

Submission to apply for a Neighbourhood Forum

The name of the proposed neighbourhood forum is Abram Ward Neighbourhood Forum. It will have approximately 100 members, living or working in a geographic spread across the proposed Neighbourhood Area. It will meet legal requirements as it will have an elected committee and a constitution.

The proposed Neighbourhood Area is known as Abram Ward and it lies in the centre of Wigan Borough. It shares boundaries with Ince (Ince Ward) to the north, Hindley (Hindley Ward) and Hindley Green (Hindley Green Ward) to the north-east, Leigh (Leigh West Ward) to the east, Golborne and Lowton (Golborne and Lowton West Ward) to the south, Ashton (Ashton Ward) and Bryn (Bryn Ward) to the west and Wigan (Worsley Mesnes Ward) to the north-west.

It includes all of the electoral Ward of Abram with the exception of the relatively recent Chatsworth Fold housing estate in the north of the Ward, as a large part of that estate is in Ince Ward and the Ward boundary does not relate well to features on the ground at that point.

As such the proposed neighbourhood area includes the settlements of Abram, Platt Bridge, Bamfurlong, Spring View (with the exception of the Chatsworth Fold estate) and Bickershaw.

Local residents, local volunteers, community groups, local businesses, community hubs and statutory organisations working across the Abram Ward, plus current Members of Abram Ward Community Cooperative, were emailed to inform of a public meeting open to all that would be held within the Platt Bridge Community Forum monthly meetings, held on Thursday 12 March 2015 at 7.00pm at Platt Bridge Community Zone, 81 Ribble Road, Platt Bridge.

The meeting attracted 15 people. 3 people emailed to say they could not attend but would like to put their name forward to be included as Members. A vote to establish a Neighbourhood Forum was passed unanimously. A meeting will take place on the 5 May 2015 in which the Constitution will be adopted.

Anyone living or working in the proposed Neighbourhood Area can become a forum member, free of charge, and attend our monthly meetings.

The membership will reflect gender balance, a broad geographic spread in our area across the 5 Villages within the Ward, a spread of ages and socio-economic background.

There are people who work in small businesses and in small private sector organisations within the Abram Ward. There are parents and retired people. There are members who are also involved in other local organisations including Abram Tenants and Residents Group, Platt Bridge Community Forum and Spring View Neighbourhood Group, Local Authority representatives from Wigan and Leigh Homes and Platt Bridge Children's Centre, and Senior members of local Primary Schools.

We are a non-political organisation and have asked all Ward Councillors in the Abram Ward if they would like to be members of Abram Ward Neighbourhood

Forum and/or attend meetings. All 3 Ward Councillors have committed to attend meetings.

The contact details for a member of our Management Committee are:

David Baxter, Secretary, Platt Bridge Community Zone, 81 Ribble Road, Platt Bridge, 01942 732022, d.baxter@abramwardcooperative.org