

## Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012

### Application for the Designation of a Neighbourhood Area (Regulation 5)



This form has been prepared by Rochdale Council to help simplify the application process for designation of a neighbourhood area. You do not have to use the form. Please note that the information provided on this application form and its supporting documents will be made public.

**If you require any further clarification, or would like to discuss the boundaries of your proposed Neighbourhood Area with the Council before you submit your application, please contact the Strategic Planning Service via email at [LDF.consultation@rochdale.gov.uk](mailto:LDF.consultation@rochdale.gov.uk)**

## 1. Applicant Details

**Contact name:** Alan Rawsterne

**Organisation name:** Rooley Moor Neighbourhood Forum - to be registered as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO)

**Address:** Care of:- Owd House, Fern Hill Lane, Rochdale. OL12 6BW

**Email Address:** [REDACTED]

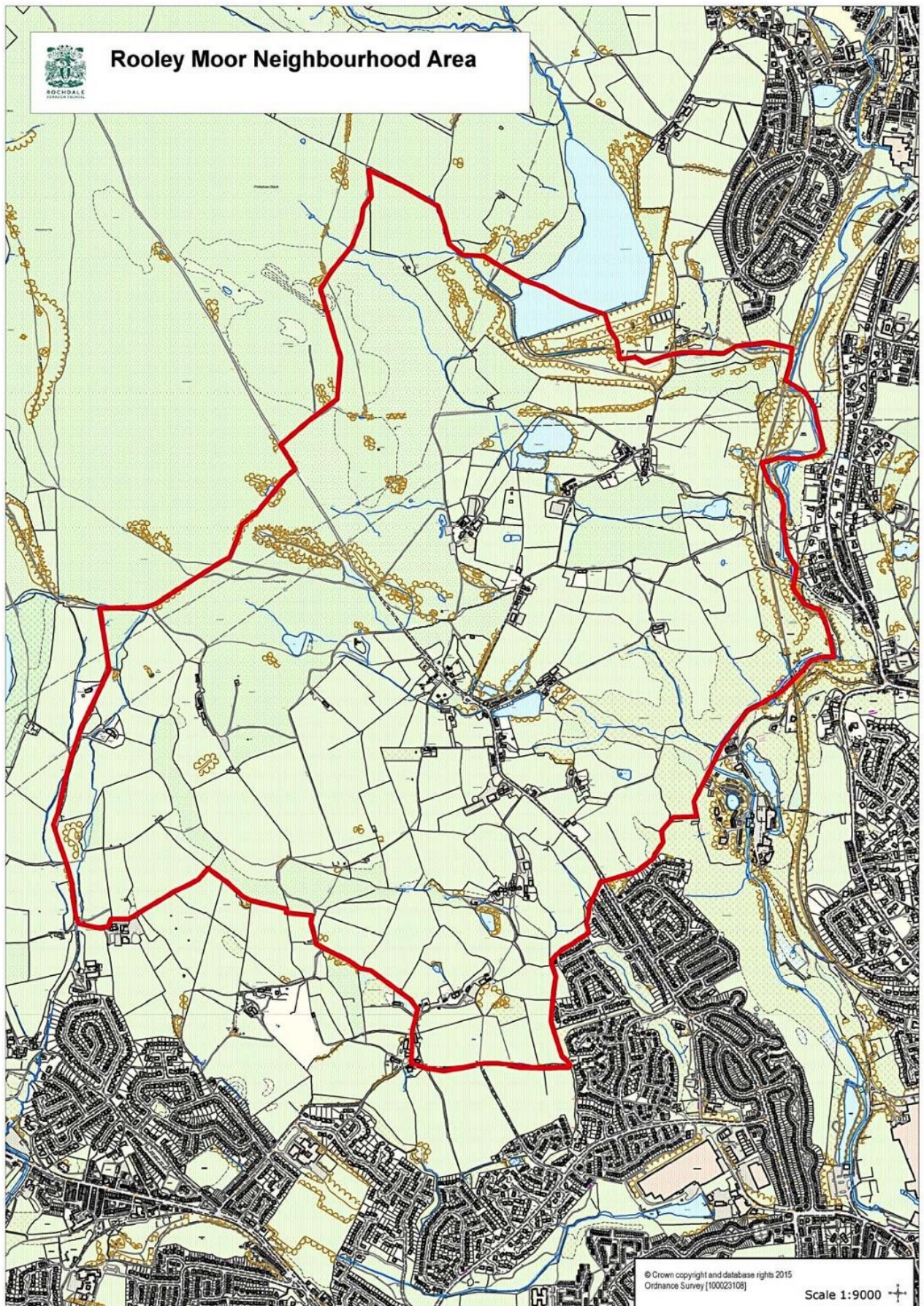
**Telephone Number:** 01706 354161 – mobile [REDACTED]

## 2. Name of Proposed Neighbourhood Area

Rooley Moor Neighbourhood Area

### 3. Neighbourhood Area Details

#### Rooley Moor Neighbourhood Area Map



## **Why this area is appropriate**

The area boundary is based on the Electoral register area called 'FA' in the Spotland and Falinge Ward. It connects households to the polling station in Catley Lane Head, and excludes the area to the west of Rooley Moor Road. This leaves the area as a 'rural and villages area' and avoids the anomaly of the West side of Rooley Moor Road along the Stonehill estate being in the area, whilst Elmpark and the East side are excluded. This area has been chosen in conjunction with the residents and Ward Councillor as being manageable in terms of preparation of a neighbourhood plan, and can be extended with further adjoining neighbourhood plans at a later date should the appetite exist to do so.

Our 'neighbourhood area' includes Catley Lane Head, the Cotton Famine Road section of Rooley Moor Road, Fern Hill and the Prickshaw & Broadly Fold Conservation Area. The physical appearance and characteristics of the neighbourhood area are consistent with a natural rural setting that includes buildings of a similar style.

There is local sense of a 'neighbourhood' and whilst our area has the smallest population of the Spotland and Falinge Ward, the creation of an 'area forum' will formalise community networks to include the views of those who live, work, pursue recreational activities and carry out business in the area. Our intention is also to create a 'neighbourhood model' that we can use to support the creation of other neighbourhood areas within the Ward.

## **Area background**

Catley Lane Head is the 'Gateway to Rooley Moor and the Famine Road' it contains a number of listed buildings and we believe this is a heritage asset worthy of conservation area status. In addition this area attracts an active fishing community run for many years by Whitworth Valley Angling Society with funding from local government for disabled facilities at fisheries situated at Lane Head and Broadley Wood.

The 'Famine Road' section of Rooley Moor Road could be of National and International importance, it is a reminder of the harsh times cotton workers had to endure during the Cotton Famine and is unique in linking the American Civil War to social changes in our own country at a time when the Rochdale Pioneer Movement influenced social thinking throughout the UK. At an altitude of over 1500 feet this historic feature may also lay claim to being one of the highest roads in England. Enjoyed by walkers & runners, ornithologists and cyclists, this moorland route also forms part of the Pennine Bridleway allowing safe access for horse riders on the Mary Townley Loop. The upper section of Rooley Moor Road is visible from many miles away (often called the 'yellow brick road') and is a prominent part of the North Manchester / Lancashire / West Yorkshire landscape. We think many people who see the road from afar do not currently appreciate its history or significance, and an underlying objective of the neighbourhood forum will be to improve this awareness.

Fern Hill is a small hamlet containing a number of listed buildings one of which could be associated with the early Wesleyan movement, possibly being used as a Sunday school or meeting room.

The Prickshaw & Broadley Fold Conservation Area is unique and with a history going back to the 13th Century it is designated as an area of historic and architectural interest worthy of preservation and enhancement.

## 4. More About You

### Capability of the neighbourhood forum to be a qualifying body

The proposals for our neighbourhood area are put forward by the proposed 'Rooley Moor Neighbourhood Forum' (RMNF). A request to approve the neighbourhood forum has been submitted with this application to designate the neighbourhood area.

The RMNF has been established to promote and improve the social, economic and environmental wellbeing of the Rooley Moor Area. This will be achieved by agreeing a vision for the Rooley Moor Area, preparing development policies (that conform with local and national planning policies) to achieve this vision and by preparing a Neighbourhood Plan for the Rooley Moor area which embodies these policies and any other appropriate purpose agreed by the forum.

Our values are to conduct forum affairs ethically and observe the 'Nolan Principles', the seven principles of public life, namely Selflessness, Integrity, Objectivity, Accountability, Openness, Honesty and Leadership; and to pursue equality of opportunity in terms of its membership, its conduct and its proposed Plan.

Membership is open to all individuals who live, work, pursue recreational activities and carry out business in the area, ward councillors and individuals who are elected members.

The initiating group requested information about neighbourhood planning through the Spotland and Falinge Area Forum. This was followed up by conversations with the planning officers of Rochdale Borough Council and from these conversations the proposed neighbourhood area was drawn up. The proposed area is predominantly rural and residential. There are a number of listed buildings in the area and the majority of houses are of a similar style being stone built and privately owned. Business in the area includes farming, equestrian and bed & breakfast. Other business professionals living and working from the area include accountants and teachers.

An initial consultation on the principles of a neighbourhood plan has been carried out by small group discussions and email. The first formal meeting of the forum has yet to be held, however, sufficient people have volunteered to become officers and members of the forum – please see the attached register of forum officers and members to be proposed at the first meeting following designation.

There are initially 26 people who wish to be a members of the forum. They bring a range of expertise including, finance, marketing, tax, project management, information technology, education, accounting, business owners, walkers, equestrians, anglers and members of the clergy. The majority of forum members are residents who live or work in the area, plus our Ward Councillor and business representatives with their businesses dependent on our area. Members have expressed a desire to:

- Achieve conservation area status for Catley Lane Head, the Cotton Famine Road and Fern Hill
- Attract sympathetic development by putting the area on the map as an asset to be developed for tourism and traditional outdoor activity
- Link the area with two of the borough's beauty spots. Healey Dell nature reserve and Greenboth/Naden reservoirs - both of which have interesting histories

The forum's constitution and a proposed management committee is attached. A bank account and website is soon to be established.

## Register of Members

First Name	Surname	Outward Postcode	Inward Postcode	Interest In Area	Proposed Forum Membership	Comments
Alan	Rawsterne	OL12	6BW	Resident	Trustee & Secretary	
F	Healey	OL12	6BW	Resident	Treasurer	
J	Newcombe	OL12	6BD	Resident	Trustee	Chair of The Prickshaw and Broadley Fold Conservation Area Committee
A	Meek	OL12	6BD	Resident	Forum Committee	
N	Marr	OL12	8XN	Resident	Member	We support this idea, as obviously we live within the conservation area so are keen to do whatever we can to help preserve and enhance our environment. Also, as a family, we are keen equestrians, walkers and bikers so we really do value the open space we have on our doorstep.
J	Lord	OL12	8XN	Resident	Member	
J	Holt	OL12	7JG	Resident	Member	I am interested in being a member of the forum. I have lived in this area more than 50 years and I am the fourth generation of my family to do so. My father and grandfather owned the smallholdings at the bottom of Rooley Moor. My great grandfather and family came from North Yorkshire and lived at Naden Head Farm before that, so my family have worked and farmed the land for more than one hundred years
M	Stirzaker	OL12	6BH	Resident	Member	
C	Stirzaker	OL12	6BH	Resident	Member	
H	Moore	OL12	6BH	Resident	Chair	We have strong sense of being part of an old and established rural community. We are feel lucky to live near such an accessible open space, and enjoy all it has to offer and the pleasure it affords to others
A	Moore	OL12	6BH	Resident	Member	
C	Biant	OL12	7JP	Ward Councillor	Forum Committee	
R	Thorniley	OL11	4BQ	Walker	Trustee & Vice Chair	Footpath and Countryside Secretary, The Ramblers, Rochdale Group
P	Howarth	OL12	6BW	Resident	Forum Committee	
M	Morgan	OL12	6BH	Resident	Trustee	
S	Morgan	OL12	6BH	Resident	Member	
W	McGhee	OL12	6BN	Resident	Forum Committee	
D	Ireland	OL12	6BN	Resident	Member	
D	Ireland	OL12	6BN	Resident	Member	
D	McGhee	OL12	6BN	Resident	Member	
G	Fitton	OL12	6BN	Resident	Forum Committee	I am interested in being a member of the Neighbourhood Forum as a resident I want to see the area and its environs conserved and improved for future generations. I also feel the area is one of Rochdale s greatest assets and should be protected from inappropriate use and developments
I	Pope	BL9	6RD	Equestrian	Forum Committee	To protect and develop equestrian access on Rooley Moor and surrounding areas
C	Thomas	BB4	9NG	Equestrian & Business Owner	Member	I am interested in the area as a walker, accommodation provider, horse rider and equestrian business. I don't live in the area but believe in a holistic approach to preserving our precious countryside resources and have been very impressed by the neighbourhood feeling generated by the Rooley Moor campaign
C T	Perkins	OL12	6BD	Resident	Member	
N	Green	OL12	6BW	Resident	TBA	
D	Madgin	OL12	6BD	Resident	Member	Resident of Prickshaw for 21 years and Walker, previous interest in Equestrian from daughter and neighbour. I take pride in living in such a picturesque area of Rochdale, it feels like going on holiday living in Prickshaw! I would like to see a high standard for the village and surrounding areas for me, villagers, residents and the passing horse riders, mountain bikers and walkers

## 5. Declaration:

I hereby apply for the designation of a neighbourhood area as described in this form and shown on the accompanying plan.

**Signed:** Alan Rawsterne

**Dated:** 13/08/2015

In accordance with Regulation 6 (Publicising an area application), Rochdale Council will publicise, and invite comments on the application for a 6 week period.

Please submit this form, and attached documentation, by email at [LDF.consultation@rochdale.gov.uk](mailto:LDF.consultation@rochdale.gov.uk)

Alternatively, please post the form and supporting documents to:

Strategic Planning Service

Number 1 Riverside

Smith Street,

Rochdale,

OL16 1XU