



**CROYDON**  
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**Lambeth**

  
Southwark  
Council



5<sup>th</sup> June 2015

Dear Robert and Francis,

## CRYSTAL PALACE AND UPPER NORWOOD NEIGHBOURHOOD AREA AND FORUM APPLICATIONS

Thank you for attending the joint boroughs meeting on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> May. I hope you found the meeting useful. As agreed by Councillor Hopkins at the end of the meeting the 5 boroughs are now sending you a joint letter summarising the actions arising out of the meeting.

In terms of next steps the boroughs asked:

1. That you give further thought to the boundaries you have chosen for the area in the light of comments made at the meeting. The statutory requirements require that any applications for a neighbourhood area must provide a statement explaining why this area is considered appropriate. It was felt that more information is required on this i.e. referencing how any overlaps with other emerging neighbourhood forums would be resolved and the relative advantage and disadvantage of including a small area within Lewisham. Also further consideration for the inclusion of Crystal Palace park itself which is protected from development by its MOL status.
2. That you consider carefully how much your ambitions and aspirations for the area can be satisfied by engaging in the various development plan work of the 5 boroughs before you embark down the neighbourhood planning route. The boroughs asked you to particularly consider what the driving force behind the need for a neighbourhood plan was and whether it could not be achieved by engaging more closely with the various boroughs on their upcoming development plan work.
3. That you give further thought to the make up of the forum reflecting on the comments made by Councillors at the meeting regarding the representativeness of the existing membership. Are all sectors of the community represented and all parts of the area covered? The statutory requirements stipulate that the organisation/body which makes an application for a neighbourhood area should be made up of members who come from different places within the neighbourhood area, come from different sections of the community and reflect the general character of the area. Given the ambitious wide geographical coverage of the proposed Crystal Palace and Upper Norwood area it was felt that

more information should be provided to illustrate how you consider the existing membership is representative of the area.

4. That you note that the 5 councils have only limited resources to help you through the neighbourhood plan process and that all will be expecting a substantial level of the work to be carried out by the forum. Help and guidance will of course be available but the formulation of the policies in the plan must come from your own efforts.

In relation to the 5 boroughs we are holding your applications in abeyance until you have had time to reflect on the comments made above and can come back to us with any further thoughts/clarification.

As was mentioned at the meeting, processing your applications through 5 boroughs' administrative and political processes is going to be a big challenge but it is one that the boroughs want to be as smooth as possible. In this respect we think it is better to spend a little bit more time at the start of the process getting all the details right before making your applications 'live'. Once that happens the 5 boroughs will have 20 weeks to process the applications including 6 weeks public consultation so there will have to be close co-ordination between the different authorities and the different ways they will come to a decision.

Finally, we recognise that one immediate benefit that the proposed forum will bring is a much needed voice for the area which can help pull the 5 boroughs closer together in their plan making and regeneration activities in Crystal Palace and Upper Norwood. All 5 boroughs would be keen to use the new forum to help them produce representative plan policies for the area and to channel regeneration activities into matters which can make a real difference to the area.

We look forward to hearing from you before proceeding any further.

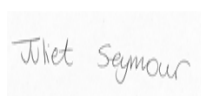
Yours sincerely,



Alan Vinall – Delivery Lead Planning Strategy & Policy



Steve Dennington - Team Leader Plan Making (Deputy Service Head - Spatial Planning)



Juliet Seymour – Planning Policy Manger

*Brian Regan*

Brian Regan – Planning Policy Manager

*Mary Manuel*

Mary Manuel - Head of Planning Strategy and Projects