Development Management Forum

The Council believes that local people have a key role to play in shaping the quality of their environment and is committed to involving the community in planning proposals. The Development Management Forum allows the local community to contribute to shaping development proposals and aims to ensure input from local residents on large or difficult proposals for development.

This leaflet:

- Explains in what circumstances development proposals will be subject to discussions at the Development Management Forum
- Explains how the Development Management Forum will operate

The Council holds Development Management Forums to facilitate the discussion of large-scale or contentious development proposals. The forum does not reach a decision about an application.

Its purpose is to allow participants to raise issues of concern and obtain answers to questions about the particular proposal. Wherever possible this will be prior to the submission of a formal application. The aim is to allow early discussion by Councillors and members of the public on planning issues related to these proposals and to explore the scope for amendments and agreement between all parties in a positive and constructive way prior to the later decision being made at the Planning Sub-Committee.

Forum meetings occur mostly at the pre-application stage and occasionally once the application has been made but before the Planning Sub-Committee meeting. They do not remove the opportunity for objectors, supporters and applicants to submit representations once an application is submitted or address the Planning Sub-Committee when an application is to be determined.

What applications does the forum consider?

A forum meeting will be held when:

The Head of Development Management, in consultation with the Chair of the Planning Sub-Committee, considers that a forum would be beneficial in resolving issues on a particular development proposal.

Proposals that may be considered by the forum include major developments and those of significant local interest. It is not possible to prescribe the exact type of proposals but they may include the following:

- Proposals which involve more than 10 residential units or over 1,000 sq m of floor space;
- Proposals that involve a major departure from the Council’s planning policy.
- Proposals that involve high buildings i.e. over 5 storeys.
Developments that will not be considered by the forum include:

- Minor developments such as those to alter or extend houses
- Amendments to existing planning permissions or those which have already been the subject of a forum discussions

Who can attend?
Meetings are open to all Members of the Planning Sub-Committee, to Ward Councillors, local businesses and residents. Notification is through notices displayed around the site, the Council’s Website, Local Press and through notification direct to Councillors and Community Groups.

Time and Location
Forum meetings are normally scheduled in the evening either at the Civic Centre or in suitable venues elsewhere in the borough.

Format of the meeting
Normally one proposal is considered at each forum to allow for effective discussion. To assist the running of the meeting an agenda is prepared and a short briefing note on the proposal is available.

The format of the meeting is as follows:

- A senior planning officer chairs the forum. They ensure that all planning issues arising from the proposal are raised but that there is no discussion on the merits of the application.
- The applicant is invited to make a presentation of the proposal for a maximum of 15 minutes.
- Local residents and organisations have an opportunity to present their views either for or against the proposal.
- The applicant responds to questions from members of the Planning Sub-Committee, ward councillors and local businesses and residents.

An attendance record is kept and a note of the meeting is made which is reported to the Planning Sub-Committee, together with the planning application, when it is submitted for decision.

How to contact the Planning Service
You can contact the Planning Service for advice or information in any of the following ways:

Post: Planning Service Level 6, River Park House, 225 High Road, Wood Green, London, N22 8HQ
Phone: 020 8489 1478
E-mail: planningcustomercare@haringey.gov.uk
On the website: www.haringey.gov.uk/planning