



FOR HIGHGATE  
HIGHGATE NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM

## **HNF CHAIR'S REPORT FOR AGM 2024**

**Alicia Pivaro, Chair**

**May 2024**

I start with thanks to all the Committee, organisations, officers and Councillors who have worked with the HNF this year. Community empowerment only works through collaboration and community action through commitment through the ups and downs! So a huge acknowledgement of all the time and effort that has been put in by so many people. In particular I would like to acknowledge the work and expertise of a number of long-standing committee members standing down this year. Martin Adeney, Richard Webber, Ian Henghes and Anne Jamieson.

It has been a busy year for the Forum with major projects including working with community partner organisations to improve Highgate School redevelopment plans and a focus on biodiversity building upon our biodiversity network events. In this time the Forum has continued to work in a collaborative and supportive way with councils and other local organisations which we consider to be one of the strengths of the Forum. We hope it offers a friendly, inclusive and responsive way to make change for local people, with a light touch on bureaucracy and a focus on action. HNF is:

- a cross-border organisation (Camden and Haringey) working to ensure that policies in the two boroughs are consistent
- Working to ensure the area receives CIL funding and is recognised in various policies and programmes
- an official and statutory body representing Highgate with both councils using the Plan for planning considerations

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

### **Planning and Policy**

We are working with both councils commenting on new local plans and policies as they are developed to ensure Highgate is represented.

In Highgate we are fortunate that the Highgate Society and the Highgate and Holly Lodge Conservation Area Action Committees who scrutinize all planning applications. Once again, a huge thanks to them for this important work.

### **Our activities;**

- Working with other local groups on the Highgate School Estate Development campaign now the schemes are in for consultation. After engaging with the school for over five years regarding their over-ambitious redevelopment the HNF and other community groups have succeeded in stalling the planning applications as submitted in February with the Kings Foundation now employed to stage a number of reset workshops over the coming months to hopefully address community concerns.
- We have had meetings with the Councils as they develop their Local Plans and have commented on Haringey's Strategies and Action Plans as they are issued.



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

### **Updates on Community Infrastructure Levy Projects**

It has been a hugely frustrating year for our CIL projects with both Councils failing to provide adequate officer resources to push projects forward.

- Both the BMX track and Parkland Walk play and seating projects have stalled.
- 271 now-empty bus stand. We seem to be stuck in between Camden council and TfL while both agree on the future of the space despite great efforts from the HNF and Highgate Society to get things moving.

### **Social and Community**

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

Our activities;

- Highgate Festival – 8 – 16<sup>th</sup> June 2024 returns –organised by a small team of local volunteers, most of them members or former members of the HNF committee. Once again it is a great mix of events, exhibitions, walks with music including classical, folk, Irish and pop. We also have Coleridge, karaoke, cowgirls at the Bonanza LGBTQ+ event at the Boogaloo and climate action. A key date is Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> June when the community are invited to fill Pond Square with fun. We have our Eco Fair from 2pm but also the Highgate Musical Theatre Choir at 3.30 and music and dancing from 5 – 7pm. Please bring a drink, cushion, some friends and bag for your litter.
- We continue to working with local schools to encourage community activities and outreach

### **Economic Activity**

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

Our activities;

- This year we established a revitalized Archway Road group of interested locals with a meeting to establish ideas and shared priorities followed up by a meeting with several Haringey council officers to discuss moving projects forward with their support.
- Outcomes include support from Ian Cruise in the High Street team to assist Gerry O'Boyle, landlord of the Boogaloo to get permission to use the outside space to the left of the pub. FYI this is being held up because no-one know who owns the land outside Gonnermans so Haringey's legal team are trying to find out!
- And the Highgate Society guerilla gardeners sorting out the planters on the road.
- Working on ideas to improve the High Street and public realm including the 271 space and greening the High Street to encourage more visitors, shoppers and locals to use Highgate shops, pubs and venues

### **Traffic and Transport**

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

### **What we are doing**



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- Continuing to campaign for speed and safety measures on the High Street in particular around Channing School, West Hill, North Hill and Hampstead Lane.

I just want to acknowledge the great work of Richard Webber, who is sadly stepping down this year, on all things traffic related - so thank you Richard.

### **Open Space and Public Realm and Biodiversity**

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

Our activities;

- Continuing our focus on Biodiversity including continuing our mapping project of our Green and Biodiversity corridors with other local organisations and the production of a guide on surveying your own garden as a Citizen Scientist – thank you to Maggy Meade-King for this work. We are also developing a Guide on Improving Biodiversity in your Garden which Growing Green are producing for the Eco Fair.
- Continue to support campaigns such as in Queens Wood and Parkland Walk to protect existing trees – thank you to Louise Lewis for all your work on protecting local trees.
- The HNF have collaborated with Growing Green on delivering another Eco Fair – Sat 15<sup>th</sup> June this year with over 20 local climate action organisations, local schools
- Working with our councils to deliver their Climate Action Plans

### **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 redevelopment plans
- Promoting our local heritage via the Highgate Festival. This year we happy to promote the Holly Lodge Estate Centenary celebrations as well as our walks and exhibitions.
- Still trying to get the Tourist information boards

Communication

#### **What we are doing**

- Regular e-newsletters
- Highgate Festival and Fair in the Square to promote the role of the HNF

### **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](mailto:info@forhighgate.org)

[www.highgateneighbourhoodforum.org.uk](http://www.highgateneighbourhoodforum.org.uk)