**APPLICATION TO OMBC FOR REGISTRATION AS A NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM**

**Name of proposed area:** Chadderton Neighbourhood Area (includes all three Chadderton wards as defined by OMBC and the Boundary Commission) as shown on the map that has been provided.

**Name of proposed Neighbourhood Forum:** The New Chadderton Partnership

**Constitution:**  A copy of the constitution is attached in support of the application.

**Contacts:**  Chair: Tony Tomlinson

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**Statement**

Chadderton does not have a Parish or Town Council so a provisional neighbourhood forum has been formed to lead and co-ordinate the plan making process. This was led by Chadderton Together, a registered charity encompassing many local voluntary bodies, who held a series of meetings with interested parties from the various groups in the proposed neighbourhood area. A meeting was held In Chadderton Town Hall on the 3rd April 2019 which was attended by about 30 people. In addition, individual people who live or work and are active in the proposed neighbourhood area were approached to see if they would be interested in becoming involved. An application has been submitted for the Chadderton Partnership to be designated as the Neighbourhood Partnership.

Regulation 5 (a) of Section 61F of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.

The forum is being established with the express purpose of promoting or improving the social, economic and environmental wellbeing of the area.

Social: Many of the community groups that are part of Chadderton Together have a strong track record in the promotion of social inclusion, reducing isolation and promoting physical and mental wellbeing. The Neighbourhood Plan will help identify other examples of these issues and identify opportunities to deal with them by inter alia supporting the older and younger members of the community and others that may be vulnerable.

Economic: The green agenda will assume greater importance in the future and the plan will look for opportunities to promote sustainable growth with zero carbon emissions and, equally important, identify opportunities for local businesses to support training and create sustainable employment opportunities.

Environment: Strategies to encourage environmental projects will be identified and promoted to address the need to improve the environment and address pollution and fly tipping. The plan process will allow the identification of small schemes that can bring underused or derelict land back into use for community benefit such as small community gardens for example in areas that currently lack green space.

Regulation 5(b)

Membership has been invited from people who live or work in the neighbourhood area as well as elected representatives.

Regulation 5(c)

Currently more than 21 people have committed to becoming members, as shown on the attached list, including four local councillors as well as local residents from different parts of the proposed neighbourhood area and local businesses. It reflects the ethnic mix of the area. The list also identifies the members who have been elected to the management committee and are indicated with an asterisk.

The management committee is committed to encouraging other people to get involved to ensure that the Partnership is as representative as possible. This will be done via a website that will be created as well as meetings based round the topic areas that have so far been identified as of significance to the area as well as future topics which will emerge as the plan process progresses.

Regulation 5 (d)

The forum has a constitution which has been submitted as part of this application.

**Aim of the Partnership**

To prepare a Neighbourhood Plan in conjunction with Oldham MBC and other stakeholders in order to promote and improve the social, economic and environmental well being of the area by:

* actively encouraging all members to participate fully in the activities of the forum
* encouraging the goodwill and involvement of the wider community
* fostering community spirit and encouraging civic pride
* encouraging engagement with the New Chadderton Partnership to allow discussion of the issues that affect the neighbourhood area as well as ideas that may enhance such as transport planning, health, local public services, local businesses or open spaces
* supporting projects that are of benefit to the neighbourhood area
* considering proposals by public or private sector bodies likely to have a significant impact on the social, economic and/or environmental wellbeing of the area

The Neighbourhood Plan will set out the partnership’s policies for the use of the land in the neighbourhood area or, in partnership with other forums, parish councils or planning authorities, the wider area taking account of the need to balance the different concerns of the people who live and work in the area and the powers and resources of the local authority in relation to planning matters.

It is recognised that Chadderton is an area responding to change and there is a need to provide additional housing across all sectors including social and affordable to meet the needs of the population which includes an increasing number of older residents. Any such new housing needs to meet good standards for space, outdoor space and construction quality in response to the serious issue of climate change. It will also need to be supported by good transport, educational facilities and recreational opportunities and the neighbourhood plan will allow these needs to be accurately identified which can then influence the proposals of the Oldham Local Plan and provide an evidenced response to any development proposals that come forward in the future.

There is also a need to provide education and training to suit employment proposals that also need to be identified and created across all ages. The issue of climate change makes the identification of sustainable and green options a matter of extreme importance.

The town centre is in need of refurbishment and there are also a number of conservation issues in the area that need to be addressed.

Chadderton’s history in cotton and engineering is evidenced in the number of mills that remain standing. Whilst some of these are still in use many are not. Finding alternative uses will be a major objective of the plan although it is accepted that this will not be a simple exercise since some are protected as being of historic or architectural importance and others are located in close proximity to housing or have accesses unsuitable for modern vehicles which restricts alternative uses. The ability to bring them back into use is, however, important since it would have the potential to address some of the issues that have been identified.

Open space is at a premium. Whilst parts of the neighbourhood area are located in open countryside or contain houses with gardens, parts of the area also contain extensively built up areas with no off-street parking or open space which results in an unattractive environment. The plan will offer the opportunity to identify areas that can be developed by and for the community which will promote health and wellbeing which is an important objective of local planning.

**Declaration**

I hereby apply for the designation of a neighbourhood forum as described above and in the supporting documents.

**Signed: ­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

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