



# Knowle, Dorridge and Bentley Heath Neighbourhood Forum

## Why do we need a Neighbourhood Forum?

Neighbourhood planning was introduced in the Localism Act 2011. The vast majority of Neighbourhood Plans created to date have been developed through Town or Parish Councils. Our villages do not have a Parish Council. So, by law we have to form what's called a 'Neighbourhood Forum'.

This is a body officially recognised by both Central and Local Government to lead development of a Neighbourhood Plan where no Parish Council exists. As a statutory body representing a large community, the Forum will have power to shape and influence development plans, within the constraints of the legislation.



## Who are the Forum?

By law the Forum must include at least 21 members (our aim is over 1,000) who are representative of the neighbourhood. Anyone who lives, works or runs a business in Knowle, Dorridge or Bentley Heath can become a member.

## What does it mean to be a Member?

The most important benefit of being a Member is that you get to vote on the overall shape (vision, key topics, priorities) and contents (proposals) of what goes into the Neighbourhood Plan.



## How can I get involved?

The Forum is run by volunteers. No offer of help turned down! There are many different ways you can choose to get involved, mixing and matching from the list below depending on where your interest lies and the time you have available:

- Keep up to date through periodic newsletters and access the Forum's website
- Attend Forum meetings and input to the wide range of activities involved in creating the Plan - from community events to writing the Plan
- Contribute to any of the smaller Focus Groups dealing with a topic of particular interest to you.
- Support the running of the Forum. This requires a whole range of skills and you definitely don't have to be an 'expert'. Everyone has something to contribute....

**Get on board!**



## How do I join?

Fill in the Membership Form while you are here.  
Fill it in on the website.

Oh! and by the way it's **FREE!**

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**For more information visit our website: [kdbh-np.org](http://kdbh-np.org)**