

BVAG

March '12

Constitution

Preamble

For many years planning decisions in Southwark have been made with scant regard for the interests and opinions of local people. In particular, in the North-west Bermondsey/London Bridge area political and economic objectives of the Local Authority have come into conflict with the present character of the area.

Objectives

BVAG was established to defend the character of the area that it has adopted* and to secure for local residents and businesses control, or at least genuine influence, over planning policy in this adopted area. To achieve this objective the Group will use any means available to it, including promoting local planning policy through statutory provisions for local involvement, political lobbying at local and national levels and legal challenge to planning decisions.

Structure and Governance

Preliminary

The objectives of the group are to engage local people as fully as possible in the evolution of the character of the area in so far as this can be controlled through planning policy. Accordingly, it is an overriding principle to make the group and its activity open to everyone and to minimise any organisational obstruction to free participation for all. A minimal organisational structure is therefore always to be preferred.

Membership

The Group will comprise:

(a) Subscribers to the Group mailing list.

Subscription is free to all who register.

(b) Members.

Membership is open to anyone over 16 with an interest in the activities of the Group. Life membership is available to any such person who gives a postal address and pays a discretionary subscription.

(c) Officers.

The group will adopt officers only as necessary for particular activities that might require such from time to time. Adoption will be by a vote of members in the event of a selection being required from multiple candidates. Such officers might include coordinators, legal representatives, advisers, a treasurer or other categories as necessary.

Decisions and Policy

Key decisions and policy of the Group will be determined by a show of hands in open meetings unless and until any more formal decision making process becomes necessary. In that event decisions will be made by majority vote of members.

In any event, constitutional amendments will be made by members through majority vote.

* The Group's adopted area is shown on the attached appendix. It will be subject to alteration in the interests of greater effectiveness or representativeness of the Group as may become necessary from time to time.