Kennington, Oval and Vauxhall Forum

Constitution and Working Arrangements

1. Purpose and Objectives

1.1. The name of the Association shall be the Kennington, Oval and Vauxhall Forum. Its purpose is to encourage public involvement in policy making and service provision at community level and to promote and improve the social, economic and environmental wellbeing of the area defined in Article 2 (the defined area).

1.2. Within the defined area the Forum shall:

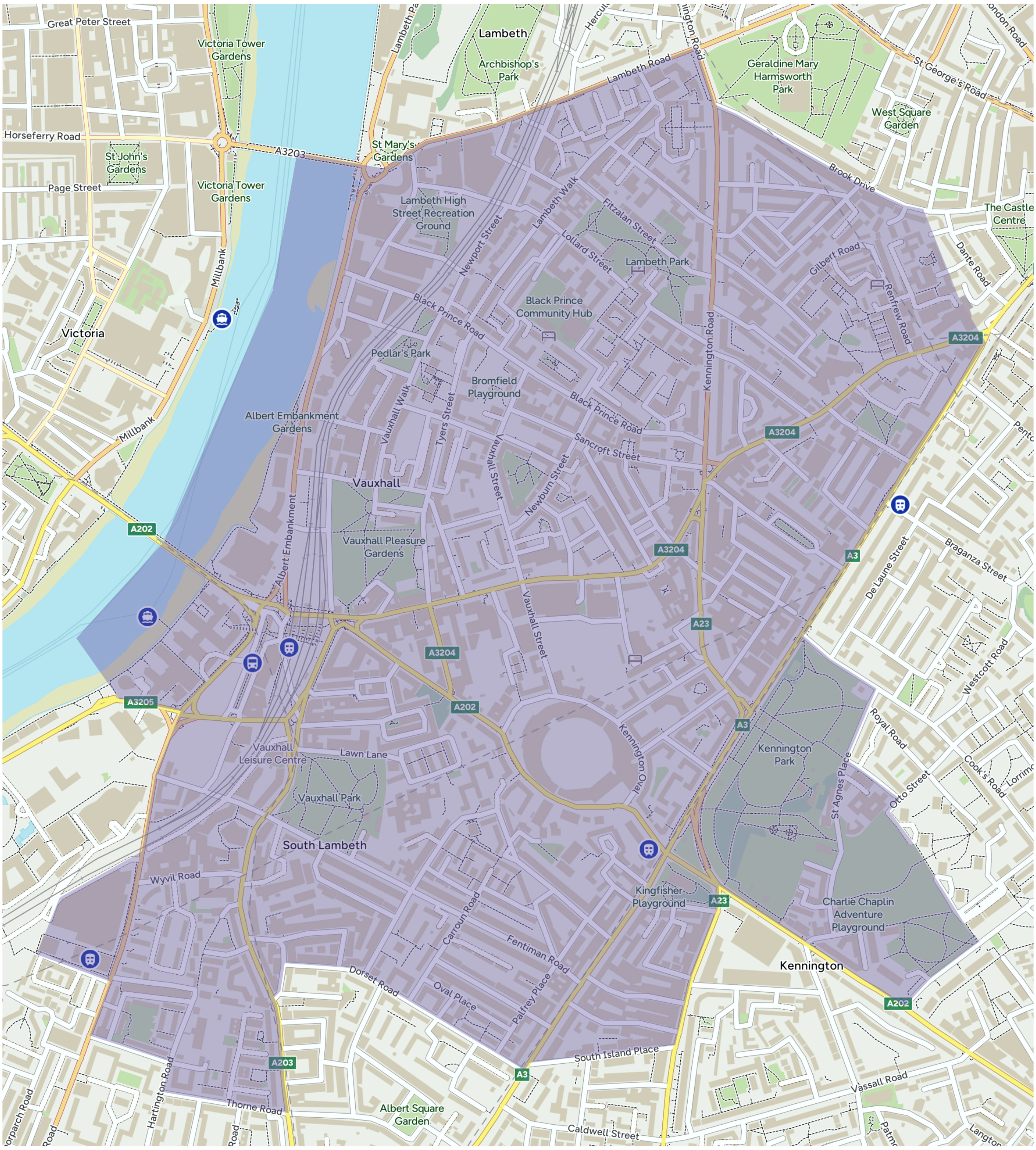
- Involve local people in influencing Council and other agencies' policies and programmes;
- Understand what local people want for their area;
- Ensure timely consultation by the Council to raise awareness of Council initiatives at local level;
- Provide a platform for local people to voice their views;
- Monitor and comment on the impact on local communities of Council policies, programmes and performance;
- Act as a proactive voice on behalf of local communities in the area, proposing initiatives and identifying specific priorities and problems;
- Identify, where possible, opportunities for regeneration and investment, while protecting and enhancing the historic and diverse character of the area;
- Use the influence of the community along with the Neighbourhood Plan to help promote and market the area;
- Identify ways of improving the local environment and amenities;
- Strengthen the role of ward councillors as elected representatives.
- Promote the policies of the Kennington, Oval and Vauxhall

Neighbourhood Plan.

2. Area

2.1. Kennington, Oval and Vauxhall Forum shall serve the area within the London Borough of Lambeth that is south of Lambeth Road and north of the southern boundary of Oval Ward (before the Local Government Boundary changes implemented in 2022).

2.2. See below for a map of the defined area:



3. Membership of the Kennington, Oval and Vauxhall Neighbourhood Forum

3.1. Membership of the Forum shall be open to all with an interest in the area as defined.

3.2. The Forum shall maintain a list of members for communication and information purposes.

3.3. Individuals and organisations may register to receive information/ mailings from the Forum on request to the Secretary.

3.4. The Forum welcomes membership as follows:

a. Representatives of residents' and tenants' associations within the defined area;

b. Representatives of other societies and community groups in the defined area;

c. Representatives of local businesses;

d. Representatives of public bodies and other public service providers;

e. Individuals who live or work in the defined area

f. Individuals who are elected members of the London Borough of Lambeth for wards any part of which falls within the defined area.

4. Annual General Meeting/Extraordinary General Meetings

4.1. The Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Forum shall be held not more than 15 months after the date of the previous AGM.

4.2. There shall be a minimum of 14 days’ notice of the meeting.

4.3. The business of the AGM shall be:

- To receive from the Executive Committee a report on the year's activities;
- To receive the annual accounts of the previous year, independently approved;

- To elect Executive Committee members;
- To receive reports as determined by the Executive Committee.

4.4. An Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) shall be convened at any time by the Chair on behalf of the Executive Committee or on receipt of a written request for such a meeting signed by at least 10 existing members and specifying the business to be transacted. The Committee must convene the EGM within 35 days of receipt of a valid written request. A minimum of 14 days' notice shall be given for an EGM.

4.5. Voting decisions at an AGM or EGM, other than on changes to the constitution, shall be made by simple majority of members present. 'Members' shall be defined as those living within the defined area and those described in paragraph 3 above.

5. Executive Committee and Officers

5.1. At its annual meeting (AGM) the Forum shall elect an Executive Committee with a maximum of 20 members.

5.2. The Executive Committee shall appoint a Chair (who shall also be Chair of the Forum), Secretary, Treasurer and up to two other honorary officers at the first Executive Committee meeting following the AGM

5.3. Nomination for election to the Committee, with proposer and seconder, both members, must be in writing, received by the Chair or Secretary 10 days before the annual meeting.

5.4. Members of the Executive Committee holding office shall retain the office for not more than three consecutive years with provision for a further three years subject to the approval of members at an AnnualGeneral Meeting.

5.5. The Executive Committee shall have the power to co-opt to fill any casual vacancy on the Committee.

6. Meetings

6.1. Forum meetings are held in public and there shall be a minimum of three such public meetings a year. All members of the public are welcome to attend.

6.2. The quorum for Forum meetings shall be a minimum of ten members.

7. Finance

7.1. The financial year of the Forum shall be 1 April to 31 March.

7.2. The Treasurer shall, on behalf of the Forum, maintain a bank account in the name of The Kennington, Oval and Vauxhall Forum.

7.3. All payments must be authorised by three members of the Executive Committee

7.4. The Treasurer shall prepare a written financial report for the AGM and report on the state of the finances of the Forum to each Executive Committee meeting.

8. Amendments to this Constitution

8.1. The Constitution may be amended only at an AGM or EGM, if two-thirds of members present and voting are in favour, provided 14 days' notice of the proposed amendment has been posted or delivered to all at their last known address or by electronic mail.

9. Winding up

9.1. The Forum may be dissolved by resolution at an AGM or EGM called for the purpose, if

a. two-thirds of members present and voting are in favour, and

b. provided that 14 days' notice of the proposed resolution has been posted or otherwise delivered by electronic mail to all members at their last known address.

9.2. In the event of dissolution, any surplus funds shall be transferred to one or more organisations having objects similar to those of the Forum, chosen by the Executive Committee and approved at the meeting when the decision to dissolve the Forum is taken.

Code of conduct for meetings

To ensure that Forum meetings are properly conducted in a spirit of equality and inclusivity the following code of conduct applies to Forum meetings.

1. All participants have a responsibility to conduct themselves in a manner that does not cause offence to others or limit their ability to participate in meetings.
2. Derogatory remarks, interruptions, actions or other behaviour that prevent the orderly conduct of business and the participation of any members present shall not be permitted.
3. Forum attendees should take full account of the needs of those who may not be used to speaking in public or whose first language is not English.

Forum members or other attendees of the public who consider that this code of conduct has been breached should raise the matter with the Chair, either at the time or immediately after the meeting.

The Chair shall judge whether there has been a breach of this code of conduct and inform the person concerned that such behaviour is unacceptable.

If unacceptable behaviour persists, a motion will be put to the meeting to suspend the person or persons from the meeting. Any future participation by that person will depend on a commitment in writing to the Chair that such behaviour will not recur.

Continued breaches of the code by Forum attendees will result in appropriate sanctions .