



FOR HIGHGATE
HIGHGATE NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM

Nominations for Highgate Neighbourhood Forum Committee 2026-27

William Britain is a retired international tax specialist and has lived in Highgate for 39 years. He is a former chair of the Highgate Society and is now the Society's treasurer as well as chairing the travel and transport group. He has a special interest in Highgate High Street, and helping to make it a better place for the community. On T&T issues he seeks to develop and support positions which are evidence based and can achieve consensus. He is politically involved, particularly on the Camden side of Highgate and would aim to work with local councillors, of the three parties represented locally.

Gaëlle Choppé has been enjoying the peace and greenery of Highgate for the last 16 years, plus 11 years in nearby neighbourhoods. For 20+ years, she assumed various roles with some of the biggest global news and entertainment TV channels. More recently, after training at the Co-active Training Institute, she has provided life, career and wellbeing coaching. She is the Secretary of the Archway Road Action Group and a member of the Miltons Residents Association. She is a firm believer that our immediate environment greatly impacts our quality of life. She is keen on making the Archway Road area a cleaner, greener space, and fostering a greater sense of community.

Don Grubin is a semi-retired Professor of Forensic Psychiatry who moved to Highgate with his wife six years ago. He is a member of the Miltons Residents Association, as well as the Highgate Society and a litter picker and guerrilla gardener with the HS. He is also Chair of the Archway Road Action Group. His interests are criminal justice, health and mental health, and allotments. Being relatively fresh to Highgate he has been learning about its various niches and oddities, and is keen to see them preserved.

Katherine Ives has worked in Highgate at Lauderdale House since 1998, where she is Director, having guided the organisation through a £2.5million refurbishment and also the Covid crisis. Over the years she has felt privileged to be part of the committed and active Highgate community and very proud to have established, and continues to coordinate, the local 'Breakfast Network' of 25+ Highgate venues and organisations which has initiated many new local partnerships. She has also introduced the local Heritage weekend giving local organisations and venues a chance to share and celebrate the history and heritage of Highgate and its neighbours. In addition she has produced theatre and cabaret shows at Upstairs at the Gatehouse, and has been involved with the Waterlow Park Trust Advisory Group since its inception. Katherine started out as a solicitor in the City and West End, and having 'served' eight years, decided arts management was a more interesting career. She is excited at the potential the Highgate Neighbourhood Forum offers for bringing together arts, cultural, educational and heritage organisations and local businesses to benefit Highgate and improve the lives of local people.



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Peter Jacobs and his wife have lived on the Holly Lodge Estate for 50 years, his daughters starting their education at St Michaels. He was a Marketing Researcher and on retirement in 2000 busied himself for 12 years as the treasurer of an international sports federation. He has been a member of the Holly Lodge Estate Committee for some 21 years, having served as its treasurer from 2008 to 2019 and as a trustee for ten years until 2020 when he retired on term. He has been a member of the Holly Lodge Consultative Conservation Committee for over fifteen years and represents the Holly Lodge Estate on the HCSNP (Highgate Camden Safer Neighbourhood Panel). He is a current member of the HNF committee.

Maria Kramer has lived in Highgate for 15 years and is a director at the local award-winning architecture and design studio Room 102 with primary focus on education, community and private projects. Furthermore, Maria is a senior lecturer at the University of Westminster where she leads an ecologically and community driven Master Architecture studio. She is also the driving force behind the Live Design Practice, an innovative initiative she founded to promote engagement projects and applied making. Through this platform, Maria brings together diverse stakeholders, leveraging action research and knowledge exchange to create tangible social value while pushing the boundaries exploring innovative architectural practices. Maria has helped launch local initiatives such as the Pink Plaques project celebrating the cultural heritage of Highgate and has collaborated with Haringey Council and the HNF on design and engagement projects. She is a proud social allotment holder, creates art and cycles everywhere.

Jennifer Kung has worked at Channing School for seven years and has been involved exclusively in partnership work as Director of Social Impact for the past four years. Working with State schools as well as local organisations has been exciting and rewarding. She also teaches History and has done so for over 20 years but not all that time in London! She moved over from Sydney, Australia after meeting her English husband and has lived and worked predominantly in North London for the last two decades. She has two daughters who are in local independent secondary schools but they both would happily move to a sunnier climate!

Louise Lewis has lived in Highgate for 20 years. She loves the area and the atmosphere and is keen to preserve the best aspects and enhance it where she can. She is an active member of the Friends of Waterlow Park and Highgate CAAC. She was involved in producing the Neighbourhood Plan and has been involved in responses to the new Haringey Local Plan (and in particular submitting suggestions on cycling and walking in Highgate). She works to provide community input into significant areas with the HNF, such as Highgate Wood, Queen's Wood, Waterlow Park and Highgate Cemetery. She is conscious of the Camden/Haringey divide, working to bring both 'sides' together where she can. She monitors all tree applications in the area and is trying to preserve existing trees and ensure replacements are planted if necessary. She is also part of the HNF Biodiversity Network, mapping the Ecological corridors and Stepping Stones in the area. Recently she has tried to comment on planning applications where there is an ecological aspect. She would welcome any help in this area where there is a lot of new legislation.



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Maggy Meade-King is a former journalist and broadcaster, who ran her own successful small publishing business, as well as undertaking senior roles in the public and voluntary sectors. She has lived in Highgate for 25 years, was the founding Chair of the HNF and led it through the consultation on and production of the Neighbourhood Plan. She is a member of a number of local organisations and an active member of the Highgate Allotments Association Committee. She currently leads North London forums groups campaigning for greener transport, as well as running the HNF Biodiversity Network.

Alicia Pivaro has lived in Highgate for over 20 years and has been actively involved in the community through the role of Head Gardener at St Michael's School, member, then chair of the HNF, part of the team for Fair in the Square and one of the founders and directors of the Highgate Festival. An advocate for community power and green issues, she also teaches architecture and urbanism at UCL, University of Westminster and is a Fellow of Municipalism at the London School of Architecture. She is a wild swimmer, artist and activist and has recently become involved in the BOTH Gallery, Archway Road and set up HAG (Highgate Art Group) as a support network of local artists (most of a certain age!).

Louise Shelley has been an English teacher for nearly 30 years and is the Senior Deputy Head at Highgate School. She's held several positions at the school over the past 18 years and has lived locally throughout that time. As part of her portfolio, Louise oversees key aspects of the Community Partnership and Environmental Sustainability work of the School, and has a keen interest in both areas; she's also the chair of two local groups comprising members of Highgate School and the wider Highgate community: the Community Group on Environment; the Community Group on Traffic and Travel.

Dan Stranescu is a founder member and chair of the Goldsmiths Court Residents Association, set up to ensure future development plans take into account the needs of elderly and vulnerable tenants. A qualified architect with over 45 years experience on a large range of UK and overseas projects and as property development manager. Currently, pro-bono work on residential planning appeals, mainly in Camden. Interested in the history of traditional building techniques and in the detailed design and sustainable manufacturing of consumer products.

Linda Taylor has been a resident of Highgate for 56 years. She began her career in retail as a buyer for Aquascutum and then on to Mary Quant. After taking a break to have her three children, who all attended St Michael's School, she took a degree in Film and English Literature and went on to work for two post production companies both of which went on to win numerous Baftas and two Oscars. She has been chair of Hillcrest Estate Residents Association for the last 10 years where she began the conversion of a disused car park into a community garden which has proved popular with residents and the wider community, preserving green spaces on a much loved Bevan inspired post war estate. She is an active campaigner for Social Housing with the Homes 4 All group.



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Francis Wilkinson retired as a barrister in 2020, and for the previous 20 years he specialised in family law. Before that he was a police officer for 30 years. He has particular interests in licensing, the regulation of drugs and the effects of air pollution on health. He is Secretary of the Highgate Society and previously chaired the community organisation which saved what is now Whitehall Park School. His interests include pollution, climate change, licensing, traffic and walking and cycling.

Siri Zanelli is a RIBA Chartered Architect and WELL Accredited Professional dedicated to advancing health-focused, regenerative architecture. As the Founding Partner of the award-winning studio Collective Works, she works under the framework of “Building with Care” - an approach that seeks to reduce environmental impact while actively enhancing occupant wellbeing. A Highgate resident since 2014, Siri is deeply connected to the local community and can often be seen running or walking her dog in Highgate Woods or Hampstead Heath. Her professional expertise in sustainable retrofit and biophilic design closely ties to her commitment to creating healthier, more connected neighbourhoods. Siri has worked with Haringey Council on a CIL-funded project to deliver a new outdoor playspace along Parkland Walk, focusing on active play and strengthening children’s connection to nature. She is a member of the Highgate Society’s Sustainability Group and manages the Society’s Instagram account.