Crystal Palace and Upper Norwood Neighbourhood Forum

Application presentation to the Consortium of Boroughs - cross borough meeting with London Boroughs of Bromley, Croydon, Lambeth, Southwark and Lewisham

Robert Gibson – Lambeth resident, Co chair Upper Norwood Library Trust, steering group Transition Town Crystal Palace, Board member Crystal Palace Chamber of Commerce

Francis Bernstein – Southwark Resident, Co-secretary Crystal Palace Sports Partnership, member of Crystal Palace Chamber of Commerce

22/6/2015 DRAFT
Is Neighbourhood Planning Working?

“The largest gathering of neighbourhood planners yet”

- 1477 Forum applications
- 67 Plans passed referendum with:
  - Average 88% “Yes” vote
  - Average turn out 35%

- “It works, it is a growing movement… Planning has tended to exclude rather include people and communities”
- “Strengthening and building social capital”

- Policy trends: 87% shaping housing development, 59% encouraging new employment uses.
- Top Policies: Promote local distinctiveness, design and character, protecting community facilities, protect and enhance your high street, have your say on how CIL is spent, cycling, define and secure your local heritage.
Neighbourhood Planning in Numbers in UK

- Applications: 1477
- Designations: 1330
- Pre-submission: 261
- Examination: 143

Total: 143

At Examination: (61)
Passed Examination: (15)
Passed Referendum: (14)
MADE: (53)

Average ‘Yes’ vote: 64%
88% of Local Authorities contain designated neighbourhood planning areas
Turnout: 35%

Neighbourhood Planning From the Ground Up

“a growing movement...”
http://www.neighbourhoodplanner.co.uk/map
Is Neighbourhood Planning Working? – the view from DCLG

• Pro sustainable development – how to shape local development (and is not against).

• Makes planning policy more local, allows communities to shape local development.

• Create a local plan for the area that has: due regard to National Policy, contribute to sustainable development, general conformity to relevant local plans.

• Neighbourhood plans become part of Statutory planning once agreed.

As seen by Developers
• Get a clearer ideas of local wishes and views
• Allow community expression
• A “Community Projects List” can shape local developer interest
Why do we need a Neighbourhood Plan for Crystal Palace and Upper Norwood?

- As we don’t exist! Crystal Palace and its neighbourhood is a state of mind, and we want to turn this into a shared physical reality

- To promote sustainable development for the area. Protection and support of employment uses.

- To create an aggregate view of what makes up Crystal Palace and its neighbourhood.

- To distil and disseminate the needs of community split by borough boundaries

- To create a coherence to Upper Norwood Triangle as a recognised town centre and the five borough hinterland it serves

- Provide a platform for improved cross borough engagement

- Define our shared local heritage and CIL priorities

- To celebrate and enhance the distinctive rich heritage of the area
What is a Neighbourhood Plan?

For promoting or improving the social, economic and environmental wellbeing of an area.

Where does a neighbourhood plan sit?

- European and National Planning Policy Framework
- London Plan
- Core Strategy (Local Plans)
- Neighbourhood Plan

A Neighbourhood Plan must be in general conformity with adopted strategic local planning policy of any of the cross-border authorities

A neighbourhood plan is about the use and development of land and may contain a vision, aims, planning policies, proposals for improving the area or providing new facilities, or allocation of key sites for specific kinds of development. It may deal with a wide range of social, economic and environmental issues (such as housing, employment, heritage and transport) or it may focus on one or two issues only.

Is about shaping the development of a local area in a positive manner.
Where are we in the Process?

Neighbourhood Plan Process

Getting started
Clarify why plan is needed

Neighbourhood area
Propose Neighbourhood Area

Neighbourhood Forum

Building evidence base
Review existing Add new

Themes, aims and vision
Identify key themes

Community engagement & involvement
Publicity

Writing the plan

Consultation on plan

Submission

Independent examination

Referendum

Plan adopted

* Minimum time - 6 weeks
** Minimum time - 25 working days
Localism - “Empowering cities and other local areas”

- Enabling community to leverage shared engagement and collaborative working, create a platform to identify what local communities would like, “putting community involvement at the heart of everything councils and their partners do” and “Delivering better, more efficient services” eg. neighbourhood planning, Community Shares, Community Right to Bid, Community Right to Build, Community Right to Challenge, Barrier Busting, and access to Social Investment funding for community projects.

- Bring people together with Common Goals
Community feedback...

• Perception people live in a "fragmented community"

• “We live in no man’s land”

• An area where there’s is “no joined up planning”

• “opportunity to shape the area in which they live”

• Is way of creating cohesion and inclusivity, and can provide, better engagement, better partnership working in the cross border area

• lack of cross boundary co-ordination
Wide support from MPs, AMs and local Cllrs for the initiative

• **Steve Reed MP**, Croydon North: “Crystal Palace suffers from being split across five boroughs. We desperately need a single Neighbourhood plan to make sure all the councils understand local residents' priorities and focus on making them happen. Instead of being pulled in five different directions it's time for all five boroughs to pull together for the benefit of Crystal Palace. I fully support this excellent initiative.”

• **Valerie Shawcross**, GLA Member: “I am very concerned about the lack of cross boundary co-ordination which has had far reaching effects on many services and issues from crime and policing to the local libraries and I support the community’s efforts to explore creating a cross-borough Neighbourhood plan designed to facilitate much more cross-borough co-operation to improve the lives of Crystal Palace residents.”

• **Steve O’Connell**, GLA Member: “I agree that such is the unique nature of the area that it lends itself to a cross border planning framework.”
Who We Are…

- The area has a diverse **community split by administrative boundaries**.

- The District centre is an entrepreneurial hub, with mixed independent and mainstream retail. It has a village and niche shopping feel mixed with a growing vibrant leisure orientated nightlife, and widespread homeworking.

- The area covers a diverse community and has areas of high deprivation. The Area has a diverse young population, and a large Black and Minority Ethnic population, diverse housing and green spaces.

- The Area includes many listed sites, buildings, conservation areas, green spaces, and heritage assets.

- There is a huge variety of “Crystal Palace” and “Upper Norwood” community groups across the area.

- Crystal Palace has many festivals, creative and artistic events, and diverse cultural, sporting and religious groups that define themselves by the locality.
Journey so far…

- Continuing a journey that started hundreds of years ago... where multiple administrative boundaries converge – celebrated by the historic Vicar’s Oak. The “Crystal Palace” intensified the area where Sydenham, Norwood and Penge all converged.

- The last Boundary Commission 1992 review* of the area recognised that the boundaries of the London Boroughs of Bromley, Croydon, Lambeth, Lewisham and Southwark all met in the Crystal Palace area. They said that given this unusual pattern, they decided it was appropriate to consider the area as “one community” and “should not ideally be divided between several boroughs.”

- Wide ranging cross party support for a neighbourhood plan and better integrated planning for Crystal Palace as demonstrate in the Chamber of Commerce Question Time events of 2013 and 2014.

- Engagement events across the area to test the idea and area.

- The cross-border Forum initiative has been ongoing for over 2 years with discussion with local residents, organisations, businesses, churches, local political stakeholders and with GLA members.

- Neighbourhood Forum recommended by GLA led “Join the Dots” as solution for a community-led vehicle for the area.

*Confirmed by Director of Reviews, Local Government Boundary Commission for England
Putting Crystal Palace on the Map...

There are unique signifiers or signposts of the neighbourhood, for example, but not limited to:

- Physical environment by nature of the Crystal Palace ridge, with the community living on this double aspect skyline ridge and sharing common issues from living on its very steep hills.
- Twin landmark transmitters “homing beacons” visible from far across London.
- Bounded by key railway lines and primary A-roads.
- District Town Centre is the primary trade and shopping area for the neighbourhood
- Area provides the cross border District Town Centre, leisure and recreation and health services servicing five London Boroughs.
- Area has valued open green space, supporting the Green Chain and adding to its reputation as the “fresh air suburb” and including remnants of the Great North Wood.
- The Area is not one that consists of, or includes, the whole or any part of the area of a parish council and no part of the Area has previously been designated as a Neighbourhood Area under the Localism Act.
Draft
Forum Area...
Parishes that meet in the Area...

Parish: Upper-Norwood-All-Saints

Parish: Christ Church, Gipsy Hill,

Parish: St. John The Evangelist Upper Norwood

Parish: St Pauls, Anerley

http://www.achurchnearyou.com/
Area by postcodes...

http://free-postcode-maps.co.uk/postcode-area/se-london-postcode-map/
5 Boroughs, 6 Wards that meet in the neighbourhood of Upper Norwood and Crystal Palace

http://parallel.co.uk/os_opendata/#14/51.4202/-0.0753
Where are we today?

- **Strong local community interest in neighbourhood planning.**

- The area neighbourhood is not a recognised and no one Administrative Authority acts to serve the community as whole. The community and businesses have no collective representation for the cross border neighbourhood. Health and education and other core services are split across Authorities.

- The Area has a lack of coherent planning as a whole: The neighbourhood is on the extreme edge of five separate Boroughs, at their Borough periphery, with a lack of complementary planning for neighbourhood across all Borough segments.

- Inadequate aggregate assessment of the whole Area for planning and for its one community. No one Authority has the responsibly for managing, collating, reporting on the accurate aggregate view of Crystal Palace and its community and needs overarching the five Boroughs that meet in the vicinity of Upper Norwood. **The area spans Outer London (x2 Authorities) and Inner London (x3 Authorities).**
Next Steps...

- Work with local authorities to initiate the advertising of the Application.

- Continue working with Local Government initiatives for cross border planning and partnership processes.

- We have applied for grant funding to support Forum and to support a wide area and inclusive engagement in the Area.

- Explore and collect the community vision for the plan and area. Deliver a robust, extensive and diverse consultation strategy with lots of innovative events to reach all sections and all areas of the neighbourhood. Targeting both business and residents by a range of different activities.

- Develop a proportionate evidence base to support the potential polices of the Neighbourhood Plan and explore and support potential Community Projects.
Your Questions?

Useful links:
Roadmap & Keeping It Simple: http://planning.communityknowledgehub.org.uk/resources/landing
PAS website: http://www.pas.gov.uk/neighbourhood-planning

The journey continues...
Contact: info@cpneighbours.co.uk
Tweet :@cpneighbours