

BERMONDSEY VILLAGE ACTION GROUP

BVAG

INFORMATION OFFICE 14 CRUCIFX LANE LONDON SE1 3JW BVAG.NET

Juilet Seymour,
Southwark Council
PO Box 64529
London SE1P 5LX

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Application for designation of a Neighbourhood Forum

As per your email dated 29 Aug, BVAG would like to submit application for designation of a Neighbourhood forum.

1. Name of the neighbourhood forum is the St Thomas St Plan (STP) coordinated by Bermondsey Village Action Group (BVAG).
2. Written Constitution of BVAG is attached. The constitution was formally approved at BVAG's meeting held on 28 March 2012.
3. Area map for the STP is attached. Members adopted this area at a general meeting of BVAG & BNF at 28 March 2012.
4. Contact details:

5. Statement

BVAG - INTRODUCTION

BVAG was formed by local residents and businesses in March 2010 to preserve and enhance the character of the area designated Bermondsey Village by Southwark Council. Since its establishment BVAG has contributed to opening up the planning process, improving local awareness and developing consultation channels between the Council and local people over planning issues. It has played a major role in advancing understanding of significant development proposals, including Sellar's Shard satellites, The Quill' and London Bridge Station. It has successfully lobbied English Heritage for

Listing of the St Thomas Viaduct. It is currently working to produce a scheme to conserve and restore the Vinegar Yard Warehouse.

BVAG now has 45 registered members who either live or work in the area and has over 600 subscribers to our mailing list. Subscribers are informed of BVAG's meetings, current news and activities through our mailing list and website. Open meetings are held at least once a month for consultation and discussion. Important decisions are made during these meetings that are held either in BVAG's 'Consultation Cafe' on Bermondsey St or in our Information Office on Crucifix Lane. We also run exhibitions at both of these premises to inform local understanding and opinion of local planning issues and architectural history. A fundamental objective of BVAG is to facilitate the engagement of local people in the planning process. We therefore operate a minimal organizational structure to promote maximum openness to participation.

ST THOMAS STREET PLAN (STP)

BVAG is now coordinating a neighbourhood plan initiative focused on St Thomas Street and its immediate surroundings – representing essentially the northern part of 'Bermondsey Village'. The BVAG/STP initiative was formalised in a joint meeting of BVAG and Bermondsey Neighbourhood Forum on 9 May where members unanimously voted to proceed with an independent plan (STP) for the area we have designated and an area to the South to be coordinated by BNF that is yet to be formalised.

The St Thomas St Plan aims to produce consensus on suitable building heights in its area, balancing the interests of growth and development with preservation of the area's historic and economic character. To this end it aims to produce a specific height envelope for developers to work to which will be presented in the form of a contour map for definitiveness and clarity. A second important objective will be the updating of the Bermondsey St conservation area northern boundary. A third will be to produce site briefs for the key St Thomas St sites. Further scope of the STP will be introduced according to the results of consultation in the area. Consultation plans include an exhibition, an open information office, distribution of invitation leaflets to all businesses and residences in the area and our routine meetings and emailings. All meetings are entirely open.