

# Consultation Statement

## Redesignation of the Mount Pleasant Neighbourhood Forum

The Mount Pleasant Neighbourhood Forum applied to Camden and Islington Councils to be formally re-designated as a neighbourhood forum. The Forum was established in 2016 and after five years in operation must now re-apply if it is to be formally designated for a further five years.

Under Regulations 6 and 9 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations (2012) the councils are required to publicise the applications to those who live or work in the area to which the applications relate for a minimum of 6 weeks.

Islington and Camden Councils carried out a joint consultation exercise on the forum applications. The consultation and decision making process for each Council is separate. Respondents were informed that representations needed to be made separately to each Council. This consultation statement is for representations made to Islington Council.

The consultation ran from 10 May 2023 to 30 June 2023.

The following consultation actions were carried out:

- Copies of the applications and details on how to respond were made available on the both the Councils websites (consultation page and the Neighbourhood Planning pages).
- Copies of the application were made available at Islington Town Hall, Pancras library in Camden and 31 notices were displayed at locations throughout the Neighbourhood Area (17 notices were placed within Islington's section of the Neighbourhood Area and 14 in Camden).
- All contacts on the Planning Policy databases of both Councils were notified about the consultation. This includes statutory consultation bodies and prescribed bodies, contacts from voluntary and community sector including TRAs and contacts from the development industry.

Nine consultation responses were received. Six responses supported the re-designation and two responses provided more information for the forum when developing and Neighbourhood Plan and one had no objections. A table summarising the representations and the Councils responses are set out on the following page.

In line with Council policy some names and all personal information have been removed (for further information see [www.islington.gov.uk/privacynotice](http://www.islington.gov.uk/privacynotice)).

## Summary of consultation responses

### Ward Councillors

(received by Islington)

### Summary of representation

Cllr Ruth Hayes as a Clerkenwell ward councillor responded to support the re-designation of the neighbourhood forum. The other Clerkenwell ward Councillors Cllr Matt Nathan and Cllr Ben Mackmurdie were copied to the response and also support the re-designation.

The response states that it is of real benefit to bring together representatives from both boroughs covered by the Mount Pleasant Development, and to seek to enhance community engagement and voice. It states there are few opportunities for residents and community groups to share experiences across borough boundaries and to highlight issues of concern and areas for improvement, and this provides a valuable opportunity to develop a neighbourhood plan which draws on residents' experiences.

### **Council response**

Support for the re-designation of the forum is noted.

## **Resident and chair of the Margery Street Tenants and Residents Association**

(received by Islington)

### **Summary of representation**

The representation supports the application to re-designate the forum, and makes the following points:

- It is vital the communities are given a voice regarding developments in their area and considers that this is often overlooked as with the Mount Pleasant development where consultation took place after the plans had been developed.
- The community should be more constructively involved as they know the area and its needs.
- They support well thought out development plans, but this can only happen if there is community input.
- The tenants and residents of Margery Street TRA have been involved in the development of the forum and have been active in many planning applications. To be formally part of the local authority development plans in the area is welcomed.

### **Council response**

Support for the re-designation of the forum is noted.

## **Resident**

(received by Islington)

### **Summary of representation**

The representation states:

- Attended meetings of the Forum from around 2016 onwards and were disappointed with the discussions.
- They consider that Mount Pleasant has been transformed into high rise nothingness.
- They are bewildered that the joint planning brief was approved by Camden and Islington.
- They have no objection to the continuation of the forum and wishes it well, however they consider that until the planning law is amended to decentralise the planning process nothing much will be gained by the neighbourhood forum, whose decisions may be rescinded by local government, the planning inspectorate or the Mayor.

### **Council response**

Noted regarding no objection to designation of the forum.

### **Resident**

(received by Islington)

#### **Summary of representation**

The resident supports re-designation of the Mount Pleasant Neighbourhood Forum.

They state that due to large scale development in the area it is important that residents and local businesses are involved to maintain and diverse, multi-use, liveable space.

They are concerned about developers maximising profits through too dense development, lack of green space, a predominance of residential use and empty homes.

They refer to the Coin Street development on the South Bank as a positive example of community led development.

They consider the Mount Pleasant development could be asset for the future with community input which provided for a variety of people's needs

### **Council response**

Support for the re-designation is noted.

### **The Metropolitan Police**

(received by Islington and Camden)

#### **Summary of representation**

The Metropolitan Police responded stating that they are supportive of neighbourhood forums generally and to advocate for Secured by Design and use of a designing out crime officer.

They encourage Local Planning Authorities to actively engage with Metropolitan Police Designing Out Crime Officers and to apply Secured by Design planning conditions where appropriate. They extend this advice to the Neighbourhood Forum.

Further detailed information was enclosed which can be used by the Neighbourhood Forum when developing a Neighbourhood Plan, and citing the benefits of a Designing Out Crime approach.

### **Council response**

The Council notes the support for the neighbourhood forums generally.

### **Natural England**

(received by Islington)

#### **Summary of representation**

Natural England responded to providing no comment on the forum. Response provided information that the forum may wish to use when developing a Neighbourhood Plan to identify environmental risks and opportunities.

Response noted.

## **Transport for London (TfL)**

(received by Camden)

### **Summary of representation**

TfL confirm that we have no objections to the re-designation of Mount Pleasant Neighbourhood Forum.

### **Council response**

Noted.

## **Resident**

(received by Camden)

### **Summary of representation**

The resident supports the application.

At a time of heavy and multiple developments in this area it is important that a forum exists to provide a voice for the existing and incoming communities.

The Forum has important links to the residents associations in the area, which have been key in working with developers in the area such as the UCL Estate, to lever funding for improvements to the estates.

This does not compensate for the aggravation experienced by all residents but it does give agency. We now have more and more residents coming forward to engage with us.

This is the power of communities uniting in forums like this one and why, in such a central area of London which is subject to so much redevelopment it is so important to grant this re-designation. The aim is not to hinder but to strengthen good change.

### **Council response**

Support for the re-designation is noted.

## **Resident**

(received by Camden)

### **Summary of representation**

The resident wholeheartedly supports the re-designing the Mount Pleasant Neighbourhood Forum (2023) and confirms they live within the Forum's boundaries.

### **Council response**

Support for the re-designation is noted.