

HNF CHAIR'S REPORT FOR AGM 2025

Alicia Pivaro, Chair

14 May 2025

I'd like to start with thanks to all the committee, organisations, council officers and councillors who have worked with the HNF this year. We continue to work with the ethos of collaboration and support for others in the community as and when we have the time and resources.

We hope the Neighbourhood Forum continues to offer a friendly, inclusive and responsive way to make change for local people - light touch on bureaucracy and meetings, but with a focus on action.

- 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 Neighbourhood Plan for planning considerations.

Planning and Policy

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 and time-consuming work.

Our key activities this year include:

- involvement with other local groups on the Highgate School Estate Development through a series of workshops on key sites and issues facilitated by the Kings Foundation. The school is now considering amendments that might be made in the light of these conversations. One important change that Adam Petitt announced at the final workshop was not to astro-turf Far Field and consider a more sensitive and biodiverse solution to this site.
- Commented on key planning policy documents and shared consultation information on national, London and local planning consultations via our newsletter and website
- We also helped the local campaign to stop the over development of the Archway Campus and huge 28-storey tower which Islington refused by the GLA have now called in.

Updates on Community Infrastructure Levy Projects

- Both the BMX track and Parkland Walk play and seating projects have now been assigned officer time by Haringey Council and we are hopeful they will proceed this year.
- 271 now-empty bus stand remains in limbo but there are plans afoot locally to bring a small market and some table and chairs connected to a local restaurant to activate this space in the meantime. Let's hope these go ahead this summer.

Social and Community

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

Our activities;

- Highgate Festival – 21 – 29th June 2025 returns – organised by a small team of local volunteers, most of them members for former members of the HNF committee. We have separated the festival from the Fair in the Square to align with Jacksons Lane as it celebrates its 50th birthday with a day of events on Sat 28th June. Other great anniversaries of community power and organization acknowledged in the festival are the 50th year of Friends of Highgate Cemetery, 40th year of KLPA, Friends of Highgate Library are 30th and we acknowledge the wonderful 1st year of the beautiful new Highgate Newtown Community Centre. We also are bringing music and dancing to Pond Square twice and local cycling and active travel enthusiasts have organized a community bike ride. As well as 40 other walks, talks, events and exhibitions.

Economic Activity

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

Our activities;

- Great to see the re-emergence of the Archway Road action groups – charied by HNF committee member Don Grub
- Support for local shops and businesses and working with Jacksons Lane on an Arcwhay Road Trail for the Festival.
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Traffic and Transport

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

The largest issue this year was the proposed DPHN plans which caused great concern locally and were withdrawn by Camden. Whilst there were issues with the proposal and methodology the HNF have been pushing for Camden to listen to local views and expertise on local traffic problems to feed into any future proposals and also hear from many who support attempts to reduce car traffic and pollution in favour of active and green travel.

We continue to work on this and have some ideas on show here tonight as another opportunity to get views from locals.

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, organizing the local Biodiversity Network and working with other local organisations including Growing Green and Heath Hands.
- Special thanks to Louise Lewis for her amazing work on saving and protecting our trees and other damaging development trends that threaten our wonderful green infrastructure.

Development and Heritage



FOR HIGHGATE
HIGHGATE NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM

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. We are also concerned that the proposals for housing on the Wellington Roundabout have re- emerged so will be fighting these.
- Promoting our local heritage via the Highgate Festival. We have a Highgate Heritage Open Day hosted by the Highgate School Museum.
- Great that our two Tourist information boards have appeared and a huge thanks to Richard Webber and the Highgate Tourism Group for their determination in making these happen.

Communication

What we are doing

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