

APPENDIX 2

Spitalfields Neighbourhood Planning Forum Public Consultation Summary

1) Role of this report

This document provides a summary on the level of representation, and the matters discussed within representations, during the formal public consultation period for the applications to establish a Neighbourhood Planning Forum made by Spitalfields Neighbourhood Planning Forum.

The report takes account of relevant planning matters in representations submitted to the London Borough of Tower Hamlets.

This paper has been prepared by the London Borough of Tower Hamlets for public information and to inform the Council's decision making process. It is not intended to address any of the issues raised during the consultation period.

2) Consultation activities undertaken by the Council

The formal public consultation period ran from 5 January to 16 February 2015.

Consultation activities undertaken by the Council were carried out in accordance with Neighbourhood Planning Regulations. Activities undertaken were as follows:

- Provision of consultation information and application material on the Council's website (www.towerhamlets.gov.uk).
- Provision of consultation information and application material to the Idea Store Whitechapel and LBTH Market Services for inspection by interested parties.
- Provision of information to elected Councillors in the relevant areas.
- Publication of a Public Notice in East End Life.

These activities also followed the principles of the guidance for the production of policy documents as set out in the Council's Statement of Community Involvement (SCI).

3) Approach to categorising representations made

During the public consultation period, the public are able to make representations on the contents of the area and forum applications submitted to the Council. Typically, representations are made by local residents, local Councillors, landowners, businesses, interests groups, statutory consultees and neighbouring Local Authorities. Representations were not made by all parties directly consulted.

This document presents representations in no particular order. Representation figures calculate submitted responses and as such do not limit representations to one per household or one per business. The following categories have been used to categorise representations:

Support	Have stated explicit support, or support has been inferred from the contents of the representation
Object	Have stated explicit objection, or objection has been inferred from the contents of the representation
Neutral	Have offered comments but not determined if they object or support the application

Petition	A written objection signed by multiple signatories
No comment	Where no comment has been made and no position on the matter can be inferred
Concerned	Do not state they object but highlight areas of concern

4) Summary of responses related to the Forum based application

Number of representations received

Support	Objection	Neutral	No comment	Petition	Concerned	Total
23	5*	7	1	1	0	36**

*5 objection letters were submitted individually. 1 of the objection letters includes the petition and 603 signed proforma letters.

**This number does not include the petition. The petition was signed by 654 separate signatories in objection to the Forum and of the 603 signed proforma letters. 307 were from businesses including market stall holders and 32 were from residents.

Comments made by statutory bodies and neighbouring authorities

- No comments were made on the purpose, membership or constitution of the proposed Forum.

Summary of matters raised in support:

- Forum members are found to be agreeable.
- The Forum has a representative framework that is diverse and committed to “hearing each other”.
- The Forum is democratic and aims to provide continuity and commitment to One Tower Hamlets.
- The Area and Forum would give residents a stronger voice on planning issues.
- “We have already benefited from engagement with such a diverse group of individual, community groups and businesses”.
- “Designation will help support, protect and encourage sensitive and appropriate social, economic, environmental and property growth and enrichment of the area”.
- The range of members will allow for a strategic and spatial vision to be achieved in the proposed Area.
- The constitution was found to be agreeable.

Summary of matters raised by objectors:

- A Forum based on the proposed Area would not be able to effectively or efficiently deliver a neighbourhood plan.
- There was a lack of inclusiveness on the part of the Proposed Forum’s Interim Steering Group in developing the proposed Area and consultation was incomplete and unsatisfactory.
- There was a failure in governance on the part of the proposed Forum’s Interim Steering Group in relation to membership being conditioned to acceptance of the proposed Area.
- Failure to comply with legislation with regards to consultation and membership.
- The Forum’s consultation was incomplete and not comprehensive during the preparation of the proposed Area with consultation periods not taking into consideration Ramadan or the summer holiday season.