



HNF COMMITTEE REPORT FOR AGM 2019

It is nearly two years since the Highgate Neighbourhood Plan was formerly adopted by both councils as a fourth tier of planning policy. We are now one of over 100 communities in London involved in neighbourhood planning. We must also remember that as one of the earliest Plans in London, we are at the forefront of a new way of planning and creating our cities – one where communities are far more engaged and involved than ever before. Whilst things aren't perfect – the rise of neighbourhood planning offers us a unique opportunity to have a voice, as never before, in planning, policies and spending in our local communities.

So, whilst many forums are engaged in the challenge of completing their plans, the Highgate Neighbourhood Forum is now developing new relationships and new ways of working to bring positive change to our local area. Our key areas of activity are;

- Social and Community
- Economic Activity
- Traffic and Transport
- Open Spaces and Public Realm
- Development and Heritage

We have added Sustainability as a key theme moving forwards.

Planning and Policies

The Neighbourhood Plan is now part of the statutory planning process and applicants within the Forum area are informed of the need to comply with the policies of the Neighbourhood Plan. We view this as a work in progress regarding the council officers but our advocacy work with the GLA, Neighbourhood Planners London and councils is part of embedding the views of the community within the planning process. At present, the HNF responds to strategically important or large scale developments in the area. We acknowledge and thank the work of the Highgate Society Planning Committee and our two local CAACs in responding to all planning applications and reinforcing the policies within the Neighbourhood Plan.

What we are doing

- Regular meetings with lead planning officers at Haringey Council regarding planning issues and CIL
- Meetings with officers from various departments at Camden regarding key issues and projects
- Contributions to events and meetings at London-wide industry discussions on neighbourhood planning and also GLA and London Plan meetings

Community Infrastructure Levy Funding

Our CIL funds continue to accumulate. The HNF have been developing a new CIL process to ensure that projects funded are supported, feasible, deliverable and will provide long-term benefits to the community. We have been well supported in this process by Haringey.

Camden Council have developed a unique and controversial approach to CIL whereby local ward councilors alone decide which projects should be supported. We are working with other local forums, Neighbourhood Planners London and the GLA to address this approach and are pushing for a new process.

These will include;

- Improvements to Holly Lodge Community Centre - now completed
- Playgrounds at Hillcrest Estate and Parkland Walk and BMX track enhancement next to Highgate Library (facility for young people) – first community engagement event Saturday 22nd June at Highgate Library – working with Haringey Parks and Open Spaces team
- Waterlow/Lauderdale improvements
- Hoppa Bus feasibility study
- Signage for visitors – in delivery stage



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- Lift for Highgate Library Community Centre rooms

<http://www.highgateneighbourhoodforum.org.uk/plan/cil-list/>

Social and Community

to help Highgate develop/maintain a strong and sustainable community.

What we are doing

- Highgate Festival 14 – 23 June – over 70 events in venues and spaces around Highgate. With new highlights this year including mini-open house, open gardens and allotments and art trails on Archway Road and in Highgate Village.
Attend Community Breakfast meetings, organized by Katherine Ives, and also newly established HALO group to co-ordinate activities between key Highgate organisations.

Economic Activity

maintain vitality/viability of commercial cores for community

What we are doing

- High Streets – we have held informal meetings with local retailers and also organized Reimagining the High Street event, 9 May, collecting ideas from the community to develop and rejuvenated our High Streets
- Tourism Strategy for Highgate with a core team from local venues and organisations
- Signage project for visitors
- Supporting local retail owners to find appropriate uses for empty units

Traffic and Transport

enhance accessibility to local services and support community

What we are doing

- On-going work with other neighbouring forums with TfL to discuss Hoppa bus ideas east/west
- Input on Camden Council's Parking Consultation and Haringey's response
- Work on speeding, HGVs, junctions and crossings

Open Space and Public Realm

help to protect and enhance open spaces

What we are doing

- Tree Group to map, protect our existing trees and promote planting
- CIL projects – Parkland Walk playspace, Bike track/Highgate Library and nature trail
- Part of London National City Park project

Development and Heritage

preserve and enhance Highgate's unique character

What we are doing

- Monitoring planning applications
- Input on key development schemes
- Highgate Tourism Strategy promoting the built heritage and village character of Highgate

Sustainability

These important issues were integrated throughout the Plan but we are keen that these become the focus for future initiatives. There are many organisations in the area already active.

What we are doing

- Co—organised No Planet B – community eco event as part of the Highgate Festival with new event planned for 2019 – Planet A – Eco Action Plan for Highgate, 17 June 7 – 9pm



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- Part of an informal eco/sustainability network
- Support eco/sustainability CIL projects
- Establish new HFN website as important information hub for eco/sustainability in Highgate

Participation and communication

We are aware the work of the Forum and the benefits of Neighbourhood Planning need to be more widely communicated, most importantly to ensure community support for our work and to encourage participation. We are also keen to ensure that our activity is open and accessible to all.

What we are doing

- New website to promote participation in our activities
- Regular e-newsletters
- Talks and involvement at universities, support of Neighbourhood Planners London and GLA, NLA events on neighbourhood planning.
- Highgate Festival – organized to delivery many of the community aspirations in the Neighbourhood Plan

Funding

A priority for the coming year is to ensure we secure funds to deliver our community activities if they cannot be supported by CIL monies. We are therefore keen to access any expertise on grant applications and other funding streams from all available sources, both public and private.

Moving Forward

We of course cannot do this without the support and participation of people in the community. Please let us know if you interesting in leading or supporting any of our projects or joining our working groups

Please email info@forhighgate.org

www.highgateneighbourhoodforum.org.uk

Alicia Pivaro
Chair