommendations, must have due regard to the impact these decisions will have upon the Council's statutory duty with regard to equalities. In summary, these legal obligations require the Council, when exercising its functions, to have 'due regard' to the need to:
 - a) Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited under the Act;
 - b) to advance equality of opportunity between people who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not;
 - c) Foster good relations between people who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not (which involves tackling prejudice and promoting understanding).
- 6.5 The Council has considered the legal requirements relating to the designation of a Forum, including where this has implications for

- equalities. The Officer's assessment against the relevant criteria is set out in Appendix 3.
- 6.6 Legal comments have been incorporated into this report.

7. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 This report seeks Cabinet Member approval to redesignate the Kentish Town Neighbourhood Forum for a period of five years. The Forum was originally designated for five years from April 2013 and redesignated in June 2018. This is second time the Kentish Town forum has submitted an application to the Council to formally renew its designation. In line with the regulations, the Council has consulted the local community on the application.
- 7.2 The minor cost for publicising the designation will be funded from the planning policy budget.

8. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

8.1 The redesignation of the Kentish Town Neighbourhood Forum has no direct environmental implications. It does, however, allow the Forum to review the adopted Kentish Town Neighbourhood Plan. This adopted Plan includes policies seeking to protect biodiversity, green corridors and open spaces. A review could allow the Forum to consider other environmental and sustainability issues.

9. TIMETABLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION

9.1 If the Cabinet Member agrees to the redesignation of the Kentish Town Neighbourhood Forum, it would then be designated for a further five years to March 2030.

10. APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Kentish Town Neighbourhood Forum Application for redesignation

Appendix 2 – Consultation schedule of responses

Appendix 3 – Council's assessment of application

REPORT ENDS

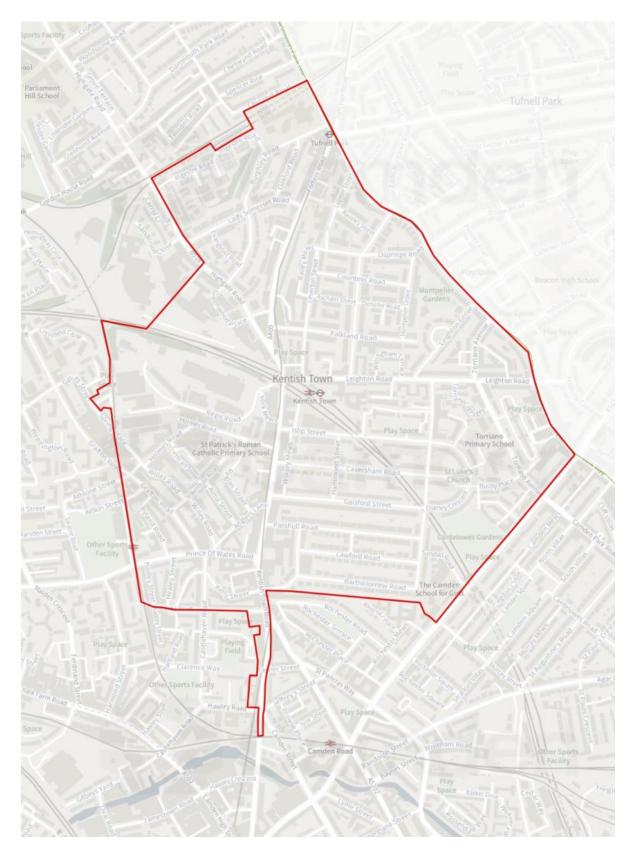
Application for redesignation of Kentish Town Neighbourhood Forum

Application for redesignation as a Neighbourhood Forum under the provisions of the Localism Act 2012 – the Kentish Town Neighbourhood Forum (KTNF).

Contact: Chair, Ian Grant, email: kentishtownnf@gmail.com

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The Kentish Town Neighbourhood Forum area

Also see: https://tinyurl.com/zujxxvsr

2 The Neighbourhood Plan and Purpose

KTNF applied for and was granted designation as a neighbourhood forum in April 2013. This designation ran for five years. With the help of many individuals and organisations including Camden Council was successfully achieved in June 2016 by way of a public referendum. The Neighbourhood Plan was formally adopted on 19th September 2016 when it became part of Camden Council's Development Plan for the Kentish Town Neighbourhood Plan area.

KTNF was successfully redesignated in 2018 and is applying for redesignation for a further five years. The application relates to the designated area of KTNF, detailed below. This will allow KTNF to continue its work with the aim of ensuring that as development change takes place, the policies and ambitions set out in the Neighbourhood Plan are achieved. There are eight sections of policies in the Neighbourhood Plan to support the purpose of promoting or improving the social, economic and environmental well-being of the Kentish Town Neighbourhood Plan area and to enable it to be a vibrant place with a strong sense of community that protects its unique character and heritage while embracing new development and beneficial change.

Full details are set out on pages 12 to 14 of the current Neighbourhood Plan under the following headings: 1 Shopping and Working 2 Design 3 Housing 4 Getting Around 5 Green and Open Spaces 6 Community and Culture 7 Spatial Policies 8 Site Specific Policies.

KTNF's purpose is for Kentish Town to have a keen sense of community, maintain and improve the social, economic, and environmental well-being of its residents and workers, protect the heritage and buildings in Kentish Town but be receptive to new ideas and supporting beneficial change. We function as guardians of the Neighbourhood Plan, which was voted in by referendum, and to keep current policies in the plan under review and consider other relevant projects.

3 Why the area is considered appropriate and capable of being designated as a neighbourhood forum.

KTNF was successfully redesignated in 2018 and is applying for redesignation for a further five years. The application relates to the designated area of KTNF, detailed below. The neighbourhood area will therefore be carried over from the one originally designated in 2013. This will allow KTNF to continue its work with the aim of ensuring

that as development change takes place, the policies and ambitions set out in the Neighbourhood Plan are achieved.

The Kentish Town Neighbourhood Plan area is located within the red line on the map. The Area of the Neighbourhood Forum encompasses the north and central areas of Kentish Town – on the north side it runs east along the north side of Little Green Street and Ingestre Road and the Ingested Estate, and then it encircles Acland Burghley School.

From there (omitting Tufnell Park Station) it runs south down the west side of Brecknock Road and then down the west of Camden Road. It then crosses from east to west below Bartholomew Road, above Rochester Road. It then runs south along the east side of Kentish Town Road down to the railway bridge.

From there it runs north up the west side of Kentish Town Road, including all the shops and buildings in that stretch including 187 Kentish Town Road. It then turns west along the centre of Castle Road. From the end of Castle Road, it follows the west side of the railway line north, including Kentish Town West station, and then it encircles Arctic Street.

The boundary goes back onto the railway line and goes north until it meets the bridge over the First Capital Connect railway line. Before the bridge it goes east and then northeast up to the north side of Carker's Lane to join the east side of Highgate Road and continues north to join up at the northern corner of Little Green Street where it meets Highgate Road. The boundaries were decided by community consultation and liaison with Camden Council.

Part of the northern KTNF boundary goes across Murphy's site from the railway line to the north side of Carker's Lane. KTNF shares forum boundaries here with Dartmouth Park Neighbourhood Forum (DPNF). We have discussed with DPNF and Murphy's how all of us will participate and we have come to an amicable agreement that we will get together on any issues pertaining to Murphy's land and also the industrial area including Regis Road (the latter is within the KTNF area and includes Arctic Road because there is a lot of local interest in opening up this entry). Anything that happens in these areas will affect both Neighbourhood Forums and also the Gospel Oak Partnership area.

The KTNF area has been in active operation for over a decade, and residents and workers are familiar with the existing boundaries. Various community organisations within the KTNF area and represented on the KTNF committee have built up working relationships.

When it formed, Representative Residents Associations, the Conservation Area Advisory Committee, Tenants and Residents' Associations, individual local businesses, community centres, Transition Kentish Town, and other well-known community groups, along with Kentish Town Police, local schools, GP surgeries, churches, and individuals were consulted in creating this Neighbourhood Forum. In mid-2023 KTNF asked local groups and organisations to back the redesignation (see list below). This is an ongoing process. The redesignation is also backed by local ward councillors.

The membership represents all areas within the current KTNF boundaries. We have committee members in the north, east, south, and west of the forum area.

The KTNF area is an identifiable area with a sense of community is fostered by the KTNF.

The KTNF area closely matches both the Kentish Town North and Kentish Town South wards and is capable of being designated as a neighbourhood forum.

The area is well balanced with the east mainly residential and the west mixed industrial, commercial, and residential.

Kentish Town has a rich history and the KTNF with its boundaries aims to preserve it. To the north Dartmouth Park has a different make-up, and to the south, Camden Town has a distinct and different character.

4 Organisations and individuals backing redesignation

KTNF asked companies and organisations in Kentish Town whether they would back the redesignation and be consultees and the following agreed. The diverse list is another illustration of how we represent the Kentish Town community:

Kentish Town Fire Station, Govia Thameslink - Kentish Town Overground, Holmes Road Police Station, St Benet's Church, St Andrews Greek Orthodox Church, Kentish Town Library, Acland Burghley School, Kentish Town Primary School, The French School, Kentish Town Business Association, Kentish Town Stores, EARTH, Owl Bookshop, Boma Garden Centre, Social Pottery, Kentish Town Post Office/Greetings from the Heart, Camden, City, Islington, and Westminster Bereavement, Kentish Town Community Centre, Castlehaven Community Centre, Transition Kentish Town, Kentish Town Road Action, Power Up North London, Think & Do, Kelly Street Residents Association, Inkerman Area Residents Association,

Bartholomew Area Residents Association, 1 Prince of Wales Road Residents Association, Torriano Cottages Association, Bartholomew and Kentish Town Conservation Area Committee, Better Kentish Town, and the Caversham Group Practice.

The current committee includes representatives from the Conservation Area Advisory Committee, Inkerman Area Residents Association, Transition Kentish Town, Think & Do Environmental and Social Action, Kentish Town Road Action, Camden Leaseholder Forum, Kentish Town Business Association, Bartholmew Area Resident's Association. Invites are sent to representatives from Tenants and Residents' groups including Kennistoun and Peckwater estates.

KTNF attends the Kentish Town District Management Committee representing Tenants and Residents Associations. Also, youth and schools' representatives have been invited to committee meetings (for details, see below).

Individuals, businesses and associations with NW5 post codes which have backed the current redesignation represent all areas of the current KTNF area and are from: Evangelist Road, Alma Street, Prince of Wales Road, Raglan Street, Burghley Road, Fortess Road, Ryland Road, Willes Road, Bartholemew Villas, Patshull Road, Falkland Road, Leverton Street, Holmes Road, Oakford Road, Grafton Road, Kelly Street, Evangelist Road, Brecknock Road, Kentish Town Road and Busby Place.

The composition of our committee, consultees and mailing list enables KTNF to represent the views and diversity of the local community and function as a two-way channel. We represent the views of Kentish Town residents and workers with not only Camden Council, but also other neighbourhood forums, and other bodies including the Greater London Authority (GLA), TfL, English Heritage, the Boundary Commission, and the government.

5 Recent and current representation activities

KTNF holds stalls to canvass opinions on Kentish Town, including on Kentish Town Road (High Street) and since Summer 2023 year received over 100 sign-ups from interested parties and several of whom were interested in joining the KTNF committee or sub-committees.

KTNF has taken part in Camden Council's estate days and has formed a list of estate residents who will be consulted on relevant planning applications and developments in Kentish Town. We are currently working with Camden Council's Participation Department to engage with

estates in Kentish Town and engaging with residents explaining the work of the KTNF and how to input into the planning process and other issues.

KTNF recently gave a talk at Acland Burghley School and garnered interest from the students. We invited a representative to the quarterly committee meeting to feed back to students and teachers about developments in the Kentish Town built environment. We are also engaging the French School.

The activities regarding estates, youth and schools enables KTNF to represent diversity in relation the 2021 Census data for Kentish Town North and Kentish Town South wards particularly in relation to population profiles with 25% between the ages of 5-24 and tenure statistics with around 30% in social rent properties.

KTNF also set up a consultative sub-committee to ensure the views from groups of protected characteristics are represented. Representatives from the disability community associations, along with Bangladesh and Black African communities were invited.

KTNF ran an inaugural Kentish Town Film Festival on films about Kentish Town. It was open to under 16-year-olds along with an open category – entitled My Kentish Town. It also ran a film making workshop in Kentish Town Library for anyone who needed help in making their film. The event attracted a high proportion of youth interest, along with support from the artists community. Along with working with The Camdenist on a film poster exhibition, around 150 people attended, and again we had sign ups from people interested in joining the mailing list and in joining the committee. KTNF is planning to run another festival in 2025.

6 General representation

KTNF is invited on to community management groups on developments.

KTNF represents the Kentish Town community in meetings with Camden Council representatives and responds to council consultations. It also advises on community consultations.

KTNF supported Camden Council initiatives including a successful Levelling Up bid, and a pilot on giving residents better access to planning applications.

KTNF keeps residents, workers and the community informed about changes to buildings, planning applications and responses.

KTNF produced a leaflet explaining the role of KTNF and how to get involved to go alongside a questionnaire.

KTNF via its newsletter and website informs Kentish Town residents about important developments including transport issues, new retail outlets and guards against developments which are outside planning or licensing rules. The KTNF Plan, constitution along with the latest minutes of committee meetings are published on the website (ktnf.org).

KTNF acts as a community sounding board, for example fielding complaints about the escalators not working at Kentish Town Underground and writing to the head of TfL, who replied apologising and explaining the long-term investment plans.

KTNF forms alliances with local organisations and neighbouring forums. We consult with Dartmouth Park Neighbourhood Forum and more recently Highgate Neighbourhood Forum and are planning combined activities. We also attend the annual meeting of London Neighbourhood Forums.

7 Equality, Diversity and Inclusion activities

Kentish Town is a diverse community. The 2021 Census found that people of Bangladeshi and Black African backgrounds represent significant communities in Kentish Town: Bangladeshi comprising 10.7% of the Kentish Town West and 6.6% of Kentish Town East populations; and people of Black African background, 8.6% in Kentish Town East and 10.4% in Kentish Town West. Of Camden residents identified as disabled under the Equality Act, 8.3% are limited a lot by their disabilities(s), and 9.4% are limited a little.

Estate days – KTNF took stalls at several Estate Days organised by Camden Council, explaining its work to a diverse range residents and getting sign-ups to people wanting to be updated and interested in being on a sub-committee. A leaflet was produced explaining the work of the KTNF and posted around several estates.

Stalls and Fairs – KTNF attends street fairs and sets up stalls regularly to explain its work and get sign-ups for its newsletter and those interested in its committees. KTNF has gathered a list of interested parties representing a cross section of the community and sending material that the KTNF committee is discussing.

Consultative committee – KTNF set up a consultative committee on Equality, Diversity and Inclusion, with representatives from the Bangaladesh, Black African and disability communities. KTNF is in regular contact with the Greenwood Centre and has put up posters there and has been in their newsletter outlining its work. And have recently been in touch with the Brandon Centre. We have strong contacts with the Bangladeshi community in Somerstown and have asked their advice on outreach. We seek to expand coverage of the Black African community, beyond TRA members. Members are also invited to the main committee.

Invites to KTNF Committee meetings – KTNF has invited representatives from young peoples', estates and TRAs, including Black African and Bangladeshi representatives and the business community.

Changing the Constitution: KTNF amended its constitution in 2024 and included a new section on Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (see Section 4 below), including reviewing the composition of the committee annually and looking at whether ED&I factors have been addressed adequately in responses to planning applications.

Meeting with Camden Council's Equalities Service: The constitution says we will meet with a representative of Camden Council's Equality and Disproportionality service. The KTNF committee recently met with Camden Council's Equalities and Disproportionality Service, and we agreed to help them develop a support programme, toolkit and Guide for Neighbourhood Forums, acting as a pilot which could potentially used for other community groups. The work is ongoing. Ideas which could be taken forward include simplifying planning language for non-technical people, using health centres for outreach to communities and the creation of task and finish groups.

Active involvement with Kentish Town Connects: KTNF organised a walk around Kentish Town explaining the history and looking at key buildings affected by forthcoming planning applications and gave a talk at the Summit outlining Equality, Diversity and Inclusion policies, and inviting attendees to sign up to the consultative committee. After the Summit, KTNF has been an active member of KT Connects involving exchanging information with the different communities in Kentish Town.

8 Recent and current activities promoting or improving the social, economic, and environmental well-being include:

Representing the community in discussions and consultations with developers on plans including Yoo Capital on the Regis Road plans;

Vabel on the proposed cinema and potential other uses at the ex-Pizza Express building on Prince of Wales Road, the construction management group with Folgate Estates at the Car Wash site, Highgate Road; the plans for the Murphy site; Segro over Spring Place and Met Police representatives over the Holmes Road development.

Responding to planning applications: as guardians of the KTNF Plan, we object to some and certain aspects of others and suggest amendments and some we give our full support. We attend Camden Council's monthly Planning Committee Meeting and some Scrutiny Committee meetings when issues relevant to KTNF come up.

Keeping residents, workers and the community informed about changes to buildings, planning applications and responses. KTNF via its newsletter and website informs Kentish Town residents about important developments including transport issues, new retail outlets and guards against developments which are outside planning or licensing rules.

Taking an active engagement in greening. It works with Transition Kentish Town, creating and maintaining the Cottage Garden on Kentish Town Overground – Platform One. We also were instrumental in getting 22 planters on Kentish Town Road (High Street), with Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funding and engage in bulb planting twice each year. At Kentish Town Fire Station, after helping to create the community garden, we recently helped them with a public questionnaire and are looking at a wildlife corridor with the Dartmouth Park Neighbourhood Forum.

Helping to protect pubs. Since the last redesignation, KTNF has helped protect the following Kentish Town pubs as Assets of Community Value: The Pineapple, The Oxford (now The Parakeet), The Lady Hamilton, The Vine and The Rose and Crown. Following Covid we resumed work with Kentish Town Road Action to work on getting the remaining pubs in the KTNF Plan listed. We recently succeeded in getting the Lion and Unicorn listed.

We have meetings with business owners and Camden's Business Engagement Department. We have our ear to the ground as a committee member also ran a business in the Kentish Town ward and is a member of the Kentish Town Business Association.

Meetings with community organisations: We engaged with Met Police representative on how to construct community consultation on the refurbishment of the Police Station. We also met with the London Fire

Brigade and advised on publicising its questionnaire. We advised on the Healthy Streets Scheme in Holmes Road. We have also had meetings with the Greater London Authority, Camden Town Unlimited, and liaised with English Heritage.

Working with local organisations: We worked with Kentish Town Road Action applying for the Future High Streets Fund and as mentioned we work with Transition Kentish Town on greening and maintaining community gardens. We have two members of the local Conservation Area Advisory Committee (CAAC) who comment on planning applications and ensure they meet the conditions laid out in the Neighbourhood Plan policies and projects. We also work with Power Up North London, looking at opportunities to install renewables on public buildings in Kentish Town, for example the Caversham Practice and the Kentish Town Community Centre. We spoke at the inaugural Kentish Town Connects meeting and have been regular attendees at the three subsequent meetings where different community organisations exchange ideas and provide updates.

9 Membership and committee structure

Membership of the Forum is open to everyone who lives and works in Kentish Town and who has opted in as member of the Kentish Town Neighbourhood Forum. Our committee is elected each year at our AGM, where we can adopt new members, and we encourage representatives from Kentish Town organisations to nominate representatives to join the Committee or for interested individuals to put themselves forward.

KTNF's decision making is conducted through its committee of up to 15 elected members. Four members of this committee are elected annually to the position of Chair, Deputy Chair, Secretary and Treasurer and are the officers of KTNF. Currently they are Ian Grant, Dee Searle, Brigitte Ascher and Judith Leeb.

The chair's role is supporting as required the chairs of sub-groups; working with the secretary on meeting arrangements; external face of KTNF; chairing committee meetings; chairing AGM; preparing agendas for committee meetings and AGM; calling executive meetings; preparing agendas for executive meetings; interviewing candidates for the Committee; preparing reports; setting policy in conjunction with the executive.

The deputy chair's role is to support the chair, represent KTNF at external meetings, attending executive meetings, receiving and commenting on executive matters.

The secretary takes minutes of committee meetings and the AGM, sending out agendas, sets up meetings along with database and website duties and attends executive meetings.

The treasurer maintains the KTNF bank account, produces annual financial statement, pays bills as necessary and attends executive meetings.

Since the Neighbourhood Plan was redesignated in 2018, officers and committee members have spoken at conferences on neighbourhood planning, attended numerous meetings with various stakeholders including landowners, developers, voluntary groups, and Camden Council to develop our working relationships and learn about other initiatives that might benefit the area.

Our local elected councillors are also automatically members and have attended our committee meetings.

Currently, they are Sylvia McNamara, James Slater, Meric Apek, Joseph Ball and Jenny Headlam Wells.

We have five to six main KTNF committee meetings each year and an Annual General Meeting. We organise into sub-committees or lately task and finish groups. Since the last redesignation, sub-committees include planning; business; greening; Murphy and Regis Road. Working groups include the KTNF Plan, Pubs as Assets of Community Value and an Equality, Diversity and Inclusion consultative committee. We also have a virtual group of people signing up from estates, youth representatives and people of protected characteristics to be notified on matters of interest to KTNF, such as planning applications. Members of the KTNF can be co-opted onto committees, sub-committees and task and finish groups.

10 KTNF is established for the express purpose of promoting or improving the social, economic, and environmental well being

Our purpose is for Kentish Town to have a keen sense of community, maintain and improve the social, economic, and environmental well-being of its residents and workers, protect the heritage and buildings in Kentish Town but be receptive to new ideas and supporting beneficial change. We function as guardians of the Neighbourhood Plan, which was voted in by referendum, and to keep current policies in the plan under review and consider other projects.

KTNF enables local organisations and individuals to discuss ideas and concerns and work together to make Kentish Town a lively and inclusive place to live and work. It also acts as an effective link between the community and the Council, as well as our neighbouring areas via other neighbourhood forums and representative bodies.

KTNF monitors planning applications in the area with the potential to impact the community and consults on and represents local views, on development plans and projects providing a platform for amendments or alternatives for developers and the Council. It is mindful of sustainable development principles when commenting on the applications. It has regular meetings with developers – suggesting amendments to plans – in line with community feedback and the KTNF plan and suggests improvements to public realm.

KTNF is a well-established and publicly recognised community group of local residents and stakeholders living in and working around Kentish Town established to promote and / or improve the social, economic, and environmental well-being of individuals living and working in the area. It has a newsletter going to a subscription of 450 people and active Twitter (now X) account. It has successfully represented the views of local people over planned developments.

Kentish Town expects to have two large areas developed under the Kentish Town Development Framework (it was on the working party) and the area needs a community body to liaise between the developers and stakeholders for optimum outcomes. The respective developers have approached KTNF for consultation and a body of consultative work, in Murphy's case over 8 years' worth, has already been created.

The KTNF Plan is in general conformity with the strategic policies in the development plan of the local area.

KTNF has a diverse membership of individuals and other stakeholders from various locations in the KTNF area which is representative of its demographic character. We have engaged with people of all ages, along with local businesses and organisations and committees which represent all sections of Kentish Town society.

11 Constitution

THE CONSTITUTION OF KENTISH TOWN NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM (KTNF)

Adopted at the Inaugural Annual General Meeting 19 January 2012

Amended at the Special General Meeting 23 April 2012

Minor Amendments 17 October 2012

Updated: 22 April 2024

Statement of General Policies and Objectives

A Neighbourhood Plan will be drawn up by KTNF (hereinafter referred to as 'the Forum'). The Neighbourhood Plan will identify vacant and underused sites such as areas for possible sensitive development that will, within the Local Development Framework, include affordable housing. The Neighbourhood Plan will also specify the preservation of existing heritage buildings.

- i) The Forum will press for the preservation of land used for public purposes and services.
- ii) The Forum will consult with Camden Council and others to improve the local street environment, to respect green issues, sustainability and the preservation and improvement of green open spaces and playgrounds.
- iii) The Forum will make every effort to help shops and businesses within the Forum Area to flourish. The Forum will press for continuing environmental improvements to the High Street.
- iv) The Forum will support local groups in dealing with licensing and planning applications.
- v) The Forum will work with appropriate organisations to maintain and generate greater employment in the Forum Area.
- vi) The Forum will emphasise social benefit, community links, services for young people, the reduction of crime, the generation of neighbourliness and companionship especially for the elderly and housebound.

1. The Area of the Forum

1.1 The Area of Kentish Town Neighbourhood Forum encompasses the north and central area of Kentish Town – on the north side it runs east along the north side of Little Green Street and Ingestre Road and the Ingestre Estate and then it encircles Acland Burghley School. From there (omitting Tufnell Park Station) it runs south down the west side of

Brecknock Road and then down the west of Camden Road. It then crosses from east to west below Bartholomew Road, above Rochester Road. It then runs south along the east side of Kentish Town Road down to the railway bridge. From there it runs north up the west side of Kentish Town Road, including all the shops and buildings in that stretch including 187 Kentish Town Road. It then turns west along the centre of Castle Road. From the end of Castle Road, it follows the west side of the railway line north, including Kentish Town West station, and then it encircles Arctic Street. The boundary goes back onto the railway line and goes north until it meets the bridge over the First Capital Connect railway line. Before the bridge it goes east and then northeast up to the north side of Carker's Lane to join the east side of Highgate Road and continues north to join up at the northern corner of Little Green Street where it meets Highgate Road.

- 1.2 A map of the area showing the boundaries is attached to this Constitution.
- 1.3 The Area of the Kentish Town Neighbourhood Forum Kentish Town is an identifiable area with a sense of community that we would like to foster.
- 1.4 The Area has also been identified because Representative Residents Associations, Conservation Area Advisory Committees, Tenants Associations, individual local businesses, Kentish Town Community Centre, Transition Kentish Town, Kentish Town Police, local schools, GP surgeries, the Church, well-known community groups and individuals have been consulted in creating this Neighbourhood Forum.

They are described as Representative Local Associations (RLA), Local Organisations (LO) and Individuals in this Constitution (see Appendix A). The Forum has the support of Camden Ward Councillors within the Area.

1.5 Membership of The Neighbourhood Forum shall be open to all residents living in the Area and all businesses operating in the Area and all people wanting to live in the Area who have opted in.

2. The Purpose of the Neighbourhood Forum

2.1 The Neighbourhood Forum is set up under the provisions of the Localism Act. The main purpose of Neighbourhood Forums in that Act is to produce a Neighbourhood Plan to further the social, economic, and environmental well-being of individuals and organisations in the Area.

We may wish to be more ambitious and act in many other creative ways to support and improve the Area.

- 2.2 Our tasks and objectives are outlined in our General Policies and Objectives.
- 2.3 We will support and coordinate the views and actions of our constituent groups Representative Local Associations and Local Organisations and Individuals. We will work with Camden Council.
- 2.4 Kentish Town Neighbourhood Forum will be run respecting all differences including gender, age, race and ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, disability, and income.

3. Membership and management

- 3.1 Representative Local Associations, Local Organisations and all residents living in the Area are entitled to become registered members of KTNF if they opt in and will then be entitled to come to and vote at Annual General Meetings and Special General Meetings. All Ward Councillors within the Area are automatically members of the Forum.
- 3.2 Annual General Meetings will be held in January or early February to elect a committee and to agree and lay down General Policies and Objectives.
- 3.3 Special General Meetings can be called by a majority of all committee members or by 30 members requesting one by e-mail or letter to the Secretary.
- 3.4 The Forum Committee, consisting of up to 15 members, will be elected at an Annual General Meeting from members of Representative Local Associations, Local Organisations, and Individuals, with the majority being from Representative Local Associations. The quorum for The Forum Committee meetings will be over 50% of the committee or a defined number of Representative Local Associations, Local Organisations and Individuals with the majority being from Representative Local Associations. The Chair will hold a casting vote if necessary.
- 3.5 Officers: The Forum Committee will be subject to re-election at an Annual General Meeting. The Committee will elect a Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary and Treasurer who will serve for one year.

- 3.6 The Forum Committee will meet at least quarterly to carry out the General Policies and Objectives decided at an Annual General Meeting or a Special General Meeting.
- 3.7 Sub-committees or working parties can be appointed by The Forum Committee to carry out specific tasks, consider policies and to advise The Forum Committee.
- 3.8 Co-option: The Forum Committee can co-opt replacement members up to the full committee number of 15. Co-opted members will have the same voting rights as all the other members of the Committee, in keeping with the RLA majority balance. They will be able to stand as officers.
- 3.9 A Committee member shall be asked to resign if failing, without reasonable explanation and previous apology, to attend 2 consecutive committee meetings.
- 3.10 Minutes of General and Forum Committee meetings will be taken by the Secretary and circulated by e-mail to registered members within 3 weeks of meetings. The minutes be posted on the website.
- 3.11 Registered members: If people wish to be consulted, receive notices of meetings and Minutes they can register with the Secretary by e-mail.
- 3.12 In order to have and demonstrate authority to speak and vote for the area Representative Local Associations and Local Organisations will be required to submit to The Forum Committee, annually and in writing, proof that they are representative and have a mandate for the views of their members. This proof will consist of a description of their membership and in what way they have such a mandate or legitimacy to speak for their areas, whether by consulting their members or, for example Kentish Town Road Action or the Kentish Town Business Association, being demonstrably a voice for other organisations or businesses.

4 Equality Diversity and Inclusion

- 4.1 Kentish Town Neighbourhood Forum is committed to encouraging equality, diversity and inclusion among its volunteers.
- 4.2 KTNF will set up a consultative committee covering equality diversity and inclusion. Participants will be invited from underrepresented groups and a member, or members will represent the group on the main committee.

- 4.3 Representatives are encouraged to seek views on issues affecting the forum from their communities and organisations.
- 4.4 The timing of the meetings of the consultative committee will take into account the commitments of faith groups.
- 4.5 Different views and perspectives are actively welcomed.
- 4.6 Representation should broadly attempt to follow the population characteristics of the 2021 Census for Kentish Town North and Kentish Town South.
- 4.7 Every year, the KTNF committee will review the composition of the committee with regard to equality, diversity and consider whether additional work is necessary.
- 4.8 KTNF will seek an annual meeting with Camden Council to cover emerging issues with regards to Equality, Diversity and Inclusion and be open to training opportunities.
- 4.9 KTNF will consider whether ED&I factors have been addressed adequately in responses to planning applications and if not point out deficiencies.
- 4.10 Where possible, KTNF will work to prioritise diverse and underrepresented businesses for spaces on the High Street.

5. Notices

5.1 Notices about General Meetings will be circulated and published 14 days before the meeting by a posting on the Kentish Town Library notice board as well as by e-mail to all registered members. Local press will be notified of the meetings.

6. Finance

- 6.1 The Forum Committee will open a bank account. Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary and Treasurer will all be signatories for cheques that will require two signatures.
- 6.2 If it is possible that any liability could attach to members or officers of The Forum Committee we will investigate and arrange insurance or some sort of limited liability status.

7 Amendment of the Constitution including the Area of the Neighbourhood Forum

- 7.1 Amendments to the Constitution that the Committee consider to be minor can be made by the Committee, subject to the amendments being notified to all registered members for their comments. If 30 or more registered members object, then 7.2 will take effect.
- 7.2 Major Amendments of the Constitution will be by a majority at a General Meeting with notice of the proposed amendment. This also applies to any winding up of Kentish Town Neighbourhood Forum. Any balance left in any account held by The Forum Committee will, subject to statutory regulations, be distributed equally to the constituent local organisations.
- 7.3 If local people or organisations wish to change the Constitution, or General Policies and Objectives they should give due notice of this to the Secretary 21 days before the General Meeting so this proposal can be circulated.
- 7.4 The law as drafted says that Kentish Town Neighbourhood Forum will be valid for five years. We will take whatever steps are needed to renew our existence.

8. Register of Committee Members' Interests

There will be a Register of Committee Members' Interests kept by the Secretary and open to inspection detailing any financial involvement or interests paid or unpaid in the Kentish Town Neighbourhood Forum Area.

APPENDIX A

Representative Local Associations (Description: Within the Neighbourhood Forum Area: Residents Associations, Tenants Associations, Business Associations, Conservation Area Advisory Committees)

Kentish Town Road Action - KTRA

Kentish Town Business Association – KTBA

Leighton Road Neighbourhood Association - LRNA

Bartholomew Area Residents Association – BARA

Bartholomew and Kentish Town CAAC (Conservation Area Advisory

Committee)

Inkerman Area Residents Association – IARA

Prince of Wales Residents Association – POWRA

Kelly Street Residents Association – KSRA

Hadley Street Residents Association

Torriano Cottages Residents Association

Kennistoun & Willingham Tenants and Residents Association

Transition Kentish Town

Think & Do Camden

Camden Leaseholder Forum

(Description: Within the Neighbourhood Forum Area: Individual residents, community centres, environmental groups, individual local businesses, schools, churches, GP surgeries, Police, Fire Services etc)

Kentish Town Fire Station

Govia Thameslink - Kentish Town Overground

Holmes Road Police Station

St Benet's Church

St Andrews Greek Orthodox Church

Kentish Town Library

Acland Burghley School

Kentish Town Primary School

The French School

Kentish Town Business Association

Kentish Town Stores

EARTH

Owl Bookshop

Boma Garden Centre

Social Pottery

Kentish Town Post Office/Greetings from the Heart

Camden, City, Islington, and Westminster Bereavement

Kentish Town Community Centre

Castlehaven Community Centre

Better Kentish Town

Caversham Group Practice.

St Luke's Church, Oseney Crescent

Boma Garden Centre

The Grafton Public House

The Assembly House

MAP Café

Footnote: Rationale for the Constitution of the Forum Committee. The Constitution has been drafted to ensure that control of the Forum cannot be taken over by unrepresentative groups: e.g., one particular interest group.

APPENDIX 2: Kentish Town Neighbourhood Forum Redesignation

Consultation schedule of responses and Council comments (consultation ran from 5 December 2024 – 29 January 2025)

No.	Consultee	Consultee comments
1.	Resident	I am writing as a resident in the Forum area and a former chair of KTNF to wholeheartedly support the redesignation application. Having seen from the inside the valuable work KTNF has done and continues to do for the residents of Kentish Town it would be wrong to reject the application, so leaving residents unrepresented by a Kentish Town-wide body.
2.	CAMRA North London	Support the application
3.	Highgate Neighbourhood Forum	I am writing to strongly support the redesignation of the Kentish Town Neighbourhood Forum as an important organisation that promotes community involvement in local issues, deepens the democratic aspirations of the council in involving locals in decisions and gives a formalised voice for concerns from the community.
		Neighbourhood Forums and Neighbourhood Plans provide the council with a great opportunity at community level to work on projects and promote council aims such as climate action and equality.
		Camden is fortunate to have a number of Neighbourhood Forums and as small, volunteer-led organisations we work together and support each other on issues of mutual concern. Moving forward we would welcome more support and contact with

		council officers to work effectively with limited means and also maximise the impact we can have in our communities and also in delivering council ambitions.
4.	Transport for London	No comment
5.	Historic England	We have no objections to the renewal of the Neighbourhood Forum as submitted, and do not wish to comment in detail. In the event of the renewal being approved we would advise that this represents an opportunity to review the local evidence base and promote policies for the positive management of heritage assets as part of the Neighbourhood Planning Process. In developing a robust evidence base, upon which to develop polices which sustain and enhance the positive elements of local character, and their settings, we would encourage the Neighbourhood Forum to identify those areas of which require updating
		or further analysis. Further guidance on techniques for identifying and managing character and heritage assets are available on our website which includes links to the following publications: 'Good Practice Guide for Local Listing'; 'Understanding Place: An Introduction'; and 'Streets for All'. These documents can be viewed at: https://historicengland.org.uk/advice/planning/plan-making/improve-your-neighbourhood/
6.	Canal & River Trust	The <u>neighbourhood area boundary</u> extends close to the Regent's Canal and the access to the towpath from Kentish Town Road. We would therefore support any signposting of the Regent's Canal from the Neighbourhood Forum area. We have no other comments to make.

APPENDIX 3: Assessment of application for redesignation of Kentish Town Neighbourhood Forum

Reference	Requirement	LBC comment	Met?
Town and Country Planning Act (TCPA) 1990 Section 61F (5)	A local planning authority may designate an organisation or body as a neighbourhood forum if the authority are satisfied that it meets the following conditions — (a) It is established for the express purpose of promoting or improving the social, economic and environmental well-being of an area that consists of or includes the neighbourhood area concerned (whether or not it is also established for the express purpose of promoting the carrying on of trades, professions or other businesses in such an area)	The application for re-designation confirms that the Forum is established with more than 21 people to promote the social, economic and environmental wellbeing of Kentish Town. The Forum's Constitution sets out the following General Policies and Objectives: • The Forum will press for the preservation of land used for public purposes and services • The Forum will consult with Camden Council and others to improve the local street environment, to respect green issues, sustainability and the preservation and improvement of green open spaces and playgrounds • The Forum will make every effort to help shops and businesses within the Forum area to flourish. The Forum will press for continuing environmental improvements to the High Street • The Forum will support local groups in dealing with licensing and planning applications	Yes

		 The Forum will work with appropriate organisations to maintain and generate greater employment in the Forum area The Forum will emphasise social benefit, community links, services for young people, the reduction of crime, the generation of neighbourliness and companionship especially for the elderly and housebound 	
(b)	Its membership is open to – (i) Individuals who live in the neighbourhood area concerned, (ii) Individuals who work there (whether for businesses carried on there or otherwise), and (iii) Individuals who are elected members of a county, district council or London borough council any of whose area falls within the neighbourhood area concerned	The Constitution states in para. 3.1 that: "Representative Local Associations, Local Organisations and all residents living in the Area are entitled to become registered members of KTNF if they opt in" The application states: "We have engaged with people of all ages, along with local businesses and organisations and committees which represent all sections of Kentish Town society" Further it states: "Our local elected councillors are also automatically members and have attended our committee meetings" This meets the requirements.	Yes
(c)	Its membership includes a minimum of 21 individuals each of whom – (i) Lives in the neighbourhood area concerned,	The Forum has submitted a list of 21 names and addresses to demonstrate that this criterion is met. The details have been checked against LB Camden's electoral roll for local elections.	Yes

	 (ii) Works there (whether for a business carried on there or otherwise), or (iii) Is an elected member of a county court, district council or London borough council any of whose area falls within the neighbourhood area concerned 		
	(d) It has a written constitution	A copy of the Kentish Town Neighbourhood Forum's constitution was provided as part of the application submitted. This document was reviewed and updated prior to the submission of the redesignation application.	Yes
TCPA 1990 Section 61F (7)	A local planning authority - (a) Must, in determining under subsection (5) whether to designate an organisation or body as a neighbourhood forum for a neighbourhood area, have regard to the desirability of designating an organisation or body – (i) Which has secured (or taken reasonable steps to attempt to secure) that its membership includes at least one individual falling within each of subparagraphs (i) to (iii) of subsection (5)(b), (ii) Whose membership is drawn from different places in the neighbourhood area concerned	Officers are satisfied that the membership of the Forum meets the requirements and appropriate governance arrangements are in place to ensure that a broad range of people and organisations are made aware of, and have opportunities to participate in, the Forum's activities. The application confirms that there is a business representative on the Forum's main committee. Local councillors are automatically granted membership by KTNF. The membership is broadly distributed across the area with clusters of members in each of the two principal wards corresponding with the neighbourhood area (Kentish Town North and Kentish Town South).	Yes

and from different sections of the community in that area, and

(iii) Whose purpose reflects (in general terms) the character of that area

The Forum has undertaken a variety of activities to attract new members and establish relationships with a diverse range of groups and organisations. This has been achieved through:

- the setting up of stalls/fairs
- participation in estate days
- engagement with local schools (Acland Burghley and French School)
- the establishment of a consultee subcommittee "to ensure the views from groups of protected characteristics are represented"
- running of a film festival and workshop to foster connections with younger people
- contacts made with Greenwood Centre, Brandon Centre and the Bangladeshi community in Somers Town (the latter to inform KTNF's approach to outreach and engagement)
- meetings with Camden Council's Equalities team
- the exchange of information "with different communities" via KT Connects.

Further, KTNF has reviewed and updated the Forum's Constitution to include a new section on Equality, Diversity and Inclusion. This includes a commitment to keep the composition of the membership under review (in line with Census demographics where possible) and to undertake additional engagement / targeting of populations where this is deemed necessary.

(b) May designate only one organisation or body as a neighbourhood forum for each neighbourhood area,	No other organisation has indicated to the Council that it would be an appropriate body for designation as a neighbourhood forum in the neighbourhood area.	Yes
(c) May designate an organisation or body as a neighbourhood forum only if the organisation or body has made an application to be designated.	The application for designation was received from a body that meets the criteria for designation. The application was submitted in accordance with the relevant procedures.	Yes