

## **HNF COMMITTEE REPORT FOR AGM 2018**

### **Overview**

It is just under 12 months since the referendum and the key challenge for the year was to shift the focus of the Forum from Plan-writing to implementation and actions on the ground and within the community. The Plan is over 80 pages long, with over 50 policies, objectives and sub-objectives in five key areas, 5 Key Development Sites, a Community Action Plan (with over 35 actions) as well as a list of over 20 CIL projects. As a small, volunteer-led organisation we have had to prioritise our activity and ensure that we maximise our impact by collaborating with other groups and organisations.

We successfully applied for redesignation in spring. We are also one of many Forums around the country and attend events to support other forums and increase awareness of Neighbourhood Planning amongst the wider public. We also input onto courses at UCL and other initiatives such as The Mayor's Design Advocates, London School of Architecture.

### **Planning and Policies**

Meetings with the Planning Department of both councils early after the referendum established a commitment from the council officers that the Neighbourhood Plan was formally and actively now part of the statutory planning process and applicants within the Forum area were informed of the need to comply with the policies of the Neighbourhood Plan. This seems to have been generally the case with an occasional need to reinforce the message about specific planning policies such as basements and tree preservation.

We maintain good working relationships with the Highgate Society and its Planning Committee and our local CAACs regarding the monitoring of planning applications. We are also working with these groups on larger development schemes in the area including the Highgate School Estate Development and Channing School's plans for redevelopment on the Fairseat site to ensure the policies of the Plan are met.

### **Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Projects**

We now have significant funds from Camden Council (£400,000) and Haringey Council (£130,000 projected to £825,000) and are working with the councils to implement our first CIL-funded projects. These will include;

- Improvements to Holly Lodge Community Centre
- Playgrounds at Hillcrest Estate and Parkland Walk and BMX track enhancement next to Highgate Library (facility for young people)
- Waterlow/Lauderdale improvements
- Hoppa Bus feasibility study
- Signage for visitors
- Lift for Highgate Library Community Centre rooms

<http://www.highgateneighbourhoodforum.org.uk/plan/cil-list/>

### **Social and Community**

Policies

SC1 Highgate's Housing Needs

SC2 Community Facilities

SC3 Allotments and Communal Land

Core objective (CO1): to help Highgate develop/maintain a strong and sustainable community.  
Sub-objectives (SO1): by building strong physical and social links across groups, encouraging participation in community projects and the ensure the provision of community facilities.

### What we are doing

- Highgate Festival 5 – 10<sup>th</sup> July – venues and spaces around Highgate. The HNF, along with Highgate School, has taken the organisational lead on the Festival this year in the hope it will become an annual event, possibly linking with the Fair in the Square. Over 40 local groups, organisations, schools, venues and churches are taking part in 5 days of arts, culture and heritage to celebrate everything we love about Highgate. There are also 3 events exploring the future of Highgate with a focus on sustainability. (CO1, CO4, , SO1, CA1, CA2, CA8, EO1)
- Working with Highgate School and Channing in the future to create initiatives bringing students and other social groups together, following on from the successful Coffee and Computers project. (CO1, CA1)
- CIL Projects; Holly Lodge Community Centre, Play projects – Hillcrest, bike track next to Highgate Library, Parkland Walk
- Attend Community Breakfast Meetings organised by Katherine Ives where organisations and groups share project information (CO1, SO1)
- New HNF website developed to provide information about our work and other initiatives in the area as a point of community information and participation (CO1)

### **Economic Activity**

#### Policies

EA1 Highgate Village Core

EA2 Loss/change of use of business premises in Highgate Village Core

EA3 Archway Road

EA4 Aylmer Parade

Core objective (CO2): maintain vitality/viability of commercial cores for community

Sub-objectives (SO2): new visions for Archway Road and Aylmer Parade, by attracting visitors to Highgate, increasing links between businesses and community and enhancing employment.

### What we are doing

- Tourism Strategy for Highgate. Working with a core team from local venues and organisations, a tourism strategy for Highgate has been written. We have received input from the University of Westminster Tourism Department and held an initial meeting with stakeholders to develop and prioritise initiatives. (EO1, CA9, CA15)
- Tourism signage project – funds secured and awaiting council action to implement
- Supporting local retail owners to find appropriate uses for empty units (CO2)

### **Traffic and Transport**

#### Policies

TR1 Promoting Sustainable Movement

TR2 Movement of HGVs

TR3 Minimising new development traffic impact

TR4 Reducing negative impact of parking

TR5 Dropped Kerbs and Cross-overs

Core objective (CO3): enhance accessibility to local services and support community

Sub objectives (SO3): promote sustainable transport, minimise traffic impact from new development and when improving parking provision, manage heavy goods movement

### What we are doing

- Meeting organised with TfL and adjacent Neighbourhood Forums to discuss Hoppa bus ideas and generally bus provision in Highgate (CO3, CA22)
- Air quality work including monitoring and advocacy around school run reduction (CA20)
- HNF have been meeting with Highgate Society Transport Group to co-ordinate activity (CO3)
- Support for Liveable Neighbourhood funding, being led by Elliot Wood, Highgate School (CA18, CA20)

- Input on Camden Council's Parking Consultation (CA19)
- Work to co-ordinate council's strategy towards heavy HGVs
- Work to reduce speeding, HGVs on Shepherd's Hill, improvements to Archway Road junctions and crossings, Hampstead Lane crossing, Highgate Hill crossing and speed calming (CA18, CA21, CA24)

## **Open Space and Public Realm**

### Policies

OS1 Major Open Spaces

OS2 Protection of Trees

OS3 Local Green Space

OS4 Biodiversity and Highgate's Green Grid

Core Objective (CO4): help to protect and enhance open spaces

Sub objectives (SO4): promote safer, more attractive spaces and public realm, promote access and educational, cultural and eco uses, conserve natural features eg. Trees, safeguard biodiversity, improve protections (SSSI, SINC, MOL)

### What we are doing

- Established Tree Group to map, protect our existing trees and promote planting, meetings with Tree Officers and Public Meeting held (SO4)
- CIL projects – Parkland Walk, Bike track/Highgate Library (CO4)
- Part of London National City Park project
- Part of local eco/sustainability group bringing together organisations working on these issues (SO4)
- Meetings with schools regarding eco projects eg. Forest schools, growing (SO4))

## **Development and Heritage**

### Policies

DH1 Demolition in Highgate's Conservation Areas

DH2 Developments in Highgate's Conservation Areas

DH3 Rear Extensions

DH4 Side Extensions

DH5 Roofs and Roofscape

DH6 Front Boundaries

DH7 Basements

DH8 Refuse Storage

DH9 Environmental Health of Existing and Future residents

DH10 Garden Land and Backland Development

Core Objective (CO5): preserve and enhance Highgate's unique character

Sub objectives (SO5): to guide design of new developments/alterations to built environment to enhance conservation areas, ensure archaeological history is recorded/preserved, ensure developments strengthens feeling of community, mitigate effects of building works on neighbours, maintain Highgate as a 'green village', ensure developments are sustainable.

### What we are doing

- Monitoring planning applications and informing councils when Neighbourhood Plan policies not met (CO5, SO5)
- Input on key development schemes in area – meetings with Highgate School, OmVed Gardens, Channing School (CO5, SO5)
- Highgate Tourism Strategy - Promoting the built heritage and village character of Highgate including heritage trails, online information etc (CO5)

## **Ecology and Sustainability**

These important issues were integrated throughout the Plan but we are keen that these become the focus for future initiatives. There are many organisations in the area already active.

### What we are doing

- Establish a HNF Sustainability Group
- Support continued meetings with other eco/sustainability groups and projects – Highgate Eco Network
- Support eco/sustainability CIL projects
- Establish new HFN website as important information hub for eco/sustainability in Highgate

### **Participation and communications**

We are aware the work of the Forum and the benefits of Neighbourhood Planning need to be more widely communicated, most importantly to ensure community support for our work and to encourage participation. We are also keen to ensure that our activity is open and accessible to all.

### What we are doing

- New website that reflects the shift from Plan to its implementation and our activities. We were very grateful for a grant from the Haringey Ward Budget to help us undertake this work and promote participation in our activities.
- Regular e-newsletters
- Participation in community events including Fair in the Square, Heritage Day to encourage participation in our projects
- Highgate Festival – promoting the work of the Forum with Forum events including a Re-imagine Highgate Community Drawing Workshop, Sustainability talks event with OmVed Gardens and HLSI Sustainable Living Group.
- Social Media strategy to promote our activities and Highgate generally

### **Funding**

A priority for the coming year is to ensure we secure funds to deliver our community activities if they cannot be supported by CIL monies. We are therefore keen to access any expertise on grant applications and other funding streams from all available sources, both public and private.

### **Moving Forward**

We of course cannot do this without the support and participation of people in the community. Please let us know if you interesting in leading or supporting any of our projects. We will have working groups around key themes;

Tourism and Economy – including the Tourism Strategy  
Social and Community – including the Highgate Festival  
Traffic and Transport  
Open Spaces Public Realm – including the Tree Group  
Eco/Sustainability  
Communications and Funding

Please email [info@forhighgate.org](mailto:info@forhighgate.org)