


Buckingham Gate Neighbourhood Watch

Custodi civitatem Domine – Watch over the city O Lord (Motto of Westminster)



9th December 2012

Ms Rosemarie MacQueen
Strategic Director for the Built Environment
Westminster City Council
64 Victoria Street
London SW1E 6QP

13 DEC 2012

Dear Ms MacQueen,

Buckingham Gate Neighbourhood Forum

We would like to apply for the area on the attached map to become Buckingham Gate Neighbourhood Forum. The boundaries are: Buckingham Gate (including Vandon Street), Victoria Street as far as Bressenden Place, Bressenden Place and the short section of Buckingham Palace Road from Bressenden Place up to Buckingham Gate.

Why Buckingham Gate Neighbourhood Forum is considered appropriate for designation

The area has some cohesiveness and feeling of community fostered by the establishment of the Buckingham Gate Neighbourhood Watch some six years ago, through the community tended gardens along Buckingham Gate and our website (www.buckinghamgate.org). We believe that this is an unique separate area and should not be subsumed under the proposed Victoria Neighbourhood Forum (VNF). We feel that we are a *Neighbourhood* and not a part of a large tract which would be impersonal:

We know that some residents of the View on the South Side of Palace Street have participated in the formation of the proposed VNF. If most of the residents of the View felt that they wanted to belong to the VNF, we would cede the area between Palace Street and Bressenden Place to VNF.

As the legislation states the Issue, “We want people to be able to influence decisions about new and modified buildings and facilities in their area”. The aim is to give “communities the power to set the priorities for local development”. The community is the local Buckingham Gate area. The current feeling of being unable to influence decisions would be continued by being part of VNF which would be dominated by businesses and CARG. For example, we were not consulted at all in the proposal of setting up the VNF. We need to be a Neighbourhood Forum ourselves.

Why Buckingham Gate Neighbourhood Watch is capable of being designated as a Neighbourhood Forum

We already meet regularly and have established good relationships with Wellington Barracks and St. James’s Court Hotel. It is a body small enough where everyone who has something to say can participate and contribute directly without there having to be a separate controlling committee

requiring elections. We currently have 65 personal members and 17 businesses so fulfil the NF requirement of having at least 21 members. We will make an effort to include more businesses and individuals in the coming months.

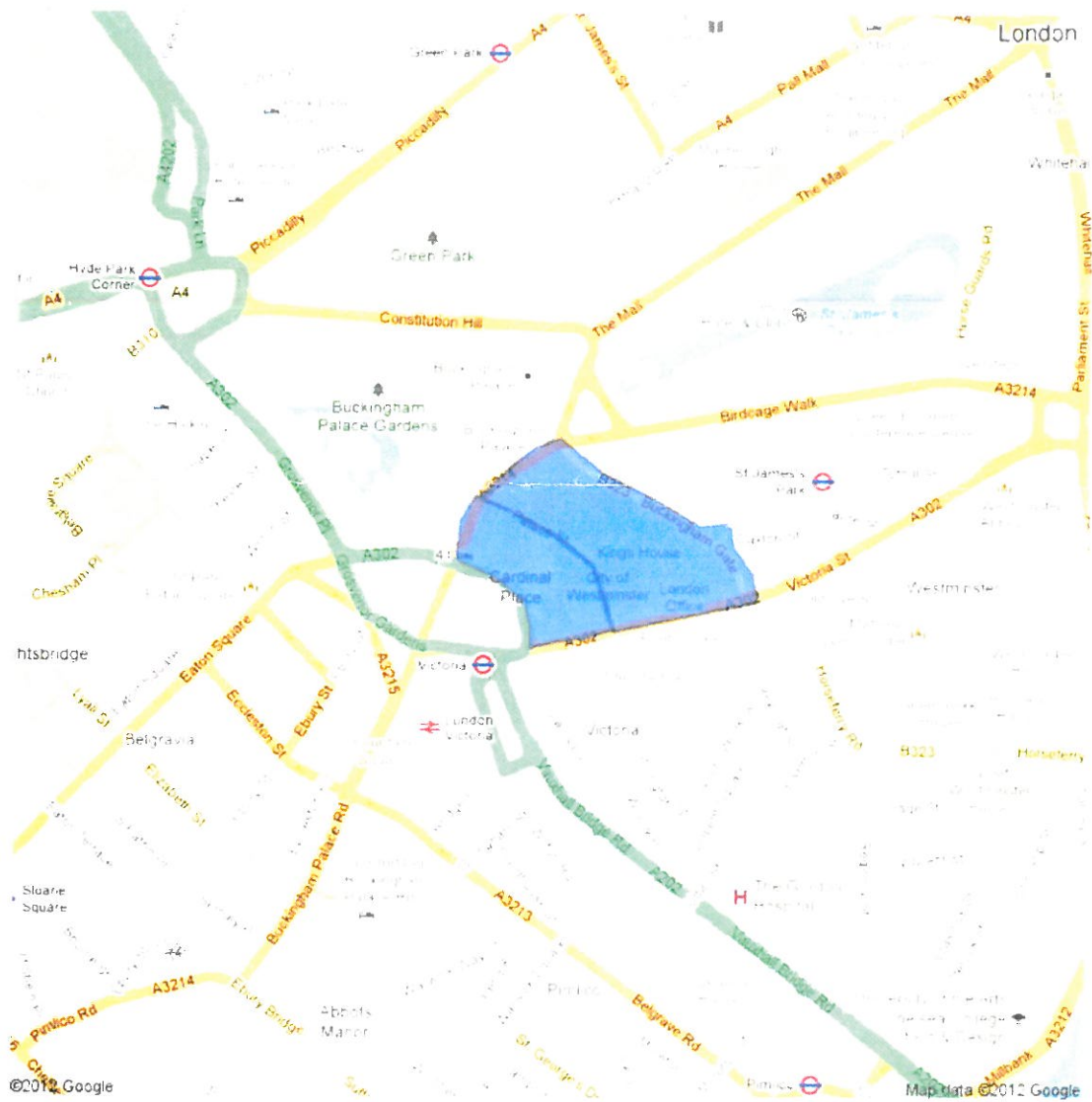
We very much hope that our application will be successful.

May God bless you.

With kind regards,



Ian Benson
Coordinator
Buckingham Gate Neighbourhood Watch



Buckingham Gate Neighbourhood Forum