

Somers Town Neighbourhood Forum Constitution

1. NAME

The association's name is Somers Town Neighbourhood Forum (and in this document is called the Forum).

2. THE PURPOSE OF THE FORUM IS

2.1 To promote sustainable development* in the neighbourhood of Somers Town (see map of the area) by:

- Promoting sustainable means of achieving social wellbeing, economic growth and regeneration.
- Improving the opportunities for and abilities of local people to secure jobs in the local and London labour market.
- Promoting a distinctive, healthy, safe and sustainable environment where people feel valued, secure and committed.
- Encouraging young people to realise their potential and play a full and active part in the local community.
- Bringing people together and celebrating cultural diversity.

* Sustainable development means "development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."

3. STRUCTURE AND LIABILITY

- 3.1 The Forum shall be managed by a representative Committee who are appointed at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Forum.
- 3.2 Unless expressly provided otherwise, the liability of all members of the Forum for their respective obligations and liabilities in tort contract or otherwise shall be several and shall extend only to any loss, liability or damage arising from their own acts or omissions.
- 3.3 Where more than one of the members is liable for the same obligation or liability, liability for the total sum recoverable shall be attributed to the relevant persons in equal shares.
- 3.4 Unless expressly provided otherwise, under no circumstances shall members be jointly liable for any loss, liability or damage arising from any of their acts or omissions.

4. CARRYING OUT THE PURPOSES

4.1 Subject to Clause 4.2, the Committee have the power to:

- Raise funds, receive grants and donations.
- Apply funds to carry out the work of the Forum.
- Co-operate with and support other organisations with similar purposes.
- Do anything that is lawful and necessary to achieve the purposes.

- 4.2 Unless otherwise agreed by a unanimous vote of the members, no committee member shall have the power or authority to enter into any third party contractual or other legally binding agreements on behalf of the members, and/or any of the other Committee members.
- 4.3 Any contracts entered into on behalf of the Forum, and/or registered members of the Forum, will be binding only on those Committee members that have authorised the contract by way of execution of the contractual documentation.
- 4.4 All liabilities of the Committee shall be several. Where more than one member of the Committee is liable for the same obligation or liability, liability for the total sum recoverable shall be attributed to the relevant persons in equal shares.
- 4.5 Funds of the association may be used to indemnify any liability costs or expenses that may be incurred by the Committee in the lawful and proper administration of the Forum.

5. MEMBERSHIP

- 5.1 Membership of the Forum shall be open to all residents living in the area, local ward councillors, and all businesses and civil society organisations operating in the area.
- 5.2 The Forum shall have a representative Committee of at least 21 and no more than 28 people representing each registered Forum member, of which at least 50 per cent shall be local tenants and residents' representatives. The Committee shall elect officers (chair, vice chair, secretary and treasurer). The Committee membership should reflect the population make-up and diversity of the neighbourhood:
 - 14x people who live in the neighbourhood (representatives of tenants and residents' organisations and/or with a commitment to talk to neighbours and build constituency).
 - 6x permanent places: 1 x local councillor (can be shared), Somers Town Community Association, Origin Housing, Francis Crick Institute, British Library, St Pancras Station.
 - 3x local business places.
 - 1x local schools place.
 - 4x voluntary and community sector places.
 - Co-opted advisors as necessary to provide expertise and equalities guidance.
- 5.3 Forum working groups will be set up as necessary to advise and influence the open Forum and Committee. They will have their own membership and decision-making arrangements, but should have at least one Committee member each.
- 5.4 The committee will keep an up-to-date membership list of registered Forum members.
- 5.5 The Committee may remove a person's membership if they believe it is in the best interests of the Forum. The member has the right to be heard by the Committee before the decision is made and can be accompanied by a friend.

6 EQUALITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

- 6.1 Somers Town Neighbourhood Forum is committed to inclusiveness and to reflecting the diversity of the neighbourhood. We will actively promote equality and encourage involvement from all sections of the community which shall be reflected in the membership of our Committee and subcommittees, regardless of gender, age, race, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, disability and income.
- 6.2 Somers Town Neighbourhood Forum will ensure there is an open, fair and transparent approach to encouraging nominations to the Forum Committee and subcommittees to ensure those sitting on committees reflect, as far as possible, the diversity of people living and working within the neighbourhood. The Forum will review at least annually the membership of the committees and act accordingly to ensure that we have a diverse and inclusive team.
- 6.3 When consulting the wider community, and especially when plan-making, we will actively reach out to as many people who live and work here as possible, by holding meetings, workshops and one-to-one conversations in a range of venues and at different times. Where possible, our communications will reflect the needs of our diverse community.
- 6.4 A range of views and perspectives are actively welcomed. We will strive to hear seldom heard voices.

7. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – AGM

- 7.1 The AGM must be held every year, with 14 days' notice given to all members telling them what is on the agenda. Minutes must be kept of the AGM.
- 7.2 There must be at least 10 members present at the AGM.
- 7.3 Every member has one vote.
- 7.4 The Chair shall present the annual report and accounts.
- 7.5 Any member representing tenants and residents, local businesses, institutions and civil society groups may stand for election to the representative Committee.
- 7.6 Members shall agree at least 21, but no more than 28, representatives to serve for the next year. They will retire at the next AGM but may stand for re-election.

8. MEETINGS

- 8.1 The Committee must hold at least 3 open meetings each year. All meetings should, within reason, remain "open" to non-Committee members.
- 8.2 At their first meeting after the AGM they will elect a chair, vice chair, treasurer and secretary. The Committee may act by majority decision.
- 8.3 At least 7 Committee members must be present at the meeting to be able to take decisions. Minutes shall be kept of every meeting.
- 8.4 If Committee members have a conflict of interest they must declare it and leave the meeting whilst the matter is being discussed or decided.
- 8.5 The Committee may make reasonable additional rules to help run the Forum. These rules must not conflict with this constitution or the law.

9. MONEY AND PROPERTY

- 9.1 Money and property must only be used for the Forum's purposes.
- 9.2 The Forum must keep accounts. The most recent annual accounts can be seen by anybody on request.
- 9.3 Committee members cannot receive any money or property from the Forum, except to refund reasonable out-of-pocket expenses.
- 9.4 Money must be held in the Forum's bank account. All cheques must be signed by 2 officers.

10. GENERAL MEETINGS

- 10.1 If the Committee considers it is necessary to change the constitution, or wind up the association, they must call a General Meeting so that the membership can make the decision.
- 10.2 The Committee must also call a General Meeting if they receive a written request supported by the majority of all registered members. All members must be given 14 days' notice and told the reason for the meeting. All decisions require a two thirds majority. Minutes must be kept.
- 10.3 Winding up – any money or property remaining after payment of debts must be given to an association with similar purposes to this one.
- 10.4 Changes to the constitution can be made at AGMS or General Meetings.
- 10.5 General Meetings – called on written request from a majority of members.