

Additional Representations Deptford Neighbourhood Action re-designation

Respondent	Representation submitted
<p>Sydenham Hill Ridge (received 29th September 2021)</p>	<p>re: Support for re-designation of Deptford Neighbourhood Forum and Deptford Neighbourhood Area</p> <p>I am writing in my personal capacity as Secretary of Sydenham Hill Ridge Neighbourhood Forum (SHRNF), one of Lewisham’s Neighbourhood Forums, from the establishment of the Forum in October 2018 to 1st June 2021.</p> <p>Through my time of office as SHRNF Secretary, I found Andrea Carey and the DNA team an inspiration for the work of SHRNF. The DNA team generously shared knowledge with me how to set up and manage a Neighbourhood Forum in Lewisham, and spoke encouragingly of Lewisham as a borough which encourages Neighbourhood Forums.</p> <p>It is very important that Neighbourhood Forums be allowed to complete their Neighbourhood Plan; and that residents, businesses and volunteers in the Neighbourhood Area are not deprived of the right to vote whether to approve such a Plan or not, due to technicalities within the Neighbourhood Planning process (such as the need to be re-designated 5 years after formation).</p> <p>I will be pleased to provide any further evidence you may require of the seriousness with which Andrea and the DNA team have gone about the work of communicating with other Neighbourhood Forums in Lewisham, and spreading a message that Lewisham wants to engage with its Neighbourhood Forums, as indeed has been my experience during my time as Secretary of SHRNF.</p>
<p>Len Duvall, London assembly member for Greenwich and Lewisham (received 26th September 2021)</p>	<p>I want to start by praising the excellent work of Deptford Neighbourhood Action in supporting and encouraging both the local community in Deptford and the work of the council among this community.</p> <p>The Draft Neighbourhood Plan submitted here addresses community needs as identified through extensive engagement with a wide cross section of the community. Faith groups, diverse cultural groups, schools and marginalised peoples have all played a role in developing the Plan being submitted. Deptford Neighbourhood Action have also spent time on outreach in key local areas, involving as many different people as possible to ensure this Plan is a clear reflection of the needs and priorities of Deptford’s local community.</p>

The plan outlines benefits to the local Deptford area and more widely Lewisham. These benefits include:

- Ongoing community engagement
- Creation of new employment opportunities
- Social justice and social integration
- Continuing redevelopment of Deptford
- Climate change and the circular community
- Improved biodiversity and greening
- Healthy living
- Heritage and identity of Deptford

DNA has set the community voice at the heart of its work and is committed to strengthening the role of the community in local planning issues. The Neighbourhood Plan outlines how this work will continue, with the inclusion of community groups through the proposed Community Projects. The annual resident and employee 'State of Health and Well-Being Deptford' survey will make sure that local voices continue to feed into the ongoing work of DNA.

Through its prioritisation of local heritage alongside driving improvements to local infrastructure the DNA Plan also addresses the population growth seen recently in Deptford. With wider growth set to continue, DNA's neighbourhood plan ensures this redevelopment will support a stronger community and supports Lewisham's plans to bring further regeneration and redevelopment to the area.

Local engagement has developed the Plan, meaning that it now includes innovative ideas to maximise improvements. The community displayed a real concern for climate change and the role that local communities can play in decarbonisation and the move to net-zero. The DNA Neighbourhood Plan includes this and proposes how Deptford can play a role in combatting climate change.

The Green Links network, a map which is available at D4.7, is a key part of this work. It will promote improvements to the green infrastructure of Deptford, encouraging walking and cycling and improving streetscapes through urban greening. This builds upon the North Lewisham Links Policy of the council and makes sure that the outlying areas such as the Silverwood Estate are brought to the fore and community links strengthened.

The plan put forward by DNA reflects the views of the local community. It reflects the concerns of those living in Deptford and will help Lewisham Council to bring cohesion and a sense of community to an area which has seen

	<p>significant redevelopment and population growth. The Plan offers community-led improvements whose objectives are to make Deptford the best place to live that it can be, as set out by those who know it best.</p> <p>Lewisham Council is committed to the processes of neighbourhood planning and the work of DNA demonstrates this commitment too. As such it makes sense to continue with the process and for officers to continue to work with DNA and the community. As such I urge you to allow the process to continue and for DNA's Draft Neighbourhood Plan to move to the next stage.</p>
<p>Deptford Society (Received 6th Oct 2021)</p>	<p>The Deptford Society is writing in support of the re-designation of Deptford Neighbourhood Action as the approved body to carry out the finalisation and submission of the Deptford Neighbourhood Plan.</p> <p>We have grave concerns that should the council reject the re-designation of DNA, the considerable amount of effort by local community volunteers and the public funding that has so far been put into the draft plan will go to waste. This would not only show a disregard for public funds, but would also undermine and demotivate the communities that the council claims to want to engage with.</p> <p>Most importantly it would leave Deptford without any neighbourhood plan for several years at least, and raises questions about how development of any alternative neighbourhood plan will be funded.</p> <p>We challenge the claims in the officer's report that DNA has not engaged with the local community; this is not our own experience as we have been invited multiple times to participate in meetings and planning forums, and have done so when we have had the resources. Many other local groups have also been represented on these occasions, where participants have been diverse and engaged.</p> <p>Our members understand and appreciate the time and energy that DNA has put into developing this draft plan and can see no valid reason for the re-designation to be refused.</p>