Karen,

I have attached the document that was discussed in your absence, it provides further clarification of the responsibilities of both the prospective neighbourhood forum and the local authority. The majority of the objections to the boundary would be negated by an acceptance of this type of agreement, Indeed the forum would not be involved in amendments to the strategies already laid down by the authority, nor would it be looking at retrospective reviewing of granted planning, there are other avenues available outside of the forum for this type of action.

National Planning Policy Guidance published by The Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) sets out that a localplanning authority must designate a neighbourhood area if it receives a valid application and some or all of the area has not yet been designated and should aim to designate the area applied for. In addition, when a Neighbourhood Area is designated a local planning authority should avoid prejudgingwhat a qualifying body may subsequently decide to put in its draft Neighbourhood Plan or Order. It should not make assumptions about theNeighbourhood Plan or Order that will emerge from developing, testing and consulting on the draft Neighbourhood Plan or Order when designating aNeighbourhood Area.

The Regulations also states that the Neighbourhood Plan must be in general conformity with the strategic policies of the development Plan and shouldreflect the and positively support them. Neighbourhood Plans should not promote less development than set out in the development plan or undermine its strategic policies.

It seem to me that the Council are pre-judging the direction that maybe taken by the embryonic Neighbourhood forum. Safeguards are already in place within the Policy documentation, again this should remove the majority of the Councils concerns.

Neighbourhood Forums are all about bringing together residents, local businesses, elected Councillors and the Council planning officers to work collaboratively on a Neighbourhood Plan. This deals with local planning issues, sitting alongside and complementing the higher-level planning policies of the Council and national planning policy. The idea is to build bridges in what can be a conflict-filled planning and development system.

These are crucial areas for planning the future of Sneinton, because they form the connections westward to the City centre and southwards to the River Trent and the planned Waterside Development. These are connections that have been cut historically by the railway and poorly planned development beyond Manvers Street and Carlton Road, leaving Sneinton isolated from the areas around it. Modifying the submitted boundary would reinforce this isolation rather than help put Sneinton back on the map- which is why they were included in the Forum's plan area in the first place.

The Councils concerns are unfounded, as Neighbourhood Planning is designed to fit very well with the Council's Local Plans: it deals with issues of local concern and not the 'Strategic level' concerns of the Council's policy. The whole idea is to encourage developers by clearly setting out ways that they can get the 'buy in' of the local community- by meeting the Neighbourhood Plan they can escape from the old-style confrontation with locals that has blighted the planning system in the past.

Lastly one other objection raised in the meeting but not mentioned in your email was that the Creative Quarter had also voiced objection to the boundary, I have spoken to Kathy McArdle CEO of the CQ, who said, rather than opposing the Neighbourhood boundary actually supports the

inclusion of the Sneinton Market development Area in the proposed area, and believed that the Board of the CQ also supported this.

We had hoped to hold the Forum AGM in January, but we have postponed it, due to a clash with a STARA community meeting, we now hope to hold it during February and would really like to report back with a successful conclusion to the boundary bid.

Warmest regards

Brian Grundy
Chair, Sneinton Neighbourhood Forum.