# Knowle, Dorridge and Bentley Heath Neighbourhood Forum
# Membership Application Form

**TO HAVE YOUR SAY IN A NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN FOR KNOWLE, DORRIDGE AND BENTLEY HEATH, REGISTER YOUR INTEREST BY BECOMING A MEMBER OF THE NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM BELOW.**

***Note: To be a member, your address (work or home) needs to fall within the proposed designated Area -*** *see the map overleaf for more details (bigger version on our website kdbh-np.org).*

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Address: _____

_____ Postcode: _____

This is my: ☐ Home address ☐ Work address

Contact: Phone: _____ Email _____

Contact preference: ☐ Email ☐ Post

I am a: ☐ Resident; ☐ Work in the Area; ☐ Ward Councillor; ☐ Business; ☐ Group Rep.

Name of Business or Group: .....

☐ I confirm my wish to become a Member of the Knowle, Dorridge and Bentley Heath Neighbourhood Forum and to receive news and updates. As a Member, I can have a say in, and vote on, the contents of the Neighbourhood Plan. *(There is no cost for membership, but each Member is liable to pay a maximum of £1 in the very unlikely event of having to wind up the company running the Forum with outstanding debts. This is a normal legal requirement of organisations like ours, which are limited by guarantee.)*

☐ I would like to become a Subscriber to the Neighbourhood Forum and to receive news and updates. *(This option is open to anyone with an interest in the Area, but who does not live, work or run a business here and will therefore not be able to vote on the Plan).*

Anyone who is interested in joining and wants to find out more is most welcome to attend one of our New Member sessions. We run these periodically at Arden Academy, dates on our web site kdbh-np.org. These informal sessions provide an opportunity to learn more about both the aims of the Neighbourhood Plan and how the Forum runs.

Should you want to get more actively involved (this is not compulsory), then there are lots of different ways to support Forum activities to fit the time you have available. More details can be found on our website, by e-mailing our Membership Secretary membership@kdbh-np.org, or by talking to any member of the team at the New Member Session.

Thank you - we look forward to welcoming you to the Forum. Please return your form:

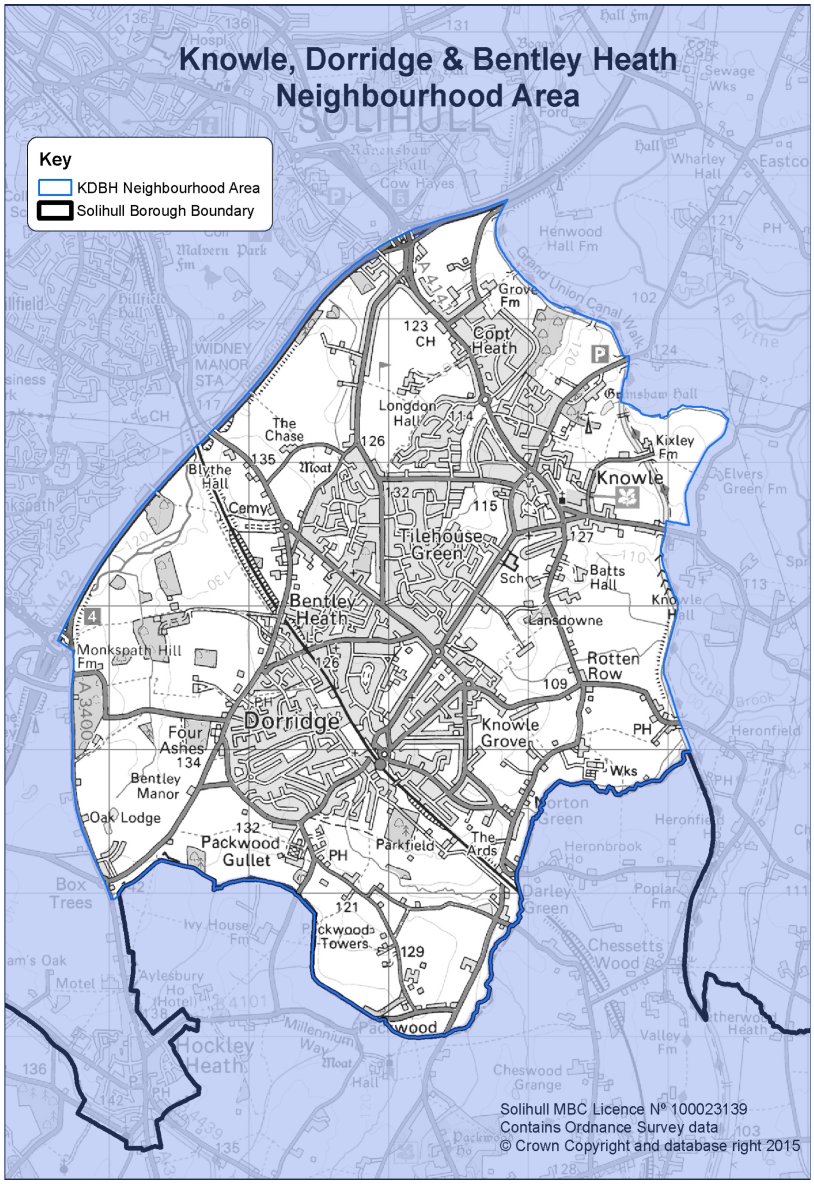
- By hand : to Arden Academy or Bentley Heath School reception;
- By post: c/o Arden Academy, Station Rd, Knowle, B93 0PT marked 'KDBH Neighbourhood Forum'
- By e-mail: send a scanned copy to membership@kdbh-np.org

# Knowle, Dorridge and Bentley Heath Neighbourhood Forum
# Membership Application Form

## IN A NUTSHELL - WHAT IT'S ALL ABOUT

In early 2015, Knowle Society worked closely with the Dorridge & District Residents' Association (DDRA) to raise awareness of a change in the law giving communities a greater say in future developments in their area. The way to achieve this is by creating a 'Neighbourhood Plan'. A number of residents and businesses responded, and have since come together to take up the challenge of working with all sections of our community to set down how we want our villages to develop over the next 10-15 years. The Area to be covered is shown in the map below.

None of our three communities has a Parish Council. The Knowle Society and DDRA, as residents associations, do a great job lobbying for our interests but do not carry the weight of statutory bodies.




We have therefore had to form what's called a 'Neighbourhood Forum'. This is a body officially recognised by both Central and Local Government to carry out development of a Neighbourhood Plan where no Parish Council exists. Following our formal application to Solihull Council, our KDBH Forum and Area were officially designated from 10 October 2015.

Those leading the Neighbourhood Forum are responsible for working with the community to create a draft Neighbourhood Plan. It is vital, however, that the Forum includes as many members of the community as possible to ensure it represents all different needs and perspectives. Whether the draft Plan is ultimately approved will be determined by way of an independent Referendum, with everyone who lives, works or runs a business in the Area able to vote.

The team running the Forum (all unpaid volunteers) is very happy to 'do the leg work' on behalf of local people – but is acutely aware of the need to stay as close as possible to the needs and wishes of the communities it serves. No-one wants to get to the end of the process (likely to take around 2 years) and find that we've wasted our time!

We therefore really do need your input and support - and the best way to show this is to become a Member of the Forum. It costs nothing, while providing you with a channel to have your say and keeping you informed in a way that best suits your needs - via meetings, e-mail or the web. Thank you for your support.