



FOR HIGHGATE
HIGHGATE NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM

HNF CHAIR'S REPORT FOR AGM 2021

Alicia Pivaro, Chair

May 2021

It has been two years since our last AGM as in May 2020 we were in the midst of the first lockdown. The impact on the whole community has been significant and the HNF committee have continued to work during this difficult time. Many projects have been delayed as our councils have rightly switched resources and efforts to supporting those most affected across our two boroughs.

But we do have some positive action to report and hope that moving forward we can support the neighbourhood - all its residents, businesses and organisations - in the post-COVID recovery. As ever we welcome anyone who wants to make positive change in our area and we work to do this in an inclusive, collaborative and supportive way.

Even if you are not part of the HNF committee we are always keen to work with activists in the area delivering community projects that meet the ambitions of the Neighbourhood Plan. We have a number of less formal working groups that address action on key issues so would be keen to hear from you if you are interested in any of our activities and working with us. The Highgate Neighbourhood Forum is here to make positive change in Highgate so please join us.

The Neighbourhood Plan contains a community action plan and policies in five key areas;

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

With Sustainability forming part of many aspirations and policy objectives.

Planning and Policy

It has been a busy year with the consultation for the draft National Planning Policy Framework

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/961769/Draft_NPPF_for_consultation.pdf,

and with the implementation of the new London Plan with implications for all local councils regarding development and key targets around housing, workspace and bold sustainability targets.

https://www.london.gov.uk/sites/default/files/the_london_plan_2021.pdf

With this now in place, Haringey are working on a new Local Plan for the borough with initial consultation completed before a series of draft policy and strategy papers are released for comment.

<https://www.haringey.gov.uk/planning-and-building-control/planning/planning-policy/new-local-plan-first-steps-engagement>

Camden's Local Plan was approved in 2017 but the council have since implemented an ambitious Climate Action Plan which is very much steering development and activity in the borough.

<http://democracy.camden.gov.uk/documents/s89494/Climate%20Action%20Plan%20Appendix%201%20-%20Camden%20climate%20action%20plan.pdf>

Our Neighbourhood Plan forms a fourth tier of the statutory planning process and all planning applicants within the Forum area are informed of the need to comply with the policies of the Neighbourhood Plan by council officers. In Highgate we are fortunate that the Highgate Society and the Highgate and Holly Lodge Conservation Area Action Committees scrutinize all planning applications with the HNF working with these groups on larger development schemes in the area including the Highgate School Estate Development to ensure the policies of the Plan are met.

Our activities:

- Commented on key planning policy documents and shared consultation information on national, London and local planning consultations via our newsletter.



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Community Infrastructure Levy Projects

With a number of projects already implemented we are working with both councils on projects that include;

- Natural Playspace on Parkland Walk and BMX track enhancement next to Highgate Library (facility for young people)
- Waterlow/Lauderdale improvements
- Signage for visitors
- Street trees replacement
- Pond Square improvements

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

Highgate Festival 2021 – 19th to 27th June

Now in its fourth year, the HNF, along with Highgate School, was a founding partner in the re-establishment of this local celebration. During 2020, the event was successfully held largely online with over 50 events and a handful of live events to keep the community connected with special projects like Lockdown Life and High Street Heroes marking how we had reacted so supportively as a community.

The Festival is organized by a small team of locals, including a number of HNF committee members, working with many local venues, organisations and businesses to celebrate all things Highgate. The Festival is an excellent mechanism that ensures the HNF are talking to, supporting and forming part of the important community infrastructure of the area.

As such it delivers a number of the policies and community ambitions set out in the Neighbourhood Plan; Social and Community – helps to create community cohesion and form links between the many different communities and interests that make up Highgate life.

Economic Activity – supporting and promoting local businesses, venues and cultural organisations and attracting visitors to our economic centres including Archway Road and the village with events in each location that encourage everyone to visit, stay for a while and shop local.

Open Space and Public Realm – celebrates and creates support for our wonderful public spaces and the organisations that work to protect them. This year the Parkland Walk Wildlife Trail, Highgate Woods, Friends of Waterlow Park, Highgate Cemetery and Heath Hands are involved in the festival.

Development and Heritage – celebrating and sharing the amazing culture and history of the area including its buildings, gardens, past and present residents with projects including Pink Plaques and new for 2021 are Highgate Stories – boards with short tales of local folklore.

Social and Community

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

Our activities;

- Volunteering project mapping all volunteering needs in the area launched 2021
- Project and blog about how to contact our councils for key issues
- Sharing COVID response community support links including N6 Mutual Aid Whats App and Archway Road shop and business support organized by Jacksons Lane.
- CIL Projects; play spaces
- Coffee and computers continues to support intergenerational links including a blog about how to Zoom
- Supported the Mary Feilding Guild residents campaign against eviction
- Working with local schools to encourage community activities

Economic Activity

Key policy - maintain vitality/viability of commercial cores for community

Our activities;

- Meeting with Haringey Council's High Street Teams to ensure Archway Road and Highgate High Street are included in council initiatives



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- HNF committee members regularly report on empty units and possible new business arrivals and main

Traffic and Transport

Key policy – to enhance accessibility to local services and support community

What we are doing

- HNF co-ordinating local response to Haringey's Draft Walking and Cycling Action Plan with other local organisations
- Working with local Neighbourhood Forums to develop Hoppa bus ideas linking east to west
- Air quality work including monitoring and advocacy
- Work on speeding, HGVs, junctions and crossings

Open Space and Public Realm

Key policy – to help to protect and enhance open spaces.

Our activities;

- Tree Group monitoring and mapping our existing trees, encouraging tree planting and promoting biodiversity. Also advocating for additional resources for tree protection within Haringey Council which has now been implemented
- Co-ordinating a mapping project of our Green and Biodiversity corridors with other local organisations
- CIL projects – Parkland Walk natural play space and new nature trail at the BMX track
- Supporting the campaign in Queens Wood and Parkland Walk to protect existing trees
- Part of London National City Park project and making links with Camden Forest and Haringey Forest projects

Development and Heritage

Key policy – to preserve and enhance Highgate's unique character

Our activities;

- Monitoring and commenting on strategic planning applications including the community response to Highgate School's Supplementary Planning Document
- Liaising with Highgate Society and local CAAC groups on planning issues
- Promoting our local history archives and local history

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

- Working with our councils to deliver their Climate Action Plans
- Lead on the development of a Highgate eco/sustainability network = HEN
- Support eco/sustainability CIL projects
- Establish the 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
- Highgate Festival to promote the role of the HNF across many issues

Moving Forward



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We are always keen to support and work with anyone in the neighbourhood who is interested in delivering a project or initiative that supports our community. If you have an idea or want to be part of the HNF working groups please email info@forhighgate.org

www.highgateneighbourhoodforum.org.uk