



March newsletter

Summer dates for your diary

Our AGM this year will be held on **Monday 18 May** at Omved Gardens in Townsend Yard. You can find the official notice and minutes of last year's AGM [here](#). If you think you might like to get more involved with HNF by **joining our Committee**, do get in touch on info@forhighgate.org. You can see what this year's Committee wrote about themselves [here](#).

The Highgate Festival this year will run from **13-21 June**. Do contact info@highgategfestival.org if you or your organisation have an idea and the energy to stage an event. The Festival is happy to include any event as long as it is connected to Highgate via its content or participants.



HNF has joined up with other North London community groups to form a new network working to create wildlife corridors radiating out from Hampstead Heath. We hope to map key stepping stones and biodiversity corridors and - in collaboration with our local councils - find fresh ways to fill the gaps between them.

Invitations to our first meeting in April have just gone out, so if you would like to be involved but haven't received an invite, do get in touch via info@forhighgate.org.

Active Travel

We are also organising a **Community Active Travel project** drawing together all the various groups working on this - including OurPATCH, the Highgate Society, ARAG (Archway Road Action Group), Growing Green, Haringey Cycling Campaign and parents groups. The idea is to create a map and digital resource for groups to share information and then to act both locally on specific issues and also strategically working with councils and TfL.

This year's NCIL spending projects

HNF has agreed with Haringey how this year's NCIL (Neighbourhood Community Infrastructure Levy) will be spent. Of the £61,405 in our coffers this year, £10,000 will go as our contribution to Queen's Wood footpath improvements and £6,500 to our ward mural - part of London Borough of Culture celebrations in 2027. That leaves nearly £45,000 for greening projects in Highgate, which we expect to be spent on an Archway Road project. We will keep you posted.

Meanwhile, we have also met with the Haringey Parks Project Officer who is leading on our two play projects: the **Active Play Area and Wildlife Trail** at the Archway Road end of Shepherds Hill and the **Natural Play and Seating project** along Parkland Walk. Both of these will be governed by extensive data from ecological and arboricultural surveys carried out last year and work will not start on either of them until after the bird nesting season in September.

Encouraging collaboration between councils



At the end of February, HNF joined Highgate Society colleagues and Cllr Camron Aref-Adib (Camden Labour) and Cllr Scott Emery (Haringey Lib Dem) (*above*) to look at the issues on our boundary between the two councils running down Highgate High Street and Hill. One outcome from this useful meeting was a commitment from both councillors to "ensure cross-borough collaboration between Camden Council and Haringey Council in Highgate is harnessed, so that Highgate with its historic village centre lives up to its maximum potential".

Local elections in May

We have also collaborated with the Highgate Society to call on all the political parties standing in the May elections to adopt several manifesto pledges. These include commitments to meaningfully engage with the community in the early stages of new projects and to work collaboratively with neighbouring boroughs both on individual projects and on a regular basis.

Once all the candidates are announced for our two wards (in Camden and Haringey), HNF will also be writing to them to ask what they believe are the priorities for Highgate and how they would work with neighbouring boroughs to address them. We will let you know their responses in good time for voting day!

Infill development at Hillcrest?



Following Haringey's inclusion in the Draft Local Plan's site allocations of an infill development in the Hillcrest estate and understandable concern on the part of Hillcrest residents, HNF contacted the Planning Policy Team (responsible for

the Local Plan). The Planning Team and the Council's Housing Delivery Team jointly responded that detailed plans for any housing infill will be subject to a feasibility assessment to be carried out later this year. They also underlined that any proposals for new homes on the estate would have to include improvements to the estate, such as play areas and landscaping, and would have to be delivered in consultation with the existing community. In the meantime, a meeting is being arranged between the Haringey Housing Delivery and Planning teams and Hillcrest TA and HNF. We will, of course report back.

Nowruz at Lauderdale House



This year, the Persian New Year - Nowruz - arrives at a time when events weigh heavy on the hearts of many of those from the Iranian diaspora. This makes this annual celebration of the arrival of spring and renewal is all the more important. As ever, Lauderdale House's festival gives us all the opportunity to learn about Persian culture and customs. It begins this weekend (**14 and 15 March**) with the Nowruz Bazaar, talks and Haft-sin Trail. Events to follow include an evening of poetry, stories and song based on the teachings of Rumi, Arabic modern jazz and a special book event exploring Iranian authors. Find out more [here](#).

Help for IT issues

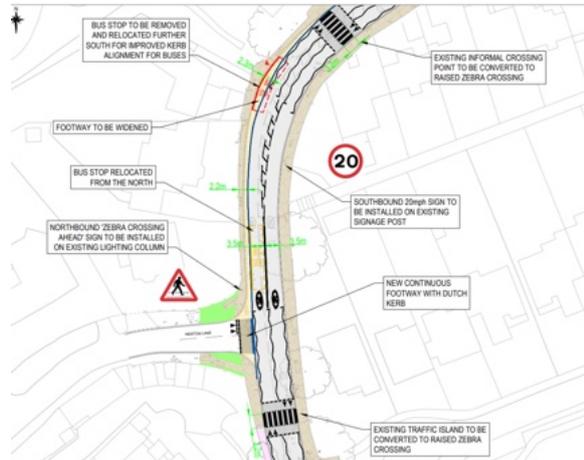
If you struggle sometimes with your smartphone, tablet or computer, you can drop into our free, friendly and informal 'Coffee and Computers' sessions. They were started more than ten years ago, when the HNF was established, to share our difficulties, learn about the potential of our devices and get one to one help.

Volunteers with different levels and areas of knowledge are also always welcome. Sessions at the Highgate Society, 10A South Grove; every first Monday of the month, 10.30-12noon; Jacksons Lane, 269A Archway Road, every third Wednesday of the month, 10.30-12 noon.

[Join the mailing list](#) or check out our [webpage](#).

Highgate West Hill consultation

Camden Council are consulting on proposals to make Highgate West Hill between Holly Terrace and Millfield Lane a safer place to walk and cycle. The proposals include three new zebra crossings, pavement widening, traffic calming measures and moving the northbound bus stop at Merton Lane. Find out more and have your say until **17 March** [here](#).



And finally... some food for thought...



Here's a really [thought-provoking film](#) about **why people find change to their environment so difficult**. Also, [People and Place Camden](#) showcasing **inspiring community innovators** who are transforming Camden's neighbourhoods. And, last but not least, check out [Power to Change](#) on how community led initiatives can renew high streets.

Highgate Neighbourhood Forum

The HNF provides an opportunity for everyone in Highgate to get involved in local issues and have a say. We want to hear your ideas and here are some ways for you to join in;

- Join the HNF committee - only four meetings a year to discuss key issues
- Biodiversity group - help support the HNF Biodiversity Network and promote local green initiatives
- Traffic/transport group - help us develop a community-led vision of what the future of travel in the area might be
- Highgate Festival - offer your skills or organise part of the programme or an event

Contact us on info@forhighgate.org.uk

Alicia Pivaro

Chair, Highgate Neighbourhood Forum
