

HOVE PARK NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM CONSTITUTION

1. Name or Organisation

The Hove Park Neighbourhood Forum, hereinafter referred to as “the Forum”, agrees to be the designated “Neighbourhood Forum” for the Hove Park Neighbourhood Area, hereinafter referred to as “the Neighbourhood Area” as outlined by a bold line on the attached plan.

2. Aims

The Forum is established for the express purpose of promoting and improving the social, economic and environmental well being of the Neighbourhood Area, particularly through the preparation and implementation of a Neighbourhood Plan.

3. Membership

3.1 Unless stated otherwise, all participants in Forum matters must be Forum Members who must be:

3.1.1 individuals who live in the area of the Neighbourhood Area or

3.1.2 individuals who work in the Neighbourhood Area or

3.1.3 individuals who are elected members of Brighton & Hove City Council of a City Ward falling within the Neighbourhood Area

3.2 The Forum must have a minimum membership of twenty-one individuals

3.3 The Forum will seek to have at least one Forum Member from each of the three categories in 3.1 above

3.4 Membership will begin as soon as the Membership Secretary has received the membership form.

3.5 A list of Forum Members will be kept by the Membership Secretary and this information will not be disclosed to any persons except Committee Officers and Brighton and Hove City Council Officers on condition that its contents are not disclosed to any third parties.

3.6 Forum Members may resign at any time in writing to the Secretary.

3.7 The Forum Committee shall terminate the membership, with immediate effect, of those who fail to comply with 3.1 above

3.8 The Forum Committee may terminate, with immediate effect, the Forum Membership of anyone expressing racist, sexist, inflammatory and other offensive remarks. The Forum Committee must give a Forum Member a minimum of twenty-one days' written notice of their intention to terminate a Forum Member's membership and the reason for proposing to do so. The Forum Member has a right to be heard by the Forum Committee before the proposal is considered.

3.9 The Forum may make Forum Membership subject to a subscription the amount of which has to be agreed to at each Annual General Meeting

4. Equal Opportunities

The Forum will not discriminate on ground of gender, race, colour, ethnic or national origins, sexuality, disability, religious or political belief, marital status or age.

5. Officers and Committee

5.1 The business of the Forum will be managed by a Forum Committee comprised of Committee Officers

5.2 The Committee Officers are to be Forum Members and will include the following:

5.2.1 Chairperson

5.2.2 Vice Chairperson

5.2.3 Secretary

5.2.4 Membership Secretary

5.2.5 Treasurer

5.3 The Committee Officers are to be elected at a General Meeting of the Forum.

5.4 The Committee Officers' roles are as follows:

5.4.1 Chairperson shall chair both Annual and Special General and Forum Committee meetings

5.4.2 Vice-Chairperson shall deputise for the Chair

5.4.3 Secretary shall be responsible for conducting correspondence, the taking of minutes and the distribution of all papers and establishing a Forum Website

5.4.4 Membership Secretary shall be responsible for keeping records of members

5.4.5 Treasurer shall be responsible for maintaining accounts for each Forum Financial Year. The Forum Financial Year to be from 1st April in each year or such other date as shall from time to time be decided at an Annual or Special General Meeting.

5.5 In the event of a Committee Officer standing down during the year, the Forum Committee shall appoint a replacement for the period up to the next Annual or Special General Meeting.

5.6 The Forum Committee has the power to co-opt up to four additional Committee Members, in order to ensure that the people who live and/or work in the area are appropriately represented.

5.7 Any Committee Officer or Member not attending three consecutive meetings without apology may be dismissed by a simple majority vote of the Committee Officers.

5.8 Forum Committee responsibilities:

5.8.1 the overall management of the business of the Forum

5.8.2 Agreeing and ensuring the implementation of the Communications and Community Engagement Strategy.

5.8.3 Coordinating the work of Working Groups.

5.8.4 Drafting, agreeing and promoting the implementation of the Neighbourhood Plan.

5.9 Committee meetings.

5.9.1 The Forum Committee shall meet on no fewer than four occasions in any financial year.

5.9.2 On two occasions each year the Forum Committee meeting will be open to all Forum Members.

5.9.3 Agenda papers and minutes will be posted on the Forum Website and will be available in printed format on request.

5.9.4 A quorum for the Forum Committee will be four Committee Officers and Committee Members.

5.9.5 Voting shall be conducted on the basis of a simple majority of Committee Officers and Members

6. The Annual General Meeting.

6.1 The Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held within three months of the end of the Forum Financial Year with entry restricted to Forum Members.

6.2 All Forum Members will be notified in writing, giving the venue, date and time, at least fourteen days before the date of the AGM.

6.3 Nominations for Committee Officers and Members are to be made in writing by a Forum Member to the Secretary at least seven days prior to the date of the AGM and are to be seconded by one other Forum Member and endorsed by the nominee.

6.4 A quorum for the AGM will be 20% of the membership or seven Committee Officers and Members, whichever is the lesser number.

6.5 At the AGM

6.5.1 The Committee Officers will present a report of the work of the Hove Park Neighbourhood Forum over the previous year

6.5.2 The Committee will present the accounts of the Forum for the previous Forum Financial Year

6.5.3 The Committee Officers and Committee Members for the next year will be elected

6.6 Special General Meetings

6.6.1 The Secretary will call a Special General Meeting at the request of the majority of the Forum Committee or at least eight other Forum Members on the receipt of a written request to do so to the Secretary stating the reason for their request.

6.6.2 The meeting will take place within twenty eight days of the receipt of the request.

6.6.3 All members will be given fourteen days notice of such a meeting, giving the venue, date, time and agenda.

6.6.4 The Quorum for the Special General Meeting will be 10% of the membership or seven members whichever is the lesser.

6.7 Rules of Procedure for Committee Meetings, Annual General Meetings and Special General Meetings

6.7.1 All questions that arise at any meeting will be discussed openly and the meeting will seek to find general agreement.

6.7.2 All decisions and elections made at meetings shall be decided by a simple majority of those attending and shall, if required by a minimum of three Forum Members at the meeting, be by a secret ballot supervised by the Secretary.

6.7.3 The Chairperson shall not vote except in the event of tied voting or in the election of the Chairperson.

6.7.4 All notices to Forum Members may be served by telephone, post or electronically and may be posted on the Forum Website

6.8 Meetings of the Forum : Have Your Say Events

6.8.1 These events are open to all Forum Members and members of the public.

6.8.2 The Forum may hold a minimum of three events in the year following the AGM.

6.8.3 The content and structure of these events will vary according to priorities determined by the Forum Committee. Generally the programme will enable the Forum to:

6.8.3.1 Showcase its activities, particularly the evolving Neighbourhood

6.8.3.2 Recruit new Forum Members

6.8.3.3 Enable Forum Working Groups to have discussions with wider groups of local people

6.8.3.4 Facilitate Q&A sessions with Brighton & Hove City Council officers, councillors and developers with an interest in the area; and

6.8.3.5 Share experiences with voluntary and community sector organisations from elsewhere in the city and other towns and cities which are preparing and involved in implementing Neighbourhood Plans

7. Working Groups

7.1 The Forum Committee may establish Forum Working Groups under the supervision of a convener.

7.2. Working Groups are to comprise a minimum of two Forum Members.

7.3 Working Groups are to develop the working arrangements that suit them best and meet as required to investigate and discuss the issues assigned to them.

7.4 The Convener or Deputy Convener shall report to the Forum Committee at Committee Meetings.

8. Liaison With Other Interested Parties

8.1 The Forum will engage with each other and people, groups and Forums in adjacent areas and take their views into account in the drafting of any neighbourhood development plan.

8.2 The Forum may appoint a Member or a group of Members who will:

8.2.1 consider issues outside of the Forum area (including the impacts on immediately adjoining residents and businesses) as well as engaging and liaising with other residents groups or individuals in neighbouring areas.

8.2.2 will work on cross-boundary issues.

8.2.3 identify immediately adjoining residences and businesses and conduct consultation directly with the occupants prior to the drafting of the neighbourhood plans.

8.2.4 Liaise with Brighton and Hove City Council regarding strategic issues, such as traffic and transport, and links to the City Plan.

9. Partner Organisations

9.1 To further its aims, the Forum will work in partnership with relevant public, private and community/voluntary sector organisation.

9.2. In particular, the work of the Forum will complement, rather than duplicate, the work of voluntary and community sector organisations in the area.

10. Finance

10.1. An account will be maintained in the Forum's name at a bank agreed by the Forum Committee.

10.2 All transactions shall be authorized by a minimum of two nominated signatories who are not to be related nor be members of the same household.

10.2. Records of income and expenditure will be maintained by the Treasurer and a financial statement given to each Forum Committee and General Meeting.

10.3. All money raised by or on behalf of the Forum is only to be used to further the aims of the Forum, as specified in Item 2 of this Constitution.

11. Amendments to the Constitution

11.1 Amendments to the constitution may only be made at the Annual General Meeting or a Special General Meeting.

11.2 Any proposal to amend the constitution must be given to the Secretary in writing. The proposal must then be circulated with the notice of the meeting.

11.3 Any proposal to amend the constitution will require a two thirds majority of those

present and entitled to vote.

12. Dissolution

12.1 If the Forum Committee, or Forum Members in the event of it having ceased to function, decide that it is necessary to close down the Forum, a Special General Meeting may, on giving fourteen days notice to the last known addresses of all known Forum Members, be convened with the sole business being to dissolve the group.

12.2 If, by a simple majority of Members attending, it is agreed to dissolve the group, all remaining money and other assets, once outstanding debts have been paid, will be donated to a local charitable organisation. The organisation to receive the donation would be agreed at the meeting held to agree the dissolution.

This constitution was agreed at the Committee Meeting of the Hove Park Neighbourhood Forum on the twenty-ninth day of June 2015

Signed Colin Hancox
Colin Hancox, Chairman, Hove Park Neighbourhood Forum

Signed V. Brown
Cllr. Mrs Vanessa Brown, Committee Member, Hove Park Neighbourhood Forum

Signed J. Bennett
Cllr. Mrs Jayne Bennett, Committee Member, Hove Park Neighbourhood Forum

Hove Park Neighbourhood Area – designated 18 September 2014

