

West Finchley Neighbourhood Area Designation Application

This application for Neighbourhood Area designation is submitted to the London Borough of Barnet under the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012. In the accompanying Document 2 there is an application for Neighbourhood Forum designation for the West Finchley Neighbourhood Forum.

West Finchley Neighbourhood Forum wants to submit for consideration an application for designation of a Neighbourhood Area. The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 state that where a relevant body submits an application for designation of a Neighbourhood Area to the local planning authority it must include:

- a map which identifies the area to which the area application relates;
- a statement explaining why this area is considered appropriate to be designated as a Neighbourhood Area; and
- a statement that the organisation or body making the area application is a relevant body for the purposes of section 61G of the 1990 Act.

This application addresses these requirements as follows.

Neighbourhood Area

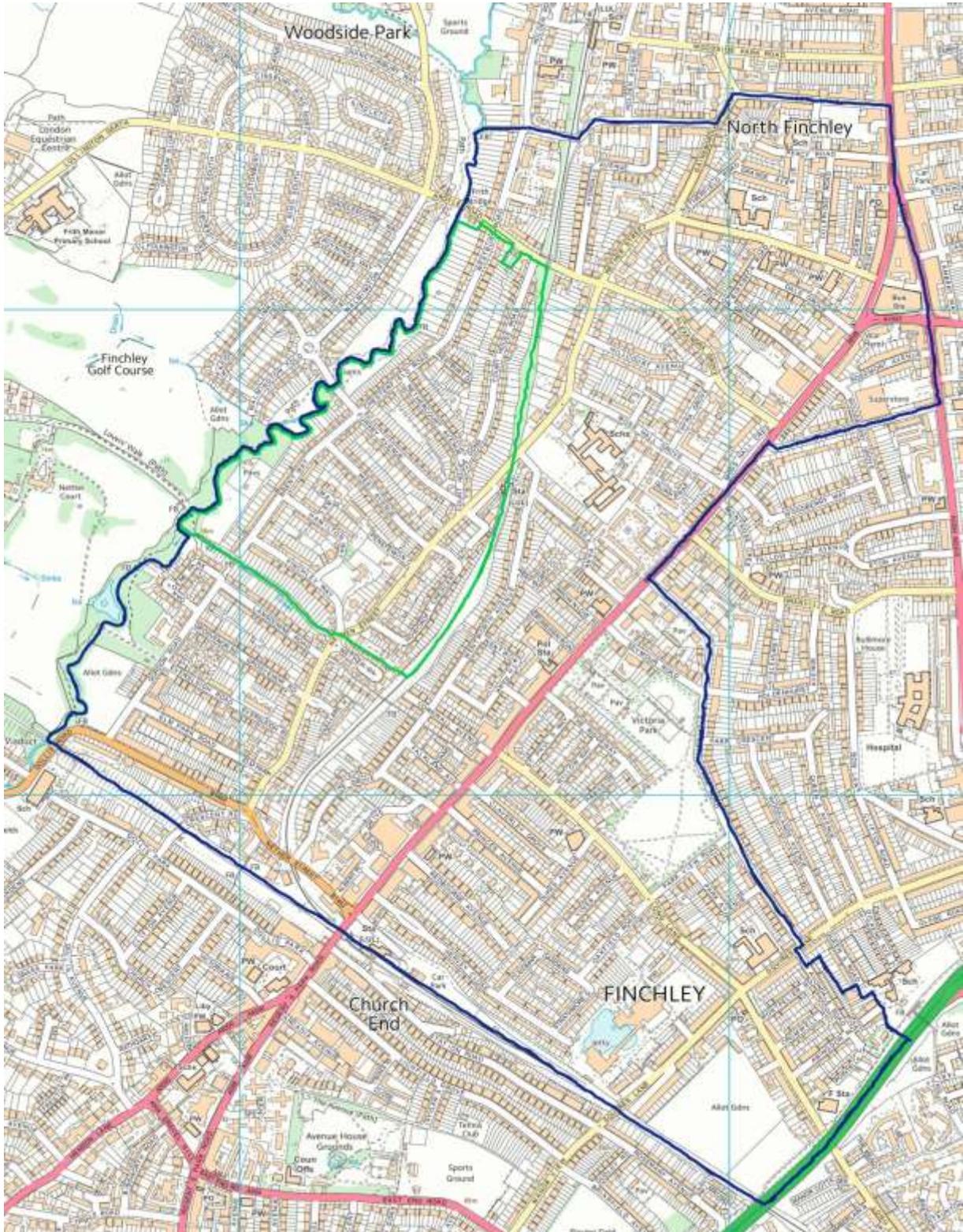
The area of WFRA has characteristics that make it suitable for having a Neighbourhood Plan and Forum.

The proposed area is within the West Finchley ward but not coterminous with it. This coherent area of residential housing was developed in the years between WWI and WWII with most of the houses dating from the late 1920s.

The area is well defined by physical and built features:

- To the north, Argyle Road – separating the proposed West Finchley neighbourhood area from earlier Victorian and later 1950s & 1960s developments.
- To the south, Lovers Walk - an ancient footpath separating the proposed West Finchley neighbourhood area from earlier Victorian development.
- To the east, the Northern Line underground line – a clear boundary.
- To the west, area of open space around the watercourse known as Dollis Brook – another clear boundary. This is the West Finchley Ward boundary, separating it from Mill Hill ward. It is also boundary of the Mill Hill Neighbourhood designated area.

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— Ward boundary

— Neighbourhood area boundary

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The area retains its character of a family suburban neighbourhood including the West Finchley London Underground station (opened by the London & North Eastern Railway (LNER) on 1 March 1933) and adjacent parade of shops.

There is a cohesive design of three bedroomed semi-detached properties with gardens spaced apart by side entrances or driveways. Many of the families have extended the properties either by loft extensions or rear ground floor extensions or both. The Government's latest easing of permitted development rights has encouraged a number of households to add large rear extensions.

It has a socially and ethnically diverse population with a strong sense of community and neighbours already consult each other on local matters. The area's amenities include the open spaces along the Dollis Brook and off Finchley Way, allotments, Finchley Tennis Club and Gordon Hall.

The most popular attraction of the neighbourhood is its environment. Residents have expressed their like for the "green" environment, the tree-lined roads, its quiet, the availability of the Brook and its playground, the open spaces and possibility of walks near at hand.

Residents perceive the neighbourhood as having a good community spirit and friendly neighbours. Residents see that people care about the area and welcome the ethnic and cultural diversity, the "cosmopolitan" nature of the neighbourhood.

We have 44 residents, (well in excess of the statutory requirement of 21) including local business people, plus a local councillor who are willing to be part of the Neighbourhood Forum. We look forward to receiving approval of the designation of the area, the approval of the West Finchley Neighbourhood Forum and to taking the next steps towards developing the Neighbourhood Plan

In addition, recognising that there are key local stake-holders such a businesses who may not be residents of the area proposed for designation, the West Finchley Residents Association has visited and spoken to all the shopkeepers in the area, we have made contact with the Lawn Tennis Club, the allotment holders and the neighbouring Residents' Associations in Dollis Park & District and Woodside Park.

We have set up an interim committee with the approval of the Forum volunteers and are keen to take the next steps to create and develop the Neighbourhood Plan. The committee members are all resident in the area and interface with other community activists and organisations such as the Finchley Society, Councillors and officers of the London Borough of Barnet, Metropolitan Police and neighbouring residents' groups.

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Neighbourhood Area Designation Application**

Residents welcome the Localism Act and the support that it gives to building up local communities through the development of Neighbourhood Plans.

Submitted by Salim Sabri, west.finchley.nf@gmail.com, principal contact for the proposed Forum.