



HNF CHAIR'S REPORT FOR AGM 2025

Alicia Pivaro, Chair

18 May 2026

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.

- As a cross-border organisation (Camden and Haringey), we are working to ensure that policies in the two boroughs are consistent. For this year's local elections, we contacted all candidates to tell us how they would improve the communication and working practices between the two councils and will continue to press our newly elected councillors on this matter.
- We responded to both councils' Draft Local Plans, ensuring Highgate is considered.
- We continue to ensure the area receives CIL funding and is recognised in various policies and programmes. This year, we worked with Haringey to allocate £61,405.42 NCIL funds.

Highgate Neighbourhood Forum and Plan Area	London Borough of Culture ward mural	8a	£6,500
	Contribution to Queen's Wood footpath improvements	8b	£10,000
	Greening in Highgate	8c	£44,905.42
	Total for Area		£61,405.42

- We are an official and statutory body representing Highgate, with both councils using the Neighbourhood Plan for planning considerations.
- We had a great meeting with Haringey Culture Collective, the organisation set up by Haringey Council to run the Borough of Culture 2027, to ensure that Highgate and the Archway Road are included in any plans and funding opportunities.

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. As ever, a huge thanks to them for this important and time-consuming work.

Our key activities this year include;

- Involvement in continuing discussions with Camden about the 271 space and Pond Square upgrades. The HNF supported the recent, surprise, planning application by Highgate



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Society for a proposal for the 271 space, but will be pushing for a more ambitious scheme and greater consultation with local groups and residents, as the plans are developed.

- involvement with other local groups on the two groups that Highgate School have set up to continue community input/engagement on their development plans – a Sustainability group and a Traffic and Transport group.
- Commented on key planning policy documents and kept everyone informed by sharing consultation information on national, London and local planning consultations via our newsletter and website.

Updates on Community Infrastructure Levy Projects

- Both the Active Play track and the Parkland Walk play and seating projects have now been assigned officer time by Haringey Council with the Active Play track recently receiving planning permission, which was the last hurdle to progress. Haringey have assured us that both these projects will start this year – Hurray!

Social and Community

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

Our activities;

- Highgate Festival 13th – 21st June 2026 is better than ever! We have over 35 events with highlights including a George Michael Sing-a-long in Pond Square to celebrate his life and music, Highgate Newtown Community Centre Open Day, Highgate Library screening Power Station, events to commemorate the Lost Girls of Highgate Cemetery and the Highgate Plague Pit, music from Vince Pope, Spraytan, The Neckbreakers and Tempomental as well as art, literature, walks and yoga!
- This year, the festival is collaborating with the Highgate Hitlist and Highgate Broadsheet to deliver the festival programme and online content – so a huge thank you to Helen Rapley and Lucy Tauber.

Economic Activity

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

Our activities;

- Continued support for ARAG – the Archway Road Action Group – some key members sit on the HNF committee and report ARAG news. We worked with them to input on the Haringey NCIL consultation and successfully got funds allocated for greening the Archway Road.
- Use the Highgate Festival to promote our local pubs, venues and cafes and increase visitors to visit and spend time in Highgate. This year, we have created weekend itineraries to keep people in the area all day!

Traffic and Transport

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



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Our activities;

- Continue to work with other local groups, including Our PATCH, and councils to push for active and greener travel in our area.
- HNF and Highgate Society meeting (26 February) with councillors from both Haringey and Camden Highgate wards to discuss Highgate Village traffic issues, particularly along the boundary between the boroughs.
- HNF held the first Healthy Street/Community Mapping Workshop (4 February) with HNF, HSoc, Growing Green, ARAG and Our PATCH to share and develop ideas for our area as councils work on their Safe Travel and Green Travel. The ambition is that we can work with the councils, having already mapped and discussed community concerns and ideas.

Open Space and Public Realm and Biodiversity

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

Our activities;

- Nature North London launch event – Saturday 25th April – we launched a new network organisation, building on HNF Biodiversity Network (2022 – 2026), bringing together over 60 organisations and spaces working with nature and greening around the Heath. We are collaborating with HSoc Sustainability Group and Growing Green on NNL with a small team. We were kindly hosted by Highgate School.
- HNF and Highgate Soc have both responded to Highgate School Biodiversity Net Gain Document and have strongly encouraged far more ambition. We hope to discuss our responses at a future Highgate School Sustainability Group meeting.
- 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

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 disappointed that the proposals for housing on the Wellington Roundabout have received planning.
- Promoting our local heritage via the Highgate Festival. We have a Coleridge, The Plague Pit, Karl Marx, Highgate Cemetery, Pink Plaques, and Jewish History Walk.
- Supporting the Hillcrest Residents Association as it attempts to gain clarity from Haringey on potential infill development of the estate and then enhance their community garden and play areas.

Communication

What we are doing

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