



# Open Spaces and Public Realm Highgate Neighbourhood Forum

“public space enhances the look and feel of the city, making it a more healthy and pleasant place for residents and visitors and an environment in which businesses **and communities** can thrive”

Manifesto for Public Space, Boris Johnson

“Sometimes a tree can tell you more than can be read in a book”

Carl Jung

# Introduction



- The HNF area has an abundance of open space and this is one of the strongest positive factors influencing people's love of the area as 'welcoming, attractive and green'. We have a number of major parks and the Heath was well as numerous informal green spaces and private gardens that form a vital and living 'green infrastructure'
- In between these green spaces exists our public realm – streets, pavements, paths and spaces – that needs to be of high quality, well designed and maintained to ensure ease and safety of use for all the community

# Key Aims

- Our ambition is therefore to preserve and enhance this wonderful resource to provide greater amenity and pleasure for residents and visitors and encourage biodiversity and wildlife
- These open spaces and our public realm – streets, squares, roads, informal spaces – also need to become more people friendly through good design, improvements and events that encourage use and wellbeing for the whole community

# Being more specific . . .



- To celebrate and use our open spaces and enhanced public realm to improve everyday experience for residents and also attract visitors to the area to support local business
- To ensure that all green open space in the HNF are maintains an appropriate balance between community use and environmental concerns
- To develop creative and community–focussed uses for un–used areas of open space including Highgate Overground Station and the Highgate Bowl
- Encourage community access to, and use of, open space including growing spaces, temporary events and markets
- Take particular account of the needs of the young, physically and mentally disabled people and the elderly in the maintenance of open space and its facilities
- To enhance and protect biodiversity and wildlife utilised by our ‘green infrastructure’
- To improve public realm through good design, decluttering, greening and signage
- To make links and routes between our open spaces through signage and joined–up marketing creating ‘green routes’ or ‘quietways’ for walkers and cyclists



# Ideas from other places



## The alternative garden festival













# Delivery



- Support and build on existing local initiatives and community projects
- Encourage local residents and businesses to develop, take ownership and get involved in open space and public realm initiatives
- Support and work with Haringey and Camden Councils to help deliver their Open Space and Public Realm strategies
- To make links to local, London-wide and national initiatives to create partnerships to deliver improvements with reduced resources
- To seek funding and resources for community ideas
- To develop routes, signage and maps that celebrate and provide access to and appreciation of our green infrastructure in partnership with councils, GLA and TfL



# A great start . . .



- National initiatives; The Future of High Streets (post-Portas Review), Living Streets, RHS Campaign for School Gardening, Trees for Cities
- London Initiatives: Better Streets, London's Great Outdoors, Legible London, Capital Growth, Boris' Cycling Revolution, Chelsea Fringe
- Local Initiatives; Camden and Haringey councils Open Space Strategy, Haringey Council's Townscape Heritage Initiative, Waterlow Park Kitchen Garden, Harington Scheme, St Michaels School Gardening Club, Allotments groups, OAP Guerilla Gardening







But still lots to do . . .





