

Minutes of Over Hulton Neighbourhood Forum
2 March 2017
Meeting held at 702 Manchester Road Over Hulton Bolton
7pm

Attendees: D Parkinson C Bevis N Taylor
M Bevis N Douglas
Guests : Simon Godley (Bolton Council)

No previous actions.

SG kindly attended our meeting to explain to us what our next steps would be in the neighbourhood planning process.

Progress on the neighbourhood plan so far was explained to SG and from research on other plans we spoke about how this would work for the area. We provided details of 21 members who had signed up already to become a designated forum and confirmed how we are working on our designated area so that we can apply for a designated area and to become a designated body by the Council.

SG helped us understand the limitations with designated areas and the complexities of the boundaries between Atherton/Over Hulton/Westhoughton.

The basis of starting the process is that a neighbourhood area and neighbourhood forum need to be designated. Bolton Council formally designates both of these, but it is for the local community to propose the Neighbourhood Area and the membership of the Neighbourhood Forum to the Council. He explained that the Locality Neighbourhood Plan Roadmap Guide is very helpful on these processes (pages 18-24).

The usual order is to designate the area first, followed by the forum, though they can be done at the same time. The best approach he advised was for us and members to think through what area you would like to see designated, (Pg 19 of the Locality advice for some ideas about how to do this). Also worth thinking about who would be on the neighbourhood forum, and how that would fit with the legal requirements.

On boundaries, he guided us to the Council's web pages to see the borough boundary (it's also shown on any Ordnance Survey map). If you follow this link [My Bolton](#) click the box next to 'Council and democracy' and you will get a drop down menu; then click the 'wards' box. This will give you the boundaries of all the wards; the southern boundary of Hulton ward might be a sensible boundary, because to the south of that the land is in Wigan.

We also need to be aware that in Westhoughton, only the Town Council can prepare a Neighbourhood Plan and he showed us a plan showing the extent of the Westhoughton town council area. It is possible to prepare a joint Neighbourhood Plan with the Town Council, but we need to think how far west we want our boundaries to go.

After discussion, the Committee decided that our NP should focus exclusively on Over Hulton, which should negate the need to involve Westhoughton Town Council. From this we will share our plans with further members of the community, formally elect our committee and formally confirm the area that we will cover. Following this we anticipate we will then have what we need to apply for our designated area and to become a designated body to start the Neighbourhood Planning process.

In summary, he advised he thinks the best approach would be to think about boundaries in the light of all the advice given, and then meet up to discuss any further progress following the AGM public meeting on 8th March.

Date of Next Meeting
8th March 2017