

Application for Neighbourhood Planning Forum status

Area Designated by the Council:

Lawrence Weston Neighbourhood Planning Area

Applicant for Neighbourhood Planning Forum:

Lawrence Weston Neighbourhood Planning Group

About the organisation/group

Ambition Lawrence Weston (ALW) is an organisation with residents at the driving seat. We are working in partnership with public, private and voluntary sector organisations to make Lawrence Weston a better place.

Our aim is:

- To provide an open, accountable, community-led organisation to lead the social, economic and environmental regeneration of Lawrence Weston
- To inform engage and empower the participation of local people and groups in the regeneration of Lawrence Weston
- To encourage and support partnership working between the local community, businesses, service providers and other community and voluntary groups
- To influence and change the way public and other agencies work in the area
- To coordinate the development and delivery of a Community Plan which reflects the needs and aspirations of the community
- To promote equality and challenge discrimination

ALW is a not-for-profit company limited by guarantee incorporated in September 2012 (Company Number 817933). We are also a registered Charity. (Charity Number: 8179331)

ALW supports and facilitates the Lawrence Weston Neighbourhood Planning Group which has been meeting since the beginning of 2012 (group constituted Feb 2012). The Planning group is the forum that brings together residents to talk about planning and land use related issues. The purpose of the Planning group is to respond to planning applications and development proposals in the area, with the aim of keeping what is good about Lawrence Weston and improving what is less good. The group's constitution is provided at Appendix 1. Members have an agreed, written code of conduct (see Appendix 2).

Membership

Membership is open to:

- 1) any person living or working in the designated area and to other individuals, including persons elected to a representative role for the area, who are interested in furthering the aims of the group
- 2) Organisations based in, or operating in, the designated area.

Currently residents, local owned/run organisations, and elected ward councillors have voting rights.

Existing members are listed in Appendix 3 and the coverage of members across the area is indicated by their postcodes listed in that Appendix. Membership is open as described above, and this opportunity is regularly promoted through the website, social media sites, community newsletter, community noticeboards, community meetings, and neighbourhood meetings.

One of the aims of Ambition Lawrence Weston and the Planning Group is to promote equality and

challenge discrimination. We are working hard to ensure that we are representative from older people, younger people, disabled people, ethnic minorities as well as ensuring that we involve people from across the neighbourhood. We are working hard to ensure that the voices of families with young children, disabled people are included (evening meetings are barriers for these community members). We also link with the, Lawrence Weston over Fifties Forum, voluntary sector organisations, churches and schools through the Lawrence Weston Community Network, including the networks mailing list with over 45 organisations representation, this network meets every 8 weeks.

Our vision for Lawrence Weston

Over the past 12 years we have been consulting extensively with the community to create the vision for the neighbourhood, as expressed and revised in our Community Plan, Neighbourhood Development Plan, Neighbourhood Design Statement, Community Economic Development Plan, as endorsed by the Department of Housing, Communities and Local Government. When warranted we organise discussion events for specific issues at different times, place, and with different structures, so as to widen resident inclusion as far as is practical.

Lawrence Weston is a friendly and vibrant neighbourhood where the word “community” really matters. A place where ALL residents of today and tomorrow can live happy, healthy and fulfilling lives, from childhood through to old age. We will strive to achieve this through ensuring that residents:

- 1) can access quality and sustainable jobs, services and shops
- 2) can benefit from high quality education and training throughout their life, and develop their skills, interests, experience, and confidence.
- 3) can enjoy modern community, leisure, sports, and art facilities
- 4) can look after their physical, mental and spiritual wellbeing with access to high quality and appropriate services and support
- 5) will have secure access to adequate amounts of affordable, safe, nutritious and culturally appropriate food
- 6) understand their rights and are empowered to make choices to improve their own lives
- 7) have access to safe and well maintained green spaces and are actively involved in their upkeep
- 8) enjoy an environment which is looked after, safe and clean
- 9) can access healthy, sustainable and affordable homes for all stages of life
- 10) can travel safely on well-connected and affordable transport routes
- 11) feel a part of a community which supports and looks after one another and is welcoming and inclusive
- 12) collectively celebrate the heritage and identity of the neighbourhood and plan carefully for its future
- 13) have a strong voice and can be at the heart of decision making locally

The Neighbourhood Planning Area

The area incorporates four lower super output areas (LSOAS) - Lawrence Weston West (E01014497) situated in the Avonmouth Ward and Lawrence Weston Parade (E01014638), Lawrence Weston South (E01014639) and Lawrence Weston East (E01014640) all situated in Avonmouth & Lawrence Weston Ward. The area includes the main shopping area, green spaces and community facilities serving the residents of Lawrence Weston. The area has been chosen because it includes all of the housing and local amenities within the neighbourhood of Lawrence

Weston. A map of the designated neighbourhood planning area is provided at Appendix 4.

Track record

Our work started in 2011 and to date includes:

- Training residents in community research
- Sharing experiences of community planning with other neighbourhoods and other residents
- Working with residents to create a questionnaire to ask people what they like, and what they would like to change about where they live
- Door knocking the estate collecting 950 responses – now analysed
- Accessing training in neighbourhood planning and exploring opportunities available through the Localism Act
- Undertook a consultation and putting together a development brief on the development of a major site (college site – 6 acres)
- Undertook consultation on a number of other sites earmarked for disposal
- Identify priority issues for the community plan – focusing on planning, housing, jobs and health
- Looking at options for reconfiguring existing community buildings and infrastructure
- Raising awareness of the needs in the area with politicians and key decision makers
- Training residents to understand their roles and responsibilities as Trustees/Directors
- Setting up a new Charitable Company now incorporated
- Registered as a Charity
- Holding a community planning day attended by 150 people
- Recruiting private sector partners - Price Waterhouse Cooper, Veales Wasborough Vizard, Bristol Port Company, ADR Milling, Wombell Bond Dickinson.
- Attracting additional investment for the plan and for the area
- Securing £1.2 M ward investment from Coastal Community Fund, part of this investment included match funding towards the £14m Challenge Fund for Bristol City Council delivered highways improvements.
- Various financial investments and grants.
- Endorsed as a Local Trusted Organisation for the National Lottery's, Big Local Programme.
- Written a fully adopted Neighbourhood Development Plan.
- Pursuing ambitious plans for community sustainability through community energy
- Establishing Ambition Community Energy C.I.C.
- Domestic and commercial energy training, household survey energy switching, and guidance.
- Planning consent achieved for a new build Community and Health Hub.
- Submissions to the revision of the Bristol City Local Plan 2019.
- Submissions to various Bristol City Consultations.
- Submissions to Joint Spatial Plan and adjoining Local Authority plans.
- Supported planning permission and construction of a new community centre/ facility
- Supported planning permission for a 36 unit affordable housing site

- Supported planning permission to build out the largest wind turbine in England

Why do we want to be designated as the Neighbourhood Planning Forum?

There are numerous sites in Lawrence Weston and bringing these forwards for development is key to delivering our vision. Many of these sites have been vacant for a number of years and we believe that by achieving a Neighbourhood Development Plan we can involve more people in deciding their future. We also believe that this will give developers confidence to develop the sites knowing that extensive consultation has been undertaken, and the views of residents have been included. A real concern for residents is that more houses will be built with no facilities and services. The Neighbourhood Development Plan sets out a clear vision for sustainable new homes alongside new community facilities and enhancement to green spaces. We have a good track record of delivery. We strive to be open and inclusive and bring together residents, businesses, councillors and partners. We have carried out extensive consultation and we are committed to continuing to reach out to existing and new residents. We believe therefore that we continue to be the most appropriate organisation to be the Neighbourhood Planning Forum.

Contact details

Contact: Mark Pepper, Chair, Lawrence Weston Neighbourhood Planning Group.

Email address: Mark@ambition-lw.org.uk

Postal address: Ambition Lawrence Weston, Planning Group, Ambition House, 2 Stile Acres, Bristol BS11 0PZ

Website: www.ambitionlw.org

Facebook: @ambitionlawrenceweston

Appendix 1: Constitution

Constitution for Lawrence Weston Neighbourhood Planning Group

Aims/Objects

Residents of Lawrence Weston have set up the Group to respond to planning applications and development proposals in the area, in accordance with Lawrence Weston's Adopted Neighbourhood Development Plan, with the aim of keeping what is good about Lawrence Weston and improving what is less good. Our aim is to be proactive by working with partners to deliver the Lawrence Weston Community Plan (The Way Forward 2013-2023) which will set out what changes the community would like to see now and in the future.

Powers

The planning group will meet to agree planning issues and aims for the benefit of present and future members of the community, will meet potential developers, public and private, to discuss proposed developments and to raise planning issues with those developers that will need to be addressed in the interests of the present and future members of the community.

The group does not have the powers to administer funds.

The group has the power to set a code of conduct for its members.

Membership

Membership is open to residents and local businesses.

Members must complete a Lawrence Weston Neighbourhood Planning Group Membership form giving their contact details including mobile phone number and/or email address and home address, and signing to agree to work for the aims and within the powers outlined above.

Members of the group agree to work together to consider the wider interests of the community the group covers, over and above their own personal interests.

Group members will not personally benefit financially through their participation in the group.

Group Members will be drawn from residents and local businesses within the community. Other people and organisations can attend the meeting on invitation. Non-resident members may be **CO-OPTED** by the Committee due to their skills/knowledge, but only as advisors and non-voting members.

Officers

Officers are elected from the group to run meetings, to keep the group informed of the next meeting, venue, date and agenda, and to keep and circulate any notes from meetings. The Group's Officers will include:

- **A Chair:** Who ensures Committee meetings run smoothly, and that decisions are made including the programme of meetings.
- **A Secretary:** Who keeps a record of meetings.
- **Up to 3 Communications Officers:** To promote the group and its meetings.
- Any other officers that the group decides it needs.

Officers can make decisions between meetings provided this is communicated via text message or email to all group members. Any such decisions will be on the agenda of the following meeting.

Group Meetings

Meetings will be held monthly.

Meeting dates will be set at least 21 days in advance. Agenda's to be sent out 5 days before any planned meeting.

Decisions by the group must be made by at least 3 members.

Ad Hoc meetings with developers

No fewer than 2 members of the group can meet developers to hear proposals for development and to inform developers of planning issues already agreed by the group. Any such meeting will be reported back to the group either at the next group meeting or by exchange of emails/ letters/text and a formal response from the group regarding the proposed development will be submitted to the developer in writing or via BCC Planning Portal not less than 14 days after the date of the ad hoc developer meeting.

Open public meetings

These will be held annually.

Notice will be given at least 28 days in advance of the date and posted widely in the area. An agenda will be available 14 days in advance. This will be circulated to all members of the community who have given details to the Neighbourhood Partnership and to any other community groups for the area. If appropriate this meeting can be combined with another community meeting eg a Neighbourhood Forum.

Changes to the constitution

Any changes to this constitution should be brought for comment and voting to a meeting to which all members have been invited with at least 21 days' notice stating the change proposed. A majority of at least 2/3 of those present and voting is required to make a change.

Closing down the Group

Any proposal to close down the Group must be brought to the vote at a meeting to which all members have been invited with at least 21 days' notice stating that closure is proposed. A majority of at least 2/3 of those present and voting is required to close down the group.

This CONSTITUTION for the Lawrence Weston Neighbourhood Planning Group was adopted by the following people at a meeting held at Lawrence Weston Youth Centre on 25th January 2018.

[NAMES REDACTED]

Appendix 2: Code of conduct

Lawrence Weston Neighbourhood Planning Group Code of Conduct

1. I will respect and uphold the values of the Lawrence Weston Neighbourhood Planning Group.
2. I will act within the constitution of the planning group and the law. This includes having knowledge of the constitution.
3. I will support the aims of the group, championing it, using any skills or knowledge I have to further that aim and seeking expert advice where appropriate.
4. I will be an active group member when possible, making my skills, experience and knowledge available to the group and seeking to do what additional work I can outside of meetings.
5. I will act in the best interest of the group as a whole and not be representative of any group – considering what is best for the group and its present and future beneficiaries and avoiding bringing the group into disrepute.
6. I will attend all appropriate meetings and other appointments at the group or give apologies.
7. I will participate in collective decision making, accept a majority decision of the group and will not act individually unless specifically authorised to do so.
8. I will not make public comments about the organisation unless authorised to do so.
9. I understand that substantial breach of any part of this code may result in procedures being put in motion that may result in my being asked to resign from the group.
10. Should this happen I will be given the opportunity to be heard. In the event that I am asked to resign, I will accept the majority decision of the group in this matter and resign at the earliest opportunity.

Name:

Sign:

Date:

Appendix 3: Group members

List of members of Lawrence Weston Neighbourhood Planning Group

	Name	Lives or works in Lawrence Weston neighbourhood area, or is elected councillor for Avonmouth & Lawrence Weston ward
1.	Amy Smith	Resident
2.	Ann Hawker	Resident
3.	Annette Knight	Resident
4.	Bradley Hudson	Resident
5.	Charlotte Milkins	Resident
6.	Donna Sealey	Resident
7.	Iain Stevens	Resident
8.	Jacki Crouch	Resident
9.	Jake Morgan	Resident
10.	James Black	Resident
11.	John Jefferies	Resident
12.	John Muse	Resident
13.	Jordon Hudd	Resident
14.	Julie Morgan	Resident
15.	Lyn Griffin	Resident
16.	Mark Pepper	Resident
17.	Norman Laity	Resident
18.	Norman Routledge	Resident
19.	Rebecca Cockle	Resident
20.	Roger Sabido	Resident
21.	Shay-Marie Smith	Resident
22.	Sue Stevens	Resident
23.	Susan Snook	Resident
24.	Terri Booker	Resident
25.	Waltraud Pospischil	Resident

Members' postcodes

(Randomised for purposes of public consultation)

BS11 0RZ, BS11 0NW, BS11 0NA, BS11 0PF, BS11 0HH, BS11 0PY, BS11 0QD, BS11 0RL, BS11 0SN, BS11 0NL, BS11 0RZ, BS11 0PP, BS11 0AF, BS11 0RX, BS11 0PP, BS11 0NL, BS11 0QH, BS11 0RX, BS11 0TW, BS11 0NP, BS11 0EU, BS11 0QD, BS11 0RR, BS11 0NA, BS11 0RZ.

Appendix 4: Map showing boundary of Lawrence Weston neighbourhood planning area designated by Bristol City Council on 31 January 2013

