

Application for re-designation of South Woodford Neighbourhood Forum

Neighbourhood Forum

1. The name of the Neighbourhood Forum is **South Woodford Neighbourhood Forum**.
2. **Statement:** The South Woodford Society Neighbourhood Forum was established with the express purpose of promoting and improving the social, economic and environmental well-being of South Woodford (as defined by the attached map, Appendix A). In addition, you will note that one of the principles outlined in our constitution states that the South Woodford Society “will assist and promote social activities for recreation and enjoyment, and encourage a community spirit and sense of responsibility” and furthermore “to set out a neighbourhood plan for a specified area within the E18 postcode area.”
3. The South Woodford Society, with the support of our local councillors, is the **South Woodford Neighbourhood Forum**. Our membership, constitution and councillor involvement means that we continue to meet the criteria for a neighbourhood forum. Details of the constitution are included in Appendix B and also on our website: www.sowosoc.org.
4. **Membership of the Forum** is open to all individuals who live or work in the area and also to elected members representing the area. Our membership is open to everyone who lives, works or visits and uses South Woodford as their local town centre.
5. As far as we are aware, there are no other groups in the E18 area who have expressed an interest in writing a neighbourhood plan therefore it is important that the whole area can benefit from its inclusion. We intend to work closely with neighbouring forums and any communities that decide not to have a forum – in developing our Neighbourhood Plan and to co-operate over issues of mutual interest. To date, we have met with the Chingford Neighbourhood Forum, the Highgate Neighbourhood Forum, and more recently with the Maybank Residents Association.
6. SWSoc is a non-profit members’ organisation with over 700 members, comprising local businesses and residents mainly within the E18 area (see Appendix C). The aim of the Society is to make South Woodford a better place to live, work and visit, to encourage community spirit and involvement, to protect the character of our suburban town and ensure the town centre remains active and vibrant. One of the key aims of the Society is to create a Neighbourhood Plan, thereby empowering local people to help shape South Woodford.
7. **The South Woodford Neighbourhood Forum** is a capable and qualified group to manage the Neighbourhood Plan. The forum is made up of some key people who have helped build the Neighbourhood Plan, from planners, lawyers and architects to accountants, web designers and project managers as well as support from local councillors. We have been established formally for over 5 years. We regularly meet, attend and speak at council meetings, have a very good collective level of local knowledge, are well connected within the community, are able to advertise and encourage community involvement and all of us wish to be involved in the development of the neighbourhood plan.

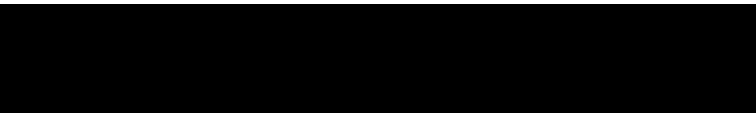
8. We are a relevant body to make this application under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended), Localism Act 2011, Schedule 9 Part 1, Section 61F(5), and the Town & Country Planning, England, The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012, Part 2, because:
- a) Our membership is open to everyone who lives or works in the area and to Councillors.
 - b) We have more than 21 members (as of October 2025, we have 772).
 - c) We have a written Constitution.
 - d) We have been established to promote the social, economic and environmental well-being of our area.
 - e) We have a membership drawn from different places and sections of the community in the area.
 - f) We are supported by both current and ex-councillors.

Neighbourhood Area

9. A map of the Area of our Neighbourhood Forum is attached (Appendix A). The name of the area will continue to be the South Woodford Neighbourhood Forum Area.
10. **Statement:** We believe that under the Town & Country Planning, England, The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012, Part 2, and the Localism Act 2011, Schedule 9 Part 1, Section 61FG, of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended):
- a) This is the appropriate area for our Neighbourhood Forum as it is the area widely regarded as “South Woodford” by those who live and work in the area, within the Local Authority area of Redbridge.
 - b) The South Woodford Society Neighbourhood Forum is a relevant body for the purposes of making the application for Neighbourhood Area.
 - c) The above organisation is capable of being designated as a Neighbourhood Forum
 - d) To the best of our knowledge, the proposed Neighbourhood Area does not consist of or include the whole or any part of the area of a parish council.
11. Our Neighbourhood Area and Forum covers the entire built up area within the E18 postal district, as this is the official postal area to that locally defined as South Woodford. Where we were unsure if particular streets regarded themselves as being a part of South Woodford, we consulted residents directly for their views. It is a diverse area but it is quite simply and clearly defined by the postcode.


Chair
October 2025

Contacts:



APPENDICES

APPENDIX A - Neighbourhood Plan Area Boundary

APPENDIX B - South Woodford Neighbourhood Forum Constitution

APPENDIX C - Copies of SoWo Media Articles (Part 1 & 2)