

2nd March 2018

Dear members,

We are pleased to write to you to let you know that finally, in December, The Over Hulton Neighbourhood Forum was given designated status by Bolton Council. **This is absolutely fantastic news.**

What does this mean?

This means that we are now recognised by Bolton Council as a body that can create a Neighbourhood Plan for the Over Hulton area. Only designated Neighbourhood Forums or Parish Councils hold this status.

What is a Neighbourhood Plan?

In very simple terms, a neighbourhood plan is:

- A document that sets out planning policies for the neighbourhood area – planning policies are used to decide whether to approve planning applications
- Written by the local community, the people who know and love the area, rather than the Local Planning Authority
- A powerful tool to ensure the community gets the right types of development, in the right place.

Local people can create a plan allowing them to develop planning policies that reflect the priorities of their area and have real legal weight. The whole community then decides at a referendum vote whether the local authority should bring the plan into force. A neighbourhood plan is an important document with real legal force, therefore there are certain formal procedures that it must go through.

What is the difference between Over Hulton Neighbourhood Forum and HEART?

HEART is a campaign group, which is currently supporting residents to prevent the development of Hulton Park. The Over Hulton Neighbourhood Forum has been set up to help residents to have a voice in the future of the whole of our designated area. Whilst this does include Hulton Park, we are not set up to be an opposition group to this development.

What happens next?

Now that we have been designated, we will be looking to engage with the Over Hulton community by holding events to understand future priorities for Over Hulton. As you are a member of the Forum, you are invited to attend our first **AGM Meeting at St Andrew's Church, Over Hulton on Tuesday 27 March 2018 from 19.00 – 21.00.** (A donation of £1 is asked for to cover

the cost of room hire/refreshments). Please feel free to bring along any neighbours or colleagues with you who live in the area who wish to attend, however they would be unable to vote on the evening. Membership forms will be available on the evening for them to complete so that they can be included in our other future events.

At the AGM, we aim to bring you upto speed with what the group has been working on over the last 12 months on your behalf, election of current Committee, updates on research and meetings to date and our next steps. As this will be our first formal meeting, there will be an opportunity to add items onto the agenda and would ask that these items are sent to the Secretary no later than 7 days prior to the event, so we can add onto the agenda. Now that we are designed, we have commissioned our Website and Facebook page which will be announced very soon.

How can you help?

If you would like to help us as we start to develop the Over Hulton Neighbourhood Plan, then please reply to this email. Members who can support us with our ongoing research who have specialisms in areas such as :

Printing/Marketing/PR : Legal/Barristers : Engineering : Drainage :
Transport/Roads/Infrastructure : Air Quality : Geology/Soil Contamination : Archaeology : Mining
Specialist : Environmental : Utilities : Cultural Heritage : Golf specialisms : Over Hulton Historian
: Funding Options.

We look forward to meeting you at one of our events shortly.

The Over Hulton Neighbourhood Forum Committee

Agenda Items to be sent to the Secretary by email, post or text no later than Friday 16 March 2018

Email: overhulton.np@gmail.com : Mobile : 07919 477760

Post 702 Manchester Road, Over Hulton, Bolton, BL5 1BD