

Statement for designation as a Neighbourhood Area

The North Paddington Society, in accordance with the 2012 Localism legislation, wishes to apply to Westminster City Council to be designated as responsible for a Neighbourhood Area to be known as the Maida Hill Neighbourhood Area, as the first stage of the formation of a Neighbourhood Forum to be known as the Maida Hill Neighbourhood Forum.

This area is considered appropriate for designation for the following reasons:

The area is known as Maida Hill, and defined by the ward boundaries of the Harrow Road Ward.

Residents living in this area share common environmental and social issues and concerns.

We have an ethnically diverse population and a broad socio-economic mix with a strong sense of local community.

Housing density is very high - our ward is statutorily overcrowded, and open spaces are at a premium. There is a shortage of green landscape.

Our ward is dominated by street properties rather than high-rise, with a high level of social housing.

We have a greater than ward average of older people with support needs, and far above average levels of people with mental and physical ill health; along with a growing number of young families.

There is a higher than average unemployment rate in this ward and a great need for enterprise and employment opportunities.

Harrow Road Ward is part of the North-West Westminster Economic Development Area.

The ward is dominated by the Harrow Road retail area, which is in decline and presents a depressing aspect for residents.

Local people have worked hard to turn Maida Hill Place into a friendly and flourishing space - an example of the commitment of residents to develop this area into a thriving and positive community.

Maida Hill Place could act as a catalyst to attract more quality retail outlets into the area, and with it enterprise and employment opportunities.

We already have a strong and active network of community groups including North Paddington Society, WECH, Timebank, The Gardening Action Group, The Waste Action Group, active Residents Associations, strong links with local Housing Association Residents Groups, and more than 2500 'Street Reps' – local people who represent their neighbours in the ward.

1/2

The North Paddington Society is a longstanding amenity society capable of being responsible for forming a neighbourhood forum, together with active local community groups.

The North Paddington Society has agreed that it is the appropriate body to launch the Maida Hill Neighbourhood Forum, in association with local groups and organisations such as:

WECH

The Gardening Action Group

The Waste Action Group

Timebank

Hormead Association

There are at least 21 members who live, or work, or are elected Councilors in the Harrow Road Ward who would belong to the forum.

We have held a public meeting with more than 21 local residents in attendance, unanimously approving the formation of a Maida Hill Neighbourhood Forum.

As a Neighbourhood Forum we would aim for a constructive and defined participation in addressing local planning issues and we would help monitor some of Westminster's own planning implementations where relevant.

A Maida Hill Neighbourhood Forum will develop an environmentally and socially conscious Neighbourhood Plan for the benefit of all of those who live and work in the area.

We are aware that our neighbouring wards are also applying to be recognised as Neighbourhood Forums.

The Harrow Road Ward area is not governed by a parish council.

We hereby apply to be a designated Maida Hill Neighbourhood Area.

