

Calderdale MBC

Wards Affected

Cabinet

Date

15 September 2014

ITEM 8

Park Ward Neighbourhood Forum and Area Designation

Report of the Director, Economy and Environment

1. ISSUE

- 1.1 Designation of the prospective Park Ward Neighbourhood Forum under Section 61F of the Town & Country Planning Act 1990 and the designation of the Neighbourhood Area for which the Neighbourhood Forum will be granted planning powers under Section 61G of the Town & Country Planning Act 1990.

2. NEED FOR A DECISION

- 2.1 Designation of the Neighbourhood Forum and agreement to the area covered is a legal process which requires approval of Council.

3. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended:

- 3.1 That Cabinet recommend to Council that the prospective Park Ward Neighbourhood Forum is designated as the Neighbourhood Forum for the area covering Park Ward in accordance with Section 61F of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990; and
- 3.2 That Cabinet recommend to Council that the whole of Park Ward is designated as a Neighbourhood Area in accordance with Section 61G of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.

4. BACKGROUND AND/OR DETAILS

4.1 The Localism Act 2011 introduced new powers available to communities which enables them to take responsibility for the planning of their local area with the power to :

- make a neighbourhood development plan (NDP);
- make a neighbourhood development order (NDO);
- make a Community Right to Build Order (CrtBO);

4.3 The powers can only be taken-up by “qualifying bodies” which are of two forms : -

1. **Parish and Town Councils.** These bodies have the right to take up the Neighbourhood Development Plan powers, but need the formal agreement of the Council to the area for which these powers will apply;
2. **Neighbourhood Forums.** These bodies can be set up in areas not covered by Town or Parish Councils. The formal designation of the Neighbourhood Forum requires the approval of the Council and the area for which they will take the Neighbourhood Planning Powers also requires a separate resolution.

4.4 The Localism Act 2011 provided a new statutory regime in relation to neighbourhood planning and introduced changes to the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 and the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 outline the detailed requirements for neighbourhood planning, including the procedures for designating a neighbourhood area and forum.

4.5 Once it is established the Neighbourhood Forum legally exists for 5 years from the date of designation and will cease to exist after the expiry of 5 years. The Council can however withdraw the designation of the Forum if it shown that it no longer meets the criteria under which it was designated. Any Neighbourhood Development Plan that the Forum prepares during their existence however remains in place once it is “made” by the Council.

4.6. Designation of a Neighbourhood Forum

Section 61F (5) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 provides that the LPA may designate an organisation or body as a Neighbourhood Forum if they are satisfied that it meets the following conditions :-

- It is established for the express purpose of promoting or improving the social, economic and environmental wellbeing of an area that consists of or includes the neighbourhood area concerned (whether or not it is also established for the express purpose of promoting the carrying on of trades, professions or other businesses in such an area);
- membership of the group must be open to : -
 - individuals who live in the neighbourhood area concerned,
 - individuals who work there (whether for businesses carried on there or otherwise), and
 - individuals who are elected members of Calderdale MBC whose Ward falls within the neighbourhood area concerned,
- membership must include a minimum of 21 individuals each of whom : -

- lives in the neighbourhood area concerned,
- works there (whether for a business carried on there or otherwise), or
- is an elected member of Calderdale MBC whose Ward falls within the neighbourhood area concerned, and
- The group is required to have a written constitution.

4.7 The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 require that application for designation as a Neighbourhood Area must include the following information:-

- A map which identifies the area to which the application relates
- A statement explaining why this area is considered appropriate to be designated as a neighbourhood area
- A statement that the organisation or body is a relevant body for the purposes of Section 61G of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.

4.8 The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 require that application for designation as a Neighbourhood Forum must include the following information:-

- The name of the proposed neighbourhood forum
- A copy of the written constitution of the proposed neighbourhood forum
- The name of the neighbourhood area to which the application relates and a map which identifies the area
- The contact details of at least one member of the proposed neighbourhood forum to be made public
- A statement which explains how the proposed neighbourhood forum meets the conditions set out in paragraph 4.6 above.

4.9 The Park Ward Neighbourhood Forum and Area applications were received on 12th and 9th May 2014 respectively and the application documents are set out in Appendix 1 – 4. The Council is satisfied that the requirements of the Regulations have been met in terms of the contents of these submissions and that valid applications have been made.

5. CONSULTATION

5.1 The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 require the Council to publicise a neighbourhood area and neighbourhood forum application. The Council undertook public consultation which went above and beyond the requirements of the legislation.

5.2 Formal consultation commenced on Friday 13th June 2014 and closed on Friday 25th July 2014. Statutory Notices were placed in the Halifax Courier, consultation documents were placed at Halifax Customer First; Queens Road Community Centre; Hanson Lane Enterprise Centre and in King Cross Library; Notices were distributed to churches, mosques, shops and other places where members of the community may congregate. Notice was also provided through the Local Plan (Consultation email address list) to the persons and organisations that have registered to be kept up to date with the Local Plan. The matter was raised at the Park Ward Forum. Restructuring of the Local Plan web-pages allowed us to set out more detailed information and facilitate on-line engagement. A questionnaire was established which allowed respondents to say “yes” or “no” to the granting of approval for the Forum.

5.3 Comments Received

There have been 4 responses from Statutory Consultees each of whom have requested that their interests are taken into account during plan preparation:

- Coal Authority;
- English Heritage;
- Natural England;
- Department for Environment Fisheries and Rural Affairs (DEFRA);

5.4 Two further comments of “No comment” were also received, from Kirklees and Wakefield Council’s.

5.5 There have been no comments at all from within the community, which raises concerns about the effectiveness of the outreach/advertising as well as the appetite within the community to take forward Neighbourhood Planning. The challenge for the new Forum will be to ensure that people and businesses within Park Ward are aware of their work and support the preparation of the NDP. The challenge for the Council is to see how matters can be handled differently for any further applications.

6. OPTIONS CONSIDERED

6.1 The designation of a neighbourhood forum and neighbourhood area are two separate processes and there are two separate options for each of the required resolutions: -

- A. To designate the Neighbourhood Forum or not;
- B. To agree the designation of a Neighbourhood Area or to reject the designation of a Neighbourhood Area.

6.2 OPTION A: DESIGNATING THE NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM

6.3 The choice is either to designate the Neighbourhood Forum or not.

6.4 Paragraph 4.6 above details the conditions that must be met before designating a Neighbourhood Forum and these are now considered:-

- i. The written constitution submitted states at paragraph three that the purpose of the Forum is *“To promote and improve the social, economic, health and environmental wellbeing of the Area”*. It is therefore considered that the Forum meets the requirement that it is established for the express purpose of promoting or improving the social, economic and environmental wellbeing of an area
- ii. The written constitution submitted states that *“Membership is open to all residents living in the area, all businesses based in the area and the elected Members for the area.”* It is therefore considered that the Forum membership rules satisfy the legal requirements.
- iii. At the time of the application there were twenty-six (26) members of the prospective Neighbourhood Forum. The names, addresses and contact

details of the membership were submitted as part of the application. Membership includes Local Councillors and people working or living in the Park Ward area.

- iv. The proposed Neighbourhood Forum has also satisfied the need to have a written constitution as this was submitted with their application and is appended at Appendix 2 for information and consideration.

6.5 In addition to the four conditions, the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 states that the LPA must have regard to three further considerations:-

- i. The desirability of designating an organisation or body which has secured (or taken reasonable steps to attempt to secure) that its membership includes at least one individual falling within the required categories (as set out in bullet point two under paragraph 4.6;

COMMENT – there were 26 members of the prospective Forum at the time of the application. These included local Councillors, residents of the local area, representatives of churches and mosques and the business community. The prospective Forum has worked with Halifax Opportunities Trust and the Council's Neighbourhoods and Communities officers based at Queens Road Neighbourhood Centre and held a number of themed workshops as identified in Appendix 1 to raise awareness of the prospective Forum and neighbourhood planning project. It is considered that the prospective Neighbourhood Forum meets the requirements of this test.

- ii. Whether membership is drawn from different places in the neighbourhood area concerned and from different sections of the community in that area;

COMMENT – the prospective Forum draws its membership from a wide geographic area across Park Ward, and therefore meets this criterion;

- iii. Whether the purpose of the neighbourhood forum reflects (in general terms) the character of the area;

COMMENT – Park Ward is the centre of the ethnic communities within Calderdale. The forum draws largely from the local ethnic community and has a number of white British members. As a result it is considered that the prospective Forum generally reflect the character of the area.

6.6 There is a desire within the prospective Forum to work hard for the development of the area and to identify sites which can be developed or protected to support economic growth and the needs of the people of the area.

6.7 Whilst it is disappointing that no local residents or businesses either supported or made representations against the designation of the Forum, this in itself is not a reason to refuse the application. It will be for the Neighbourhood Forum once it is established to ensure that its engagement with the community is sufficient and appropriate to ensure that any Neighbourhood Development Plan that they prepare can be supported by the community within Park Ward through the referendum process.

- 6.8 Not granting designation would send out a very negative message to communities around the district that are considering Neighbourhood Planning.
- 6.9 As a result it is considered appropriate to designate the prospective Park Ward Neighbourhood Forum as the Neighbourhood Forum.
- 6.10 **OPTION B: APPROVING THE AREA**
- 6.11 There are choices associated with this part of the application process. The Council can: -
- a. approve the Park Ward as the Neighbourhood Area;
 - b. reject the neighbourhood area in its entirety; OR
 - c. to make amendments to the area that will be designated.
- 6.12 The LPA can designate a Neighbourhood Area but can only do so if a valid application has been made and that application was made by a “Relevant Body.”
- 6.13 Paragraph 4.7 above sets out what the requirements of a valid application are and the relevant documentation is annexed at Appendix 3 and 4. The LPA considers that a valid application has been made and has been made by a “Relevant Body.”
- 6.14 Park Ward is a well-defined part of the urban form of Halifax as is shown by the map in Appendix 4. It is defined by major roads to the south and east, and whilst the northern and western boundaries follow features (such as minor roads or boundaries) there are no reasons why the area of Park Ward should not be regarded as an appropriate area for which a NDP could be brought forward, or for other powers which the Forum could take or could be deployed.
- 6.15 As a result it is considered appropriate to designate Park Ward as the area for which the powers associated with neighbourhood planning should be granted.

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 Once the Forum has been formally designated the Council has a “Duty to Support” the creation and development of the Neighbourhood Development Plan the local planning authority is legally required to advise or assist those bodies producing a Neighbourhood Plan in its area.

This could include things like:

- arranging meetings, as appropriate, with the qualifying body;
- making available data for the evidence base, such as housing need data, development viability considerations, environmental designations, and flood risk assessments;
- setting out local strategic policies in the Local Plan;
- setting out national policies which will need to be considered;
- providing advice on the legal requirements for Neighbourhood Planning under the Localism Act;
- providing advice on general planning matters;
- sharing information on key contacts and stakeholders;

- making available venues and helping to arrange community engagement activities, to avoid consultation overload and maximise efficiencies of resources;
- checking the plan prior to formal submission;
- participation in meetings of the qualifying body or its working groups;
- providing advice on who needs to be consulted, especially in order to help the draft proposals meet the basic conditions (such as compatibility with EU obligations);
- providing technical support, such as assistance in laying out and illustrating a plan;
- providing members for neighbourhood forums or more informal steering/working groups;
- identifying any need for and undertaking environmental assessment or Habitat Regulations assessment.

7.2 The Duty to Support does not require the giving of financial assistance to parish councils or designated neighbourhood forums, but Councils may offer financial assistance if they wish. This Council does not have a budget specifically for supporting Neighbourhood Planning, and therefore support will generally be in kind and through staff time and assistance rather than financial contributions.

7.3 The Government has recognised the liabilities that Councils will have in respect of Neighbourhood Planning and has established a fund against which the Council can draw down phased funding called Neighbourhood Planning Grant. For the Financial year 2014/15 the arrangements set by DCLG are as follows: -

- The first payment of £5,000 will be made following designation of a neighbourhood area recognising the officer time supporting and advising the community in taking forward a neighbourhood plan. For authorities designating several neighbourhood areas, each local planning authority can claim up to a maximum of £100,000 for area designations, in 2013/14.
- The second payment of £5,000 will be made when the local planning authority publicises the neighbourhood plan prior to examination. This will contribute towards the costs of the examination as well as other staff costs incurred at this stage.
- The third payment of £20,000 will be made on successful completion of the neighbourhood planning examination. This is to cover costs for that examination and any other further steps that may be needed for the neighbourhood plan to come into legal force, including referendum. However, the payment is not dependent on pursuing the referendum route if both parties agree on a different approach at that point (for example, if both parties agree, the neighbourhood plan could be taken forward as part of the local plan or as a supplementary planning document). There is no cap in 2013/14 or 2014/15.

8. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY

8.1 The Equality Act 2010 introduced a new public sector equality duty (the equality duty or the duty). It covers the following nine protected characteristics: age, disability,

gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.

8.2 In summary, the Council must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act.
- Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

8.3 The duty continues to be a “have regard duty”, and the weight to be attached to it is a matter for the decision maker, bearing in mind the issues of relevance and proportionality.

It is considered that there are no direct equality and diversity implications arising from this decision.

9. RISK AND LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

9.1 Granting Neighbourhood Planning Powers gives the Neighbourhood Forum the power to bring forward the following: -

- a neighbourhood development plan (NDP);
- a neighbourhood development order (NDO);
- a Community Right to Build Order (CrtBO);

Preparation of these plans and orders would be the responsibility of the Forum.

However the Council would be responsible for final checking of the NDP and for appointing the Inspector to undertake the examination and arranging the referendum. Ultimately the major risk is that the forum could fail to bring forward a “sound” Neighbourhood Development Plan. However that is not a reason which should weigh against designation.

9.2 Ensuring the Council fulfils its “Duty to Support” obligations (generally set out in paragraph 7.1) will help ensure that the Neighbourhood Forum addresses the relevant planning and other issues as they progress in plan making and avoid potential issues through the process.

9.3 The Town and Country Planning Act 1990 Section 61F and 61G (as amended by the Localism Act 2011) provides the framework for the Council to grant the powers sought by these applications from the prospective Park Ward Neighbourhood Forum.

10. CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS / POPULATION OUTCOMES

10.1 The granting of the powers to the Neighbourhood Forum will contribute to the Council’s priority outcomes for: -

Growth : *driving economic development and enterprise;*

The NDP will bring forward policies and ideas for growth and development within the Park Ward to meet the aims and aspirations of the local community;

Ambition : *raising aspiration and achievement for all our residents;*

The NDP will help to promote enterprise across Park Ward, and allow the community to develop its own vision of a better future;

Resilience : *supporting personal, community and environmental resilience;*

Designation of the Forum will be seen as having faith in the local community that they can become creative and resourceful in dealing with their own planning issues;

11. CONCLUSION

11.1 This application by the prospective Park Ward Neighbourhood Forum is the first in Calderdale from a community group wishing to take up the neighbourhood planning powers derived from the Localism Act 2011. The prospective forum meets the criteria for designation and covers a defined and clear area (Park Ward). As a result it is concluded that the prospective Park Ward Neighbourhood Forum should be designated as the Neighbourhood Forum under Section 61F of the T&CP Act 1990 and the area for which it is given powers is the area of Park Ward.

Ian Gray
Director of Economy & Environment

For further information on this report, contact:

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The documents used in the preparation of this report are:

1. Localism Act 2011;
2. T&CP Planning Act 1990 (as amended);
3. Locality – Neighbourhood Plans Roadmap Guide 2013;
4. Calderdale Council- Neighbourhood Development Plans Guidance March 2013;

The documents are available for inspection at:

On the internet or Council's web-site;

LETTER REQUESTING DESIGNATION AS FORUM

Ms. Merran McRae
Chief Executive
Calderdale Metropolitan Borough Council
Town Hall
Halifax

12th May 2014

Dear Merran McRae,

Town and Country Planning Act 1990
The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012
Designation of Park Ward Neighbourhood Forum

Further to my letter of 9th May 2014 requesting designation of Park ward as a Neighbourhood Area, I am writing now to request the designation of our neighbourhood forum under Section 61 of the above Act.

The application is made by the prospective Park Ward neighbourhood forum, which is capable of being a qualifying body within the terms of Section 61.

Please refer to the following documents attached to my letter of 9th May:

- A copy of the constitution of the Forum
- A list of all current members of the Forum
- A map showing the boundaries of Park ward, which is the area we intend to be designated as a Neighbourhood Area

The prospective neighbourhood forum comprises 21 or more people living, working or acting as elected members in the area. Membership is open to people living, working or acting as elected members in the area. The membership is drawn from different places in the area and different sections of the community. We have taken all reasonable steps to make sure that the Membership of the prospective neighbourhood forum reflects the character and diversity of the local population.

The Forum was formed at a public meeting (the “Park Ward Summit”) held on 19th February 2014 at St. Augustine’s Centre on Hanson Lane, following a series of themed meetings over the previous year to develop ideas and priorities in relation to Housing, Open Space, Education (two sessions), and Employment/Economy. Between 10 and 30 people attended each of these events, which included a session on education with a group of 25 schoolchildren. A walkabout/visual audit was also undertaken in June 2013 which identified over 20 potential development sites and buildings within the ward. Notes and minutes of these events can be made available if required.

The “Park Ward Summit” fed back on the results of these earlier sessions and those present agreed to take forward a Neighbourhood Development Plan and to form the Park Ward Neighbourhood Forum. Since then a smaller Steering Group, which I chair, has met on three occasions to take the proposals further, including one meeting with the Council’s Development Strategy Manager, Phil Ratcliffe. Two representatives also attended a national residential “Neighbourhood Planning Camp” in York in late March. Both Halifax Opportunities Trust and Locality have played important support roles in helping us to get to where we are now.

Until further notice I will be the publicly named point of contact for the Forum and should this change in the future (following our first AGM) we will notify the Council.

For the above reasons we consider that the Forum meets the terms of Section 61 to be recognised by the Local Planning Authority as a Neighbourhood Forum for the purpose of creating a statutory Neighbourhood Development Plan for Park Ward and I look forward to receiving your confirmation that this is also the view of Calderdale MBC.

Yours sincerely

Councillor Jenny Lynn

APPENDIX 2

CONSTITUTION OF PROSPECTIVE PARK WARD NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM

Park Ward (Halifax) Neighbourhood Forum Constitution

Name and Area

1. The name of the group shall be '**Park Ward Neighbourhood Forum**' ("the Forum").
2. The Area shall be the Park Ward situated within the district of Calderdale, West Yorkshire.

Purposes

3. To promote and improve the social, economic, health and environmental wellbeing of the Area.
4. To draw up, agree and implement a statutory Neighbourhood Development Plan for the Area as defined by the Localism Act 2011.

Powers

5. In pursuit of the above purposes and for no other reason the Forum may hold funds and other assets and maintain such banking arrangements as are required to implement its purposes.

Membership

6. Full Membership of the Forum shall be on an individual basis only.
7. Full Membership shall be open to all residents living in the Area, businesses based in the area and the elected Calderdale MBC councillors for the Area.
 - a) Businesses with an interest in the Area can become Associate Members of the Forum, can attend meetings, including the AGM, can volunteer for the Forum and receive Forum mailings but cannot vote at the AGM.
 - b) Community and voluntary organisations and public services operating in and serving the Area can send representatives to meetings as above and receive mailings and other publicity but cannot vote at any meetings.
 - c) Membership of the Forum should at all times be a minimum of 21 individuals
 - d) Members may be contacted by the Executive (see below) from time to time to act as a litmus test for ideas and proposals or to be invited to participate in other activities related to the work of the Forum

4. General Meetings

The Forum's ultimate authority comes from its Annual and other General Meetings.

- a) The AGM, and any other public meetings held, give legitimacy to the Executive of the Forum (as defined below) and the plans they or Forum task or working groups may develop
- b) If there is more than one public meeting in any one year, one will be designated as the AGM
- c) The AGM will be called with at least 21 days' notice once per year, not more than fifteen months from the date of the preceding AGM, by informing all residential properties in the ward and all members including Associate Members.
- d) The AGM has the power to both elect, and remove by a vote of no confidence, any member of the Executive
- e) At each AGM the Chair will provide a written report, the Treasurer will provide a set of accounts for the previous year and the proceedings will be recorded in writing.
- f) Voting will be restricted to full members present at the meeting on a one member one vote basis.

5. Forum Executive

- a) The Executive exists to co-ordinate, implement and monitor the work of the Forum including developing a Neighbourhood Plan for the Area. It will prioritise, schedule and publicise the work of the Forum
- b) The Executive is made up from Forum members elected at the AGM. Numbers on the Executive will be determined by the membership at each AGM but shall not be fewer than nine nor more than fifteen. Executive members will be elected for a three year period with one third standing down at each AGM.
- c) The Executive must meet not less than eight times in any twelve month period with no less than two months between meetings.
- d) The Executive will determine its officers subject to the proviso that these must include a Chair, Vice Chair, a Secretary and a Treasurer.
- e) **Individuals** with specialist skills may be co-opted onto the Executive on a non-voting basis and the Executive may set up Task or Working Groups of Forum members for specific projects or tasks to be undertaken.
- f) The Executive will liaise with the relevant bodies such as the Council, other public services, businesses, schools and colleges, faith groups and community and voluntary organisations relevant to the Area.
- g) **Executive** decision making can be by consensus or after a vote – the Chair will have a second (casting) vote in the event of a tie. The quorum for decisions shall be 5 voting members.
- h) The Executive has the power to draw up a Code of conduct by which all members must abide, including determining the consequences for breaches of the Code of Conduct
- i) Only full members of the Forum may stand for the Executive and should be nominated by a member or Associate Member
- j) The Executive will receive and consider reports from all Task or Working Groups

6. Forum Funding

The Forum can raise funds for its activities by one or more of the following methods:

- a) Charging membership fees on an individual and/or associate member basis – level of fees to be agreed at an AGM or extraordinary general meeting
- b) Submitting applications to grant awarding bodies for appropriate funds
- c) Working in partnership with organisations which have funds to spend in the Park ward
- d) By other means in keeping with the role of the Forum, including revenue from the website,

donations, and proceeds from events

7. Amendments to the Constitution

Amendments to this Constitution may be made only at a properly convened General Meeting called with a minimum of 21 days' notice to all voting members and by a two thirds majority of those present and voting.

8. Dissolution

a) The Forum may be dissolved only by a two thirds vote of those present and voting at a properly constituted General Meeting.

b) In the event of dissolution of the Forum its assets will be distributed to one or more non-profit organisations whose purposes are consistent with the purposes of the Forum as set out above, as determined by a simple majority vote of those present at the meeting called to dissolve the Forum.

April 2014

LETTER REQUESTING DESIGNATION OF NEIGHBOURHOOD AREA

Ms. Merran McRae
Chief Executive
Calderdale Metropolitan Borough Council
Town Hall
Halifax

9th May 2014

Dear Merran McRae,

**Town and Country Planning Act 1990
The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012
Designation of Neighbourhood Area
Park Ward Prospective Neighbourhood Forum/Area**

I am writing to request the designation of a neighbourhood area under Section 61 of the above Act.

The application is made by the prospective Park Ward neighbourhood forum, which is capable of being a qualifying body within the terms of Section 61. The prospective neighbourhood forum comprises 21 or more people living, working or acting as elected members in the area. The membership is drawn from different places in the area and different sections of the community. There is a written constitution which includes the express purpose of promoting or improving the social, economic and environmental wellbeing of an area that consists of or includes the neighbourhood area concerned. Enclosed is a list of people making up the forum and a copy of the constitution.

Having considered options for the neighbourhood area, the prospective neighbourhood forum would like the area indicated on the enclosed plan to be designated. The rationale for the neighbourhood area is that the proposed boundary is based on the existing Park Ward boundary and that this boundary is already recognised by the local population who think of themselves as being a part of the Park Ward area. This has been borne out by the consultation Halifax Opportunities Trust and Calderdale Council's neighbourhood team have undertaken regarding the proposed Park Ward Neighbourhood Development Plan to date as well as their many years of active engagement in the area. Throughout the consultation local people of all ages and backgrounds have consistently referred to the area as Park Ward and identified issues and sights within the recognised ward boundary.

The boundaries of the ward are natural boundaries. Park ward is encircled by the A646, A58 and Snake Hill Wood to the North and East with the High School and Asda superstore acting as a further identifiable boundary. Local people identify with Park ward as an area and make reference to the neighbourhood within it as such.

On a practical note, gathering data and demographic information, the political dynamic and working with partner organisations is all a more simple process if we follow the ward boundary.

Regards

Jenny Lynn

PARK WARD AREA FOR FORUM AND GRANT OF POWERS

