



FOR HIGHGATE
HIGHGATE NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM

HNF CHAIR'S REPORT FOR AGM 2022

Alicia Pivaro, Chair

May 2022

It is 5 years since the community voted to support the Highgate Neighbourhood Plan which outlines a positive vision and our shared aspirations for Highgate. In this time, the Forum has worked in an inclusive, collaborative and supportive way to bring some of these ideas and projects to life. We are proud to be part of a powerful and passionate network of organisations, charities and groups in the area making real change.

A key focus for this coming year will be to make updates and improvements to the Neighbourhood Plan in line with new local plans and policies that Haringey and Camden are working on. In particular, we are keen to enhance the plan in terms of sustainability and climate action across all our key areas of activity including Open Spaces and Public realm, Biodiversity, Traffic and Transport and Development. We are also keen to ensure that the community is supported as we learn to live with the implications of COVID.

Everyone in N6 is automatically a member of the Forum so we are always keen to work with activists in the area delivering community projects that meet the ambitions of the Neighbourhood Plan. We get things done by having 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 as a co-opted member of the committee or a member of a working group. 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

The forum has begun discussion with both councils to work closely on aligning our Neighbourhood Plan with new ambitions and also working as an active partner locally to help deliver policies. 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>



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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 directly and via our newsletter
- Supporting Dartmouth Park Neighbourhood Forum and other local organisations in a campaign to improve the quality of the regeneration of Murphy's Yard. It is wonderful to share the amazing news that as a result of this campaign the plans have recently been withdrawn and the developers have been sent 'back to the drawing board'. <https://www.hamhigh.co.uk/news/housing/murphys-yard-application-withdrawn-8979786>
- Continued pressure on both councils to protect against 'basement accommodation for staff' set underground next to plant machinery, which lack any basic amenities including daylight/ventilation.
- Lobbying our GLA colleagues to put pressure on TfL to come to the table with ourselves and Haringey to discuss potential development at the Wellington Gyrotory.

Updates on Community Infrastructure Levy Projects

We have now got new council resources and momentum for our CIL projects and we hope to see real progress this year;

- Natural Playspace on Parkland Walk and BMX track enhancement next to Highgate Library (facility for young people) – newly allocated Haringey council officer to help us deliver these 2 important projects and a new community consultation event for the public on Saturday 18th June as part of the Highgate Festival
- Signage for visitors – after several years of waiting these are imminent!
- Street Tree Replacement – also delayed (due to capacity issues and staff shortages) and imminent!
- Pond Square improvements – with the announcement by TfL of the removal of the bus stand in the village the HNF have been working closely with the Highgate Society and Camden councillors to start the process of developing the community strategy for this space, Pond Square and the High Street which will provide a new area of public realm and improvements as an holistic design vision. The HNF and Highgate Society will be holding a consultations event and exhibition as part of the Highgate Festival – Saturday 11 and Sunday 12th June to gather ideas and comments.

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



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Highgate Festival 2022 – 11th – 19th June

Now in its fifth year, the HNF, along with Highgate School, was a founding partner in the re-establishment of this local celebration. Again we have over 50 + events, many free, that celebrate and share the people, places, histories and creativity of Highgate.

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 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 with a number of Walking Tours, open gardens, past and present residents with projects including Pink Plaques and 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;

- Highgate Volunteering Guide launched and delivered to all households in N6.
- CIL Projects; play spaces
- Coffee and computers continues to support intergenerational links including a blog about how to Zoom
- Working with local schools to encourage community activities and outreach

Economic Activity

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

Our activities;

- HNF committee members regularly report on empty units and possible new business arrivals in our main shopping areas
- Working on plans to improve the High Street and public realm to encourage more visitors, shoppers and locals to use Highgate shops, pubs and venues



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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 including Haringey Cycling Campaign
- Working with local Neighbourhood Forums to develop sustainable transport policies and projects across the two boroughs
- 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
- Developing, with LUX and Waterlow Park Advisory Trust, a major event for Autumn 2022 around our key green spaces and land owners to share ideas and radical thinking around biodiversity and well-being.
- 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
- Continue to support campaigns such as in Queens Wood and Parkland Walk to protect existing trees

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 and new proposals for housing on the Wellington Gyratory
- Liaising with Highgate Society and local CAAC groups on key planning issues including the redevelopment of Townsend Yard and the impact on the Shepherd's Cottage. The HNF made a video as part of the campaign <https://forhighgate.org/proposed-development-in-townsend-yard/>
- 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.



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What we are doing

- Working with our councils to deliver their Climate Action Plans – liaising with local organisations on this
- Organising a major event in the autumn to explore Biodiversity in Highgate across key spaces and land owners.
- 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

- Regular e-newsletters
- Highgate Festival to promote the role of the HNF across many issues

Moving Forward

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