

THORPE NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM

APPLICATION TO RUNNYMEDE BOROUGH COUNCIL FOR REDESIGNATION

1. Introduction

The Thorpe Neighbourhood Forum was initially designated on 24th August 2016. Adoption of The Thorpe Neighbourhood Plan was on 23rd June 2021. Redesignation is required by The Neighbourhood Planning Regulations after five years if the Forum wishes to redesignate and that will occur in June 2026.

At a Steering Committee on 4th July 2025 the TNF Steering committee voted unanimously to submit an application for redesignation in accordance with the Constitution clause 10(c)

2. Name, Area and Purpose of Thorpe Neighbourhood Forum (TNF)

- a) The name of the Neighbourhood Forum is Thorpe Neighbourhood Forum
- b) The Neighbourhood Area is shown on the map attached to the Constitution at Appendix A. This area remains unchanged from that previously designated on 24th August 2016.
- c) The Thorpe Neighbourhood Plan was made on 23rd June 2021.

Mission Statement

The Thorpe Neighbourhood Forum was set up for the village of Thorpe to take account of its unique historical value, to consider development within the new Green Belt boundaries and to ensure that Thorpe can meet the community needs now and in the future.

Activities

The following actions will be taken to achieve the Mission Statement:-

- i) Monitor all Planning Applications and engage with RBC Planners to ensure as much as possible, compliance with the Neighbourhood Plan and its aspirations and policies.

3. Organisation and Activities

- a) Regular meetings took place until the Plan was made in June 2021. Thereafter the Steering group have met to discuss planning applications within the designation area.

- b) Current Activities. The Steering Group also discuss the ongoing development works that have progressed under the various policies within the Thorpe Neighbourhood Plan.

Members of TNF have also had discussions with the Green Spaces team at RBC regarding Frank Muir Memorial Field in Thorpe Village regarding proposals for a new enhanced play area, a wildflower meadow and also enhancement of the entrance into the field to improve disabled access.

Discussions also have taken place regarding the location of two new defibrillators within Thorpe Village, one of which is a replacement and the other to be located at Thorpe PO Stores.

Members of TNF also holding talks about proposals to preserve historic assets within the Conservation area of Thorpe Village.

4. Constitution

The Constitution of the Thorpe Neighbourhood Plan is attached at Appendix A and is the same as that approved when Forum was first designated.

5. Membership and Communication

Registered membership (i.e those we hold email addresses for) is currently 22.

471 voted in favour of the Plan at the Referendum which amounted to 85% of votes cast being in favour of the plan being used to determine planning applications within The Borough. Notifications and information are sent out regarding planning matters or progress on projects. There is a core of members who often engage and are clearly very interested in how the Plan is working within the area to hopefully achieve the aspirations from the inception of the Plan.

6. Contact details for the Thorpe Neighbourhood Forum

Contact details are below. We have two members as required by the Neighbourhood Planning regulations:-

Cllr Linda Gillham and Cllr Elaine Gill and they can be contacted on – info@thorpeforum.org

7. Meeting the Legal Requirements, including the conditions contained in Section 61F(5) of The Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended)

The Thorpe Neighbourhood Forum meets the legal requirements to be designated by Runnymede Borough Council because, as set out in the Constitution of the Forum, the Forum does have an express purpose of promoting and improving the social, economic and environmental wellbeing of the neighbourhood area.

In addition, as set out in the Constitution, membership of the Forum is open to people living in the area, businesses or other bodies or organisations which operate in the Area through their appointed representatives and also public representatives of the area and individuals who work in the Area.

Furthermore, as set out in the Constitution of the Forum and also attached to this application, the Forum shall have a minimum of 21 members.

The Thorpe Neighbourhood Forum comprises a diverse group of residents and community representatives dedicated to preserving Thorpe Village's unique character, whilst promoting sustainable growth and addressing the needs and aspirations of all residents. The collective expertise, passion and shared vision has enabled the Thorpe Neighbourhood Forum to effectively navigate the complexities of local planning process and advocate for the interests of the local community.

As we seek re-designation, the Forum remain committed to upholding the principles of transparency, inclusivity and democratic participation in all aspects of our work. We have demonstrated our capacity to facilitate meaningful consultations, conduct thorough research and produce well-informed policy recommendations that reflect the priorities and values of our community.

The Thorpe Neighbourhood Forum has been set up in conjunction with Runnymede Borough Council conforming to the requirements of the Town and Country Planning Act.

8. Conclusion

In all the circumstances referred to above we ask Runnymede Borough Council to consider and in due course approve this application of the Thorpe Neighbourhood Forum to continue as a designated Forum and Neighbourhood Area for a further five years.