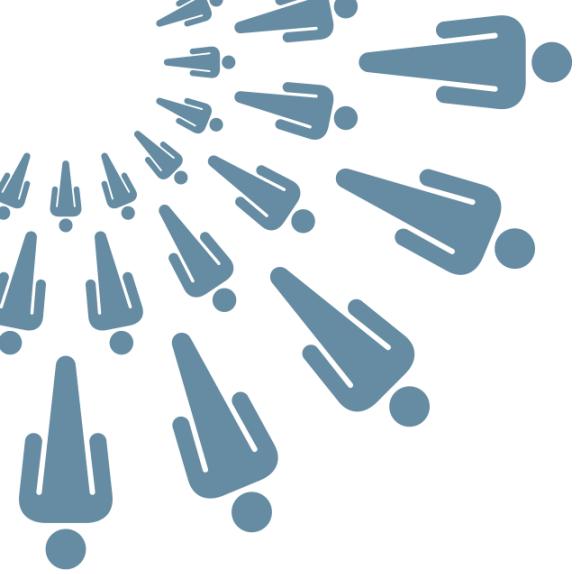


HARLESDEN
NEIGHBOURHOOD
FORUM
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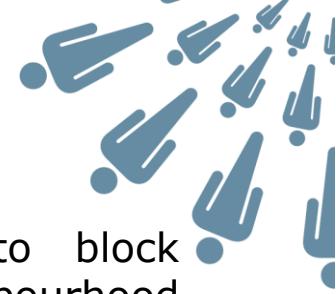
Annual Report 2020 - 2021



Our Vision:

To build a better Harlesden by giving our community the opportunity to effect positive local change

ABOUT HARLESDEN NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM



Aim and Purpose

Harlesden Neighbourhood Forum was launched in April 2015 in response to the Localism Act 2011, which created neighbourhood forums to involve residents in future planning for their local area.

The Forum now has 77 member organisations and 351 individual members. Its work benefits the overall Harlesden population (~18,900 inhabitants). Full membership is open to people who live, work, carry out business or are elected officials in the area, whilst associate membership is open to people who live outside the designated area. HNF has a mailing list of subscribers representing residents, businesses, and voluntary and faith groups. Almost 500 people receive our email updates (20% more than in 2020). The Forum focuses on key areas of interest, including the local economy, housing, transport, environment & open spaces, and community facilities.

The goal of the Harlesden Neighbourhood Plan is to influence planning policy through neighbourhood planning and allow local people to have a say in how their area develops. Like so many other London neighbourhoods, Harlesden is experiencing a significant number of changes, and the local community can make informed decisions to help shape Harlesden's future.

The first stage was for the Forum to create and ratify a Neighbourhood Plan, approved by referendum in May 2019. This Plan forms the backbone of all the work the Forum now does. It sets out our vision for Harlesden and helps us hold planners accountable for our policies regarding the use and development of land in our area.

Although we cannot and do not seek to block development single-handedly, Harlesden Neighbourhood Forum has a significant influence and role to play.

Because our forum area covers two planning authorities (London Borough of Brent and the Old Oak and Park Royal Development Corporation), we can scrutinise both. To do this, we aim to work alongside the many diverse groups that operate across Harlesden. Some are campaign groups, and some provide services. Harlesden has a robust and vibrant civil society network in which each organisation plays its part impressively. We are committed to those partnerships and see ourselves as crucial for matchmaking people and projects with funding and support. Nevertheless, our core aim is to fulfil the statutory role we have to play in making sure that Harlesden's voice is heard on planning issues, whether by OPDC or Brent.

Engagement in planning is a critical issue for Harlesden. It is one of the youngest and most diverse parts of London, with a strong community and an entrepreneurial spirit and an important cultural heritage. However, years of neglect, siloed working and cynical development decisions, as well as its unique geography at the confluence of several major railway lines, means that poverty, exploitation and crime have been allowed to thrive and are all too readily associated with our area. We know that Harlesden is so much more than its reputation, and we believe that others are starting to see that too. Planned investment in the area should help the people who live and work here, rather than push them out. To facilitate this, planning scrutiny and influencing development is vital.

OUR WORK

Objectives and Activities

As per the Neighbourhood Plan, our objectives are:

- Facilitating an adequate supply of homes
- Building a robust and competitive economy
- Ensuring the vitality of the town centre
- Promoting healthy and safe communities
- Promoting sustainable transport
- Achieving well-designed places
- Meeting the challenge of climate change
- Conserving and enhancing the natural environment
- Preserving and improving the historic environment

We strive to make sure that the housing we need is being built, that it's the right type, in the right place, with the necessary services attached. We also ensure that we take every opportunity to draw down funding for community projects. We are very keen to hear from residents about their experiences of the built environment, especially during the Covid-19 pandemic, intending to enact long-term changes for the better.

We have ambitions to grow beyond planning but not in the immediate future.

Achievements and Performance

Meetings

We had our last forum meeting in December 2021, not knowing that a further lockdown was just around the corner. The meeting included updates on our key areas of work. During the pandemic, committee meetings were held online. We appointed a new trustee, Amandine Alexandre, and Sandra White is

now the chair of the trustees.

Incorporation

Harlesden Neighbourhood Forum has been a registered charity since March 2020.

Apart from adopting our constitution, we developed several policies:

- Health and safety
- Grievance
- Data protection and GDPR
- Safeguarding children and vulnerable adults
- Conflict of interest (including register and DOI)
- Financial
- Volunteering
- Equality and diversity
- Reserves

Organisation

In 2020, the Forum appointed a Forum Coordinator: Ilaria Esposito, a resident with a wealth of experience in the third sector. Ilaria works alongside the trustees and volunteer ambassadors to support the implementation of their portfolios concerning the Neighbourhood Plan.

Local Engagement

We designed and implemented several surveys to help guide the London Borough of Brent to improve local green spaces as envisioned by the local community. We received ~250 replies to the questionnaires about the Roundwood Park playground and Tubbs Road Pocket Park.

Works implemented by the Council following the Covid-19 and social distancing survey undertaken in 2020 proceeded during 2021. This included widening pavements, as well as measures addressing parking, bus stops, and crossings. From

15th February, a new Harlesden Town Centre Team consisting

of 1 Inspector, 3 Sergeants and 21 Police Constables will tackle violence, violence against women and girls, robbery, drug dealing and ASB including street drinking. Antisocial behaviour have been discussed and reported several times with the town team.

group that had similar aims and objectives to those of the HNF) Charter.

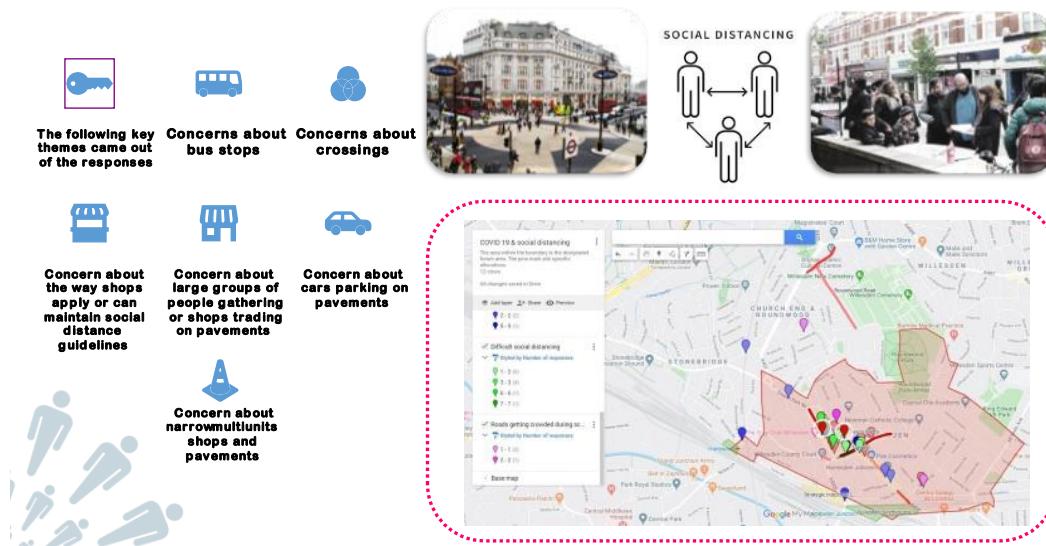
Clean Air and Environment

We have been active on this front:

- After the first lockdown and receiving £1,400 funding from Veolia, there has been a more comprehensive clean-up at Roundwood Park and Bramshill and Tubbs pocket parks. There has been clean-up activity in the local area in Bramshill Park and local streets in the area. Ninety local people participated in the second clean-up challenge day.



COVID-19 & SOCIAL DISTANCING SURVEY



Various activities have provided the opportunity for members to support local community space development and increase their contributions to meetings, groups and panels, including:

- Members attending the OPDC Early Activation project to ensure plans to benefit Harlesden have been implemented.
- Meeting with OPDC/TfL/Metroline for better frontage to the bus garage.
- Submitting a response to OPDC consultation on revisions to their draft Local Plan.
- Regular meetings with the Old Oak Neighbourhood Forum (OONF) and supporting their bid for a redefinition of their borders.
- Assessing the latest OPDC supporting documentation for submitting their Local Plan to the inspector.
- Review progress towards the goals in the Harlesden Town Team (an earlier and now-defunct community

- HNF has recently run a major public consultation exercise to inform LB Brent decisions about the future development of the children's play area in Roundwood Park. This involved a structured questionnaire sent to members that elicited over 150 responses and significant engagement via HNF social media channels. The Forum will work with LB Brent in 2022 to further develop proposals.

- A similar exercise is still ongoing for Tubbs Road Pocket Park and has received so far around 40 responses. The Forum is trying to engage speakers of other languages living in that area.

- The Forum clean air ambassador organised an event in partnership with Mums Who Cycle to encourage families to cycle more in the area and supported the Mums for Lungs initiative to reinforce ULEZ towards cleaner air.

- Forum ambassadors run a clean air project (Gardening and Pollinator Programme) in Roundwood Park with the park café. The project involved 45 families with children under six years old working towards the John Muir Award and the Pollinator Challenge Badge of the United Nations.

- The Forum has successfully applied to become a *Breathe London Node* to monitor air pollution in the town centre as part of a broad-based local campaign for cleaner air. Also, we received a grant, an *Our Space Award*, to create a community edible garden and nature connection spaces for the community at the back of Roundwood Park café. (Forest and Families, Roundwood Park Lodge café)

- We helped set up safe streets schemes around several primary schools, including St Joseph's, Furness and John Keeble. They enforced parking restrictions by repainting double yellow lines in high traffic areas to reduce idling and keep cars within the restricted zones.



Green and Urban Spaces

As part of our role drawing down funding to improve the local area, we are supporting the Bramshill Open Space to identify grants that will support the incredible work that Forum ambassador Renette Cronje had already started in what was previously a bit of a forgotten green space. During Summer 2021, *Project Horizons* from MetPolice approached the Forum to work around Bramshill needs. However, the Council paused this initiative to build consultation for residents, which should be out soon.

In the meantime, *Project Horizons* delivered:

- 2 bleed control packs are due to be installed in January 2022 in Harlesden.
- 2 permanent knife bin locations have been confirmed.
- Youth diversion has continued with officers and young people attending No Knives Better Lives at the Old Bailey.
- Targeted diversion continues alongside partnership agencies:

- Netball and football events planned for the new year to promote engagement and employment drives
- Working alongside Harlesden SNT for further engagement and diversion of identified young people who may need some intervention

Re-designation

Brent Council and Old Oak and Park Royal Development Corporation re-designated the Forum in Spring 2021.

The Forum continues to engage with the OPDC on their plans. In this regard, we have envisaged the involvement of the community and broader public engagement on the OPDC plan on the following points:

- Housing
- Commercial direction
- Funding
- Facilities and resources

We want to make sure Harlesden, its residents, businesses and organisations will benefit from it rather than lose out.

A GOOD TIME TO JOIN US

Harlesden Times
Harlesden Forum given Five Years
 LBB and OPDC gives thumbs up to extension

Harlesden Neighbourhood Forum has been redesignated until 2026.*

As we plan our *to-do* list for the next five years, you can contribute your thoughts, time and skills to make Harlesden a better place.

Find out the latest news and sign up for our newsletter.

www.harlesdenneighbourhoodforum.com

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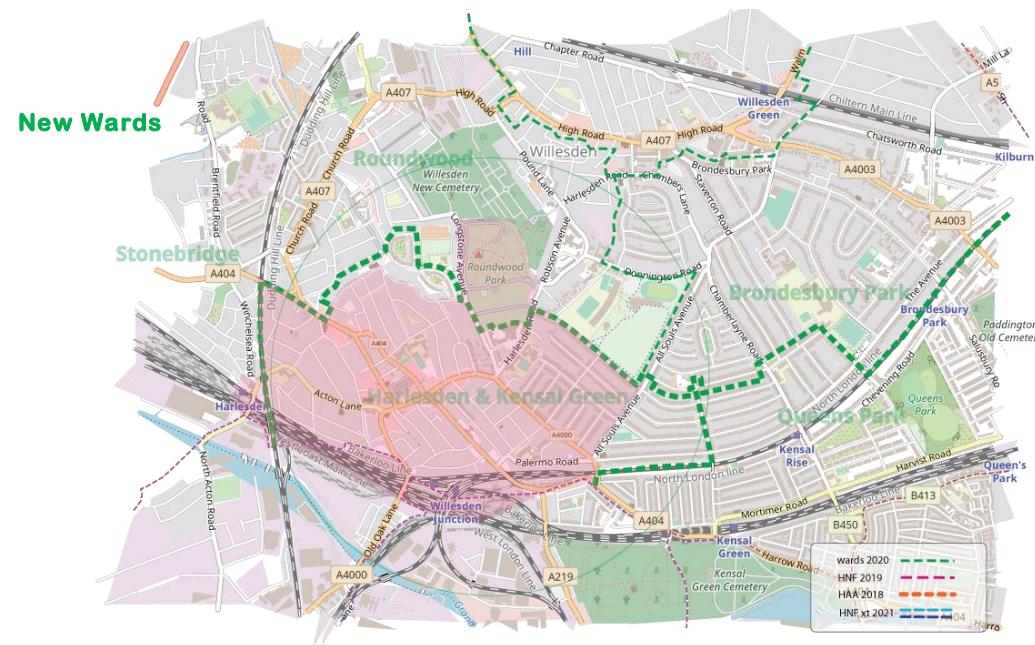
Harlesden Neighbourhood Forum is a registered charity number 1188490

*Neighbourhood Forums are part of the national planning process and have to be designated every five years by their local planning authorities [LB Brent and OPDC]. Membership is FREE.

Planning

As described above, our Neighbourhood Plan is now part of local planning policy, and monitoring developments in our area is an ongoing task. When writing our Plan, it had to comply with national and local (Brent & OPDC) planning policy, so most of the applications made to Brent Council/OPDC will be subject to comparable rules. A new scrutiny process is now in place whereby the trustees can discuss exceptional cases and ask the whole membership for their opinions if considered necessary or contentious. Successful examples of this include the objection to the opening of an adult gaming premise in Park Parade and the eviction of the City Mission Church.

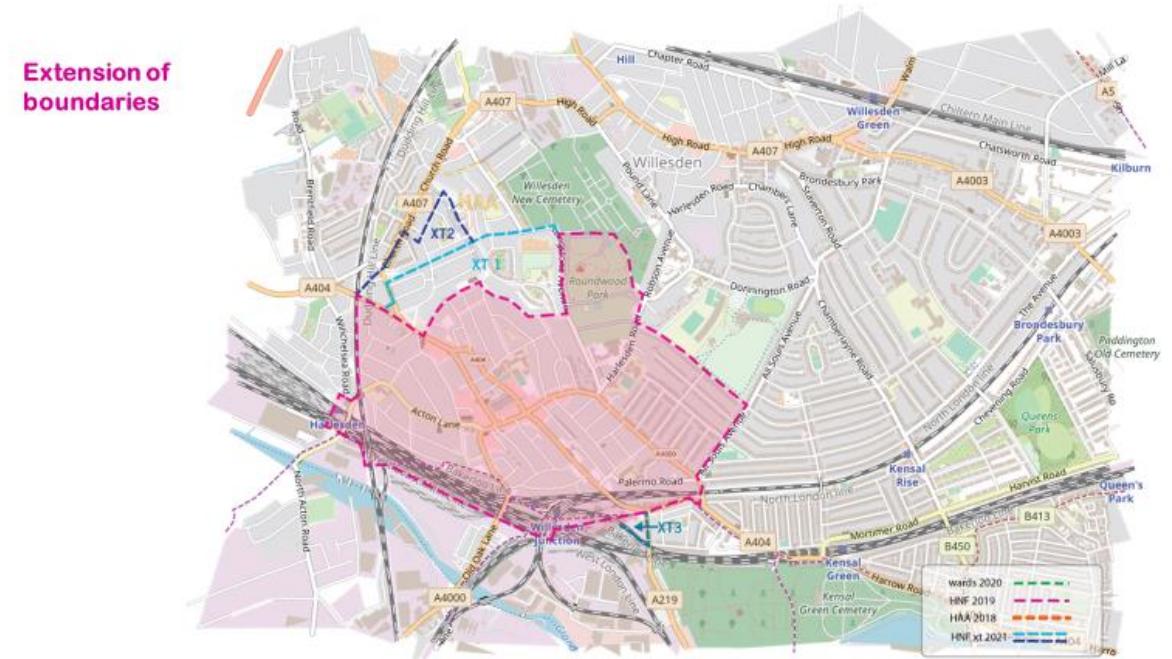
Communications between LB Brent and the Forum on routine planning matters could be improved, and this will be a priority for the Forum in the coming year.



Unity Neighbourhood Forum area, whilst they feel it should be in the Harlesden Neighbourhood area.

At the moment, they are associate members.

The topic of expansion will be addressed at the Annual General Meeting.



Councillors responsible for Brent's Inclusive Growth Strategy have attended trustee and Forum public meetings to raise awareness of the opportunities to access local council assets. Ten different councillors and officers have attended board and public online meetings over the last 12 months. As part of this process, HNF has developed a closer working relationship with the Brent Council Harlesden Town Centre Manager, with regular meetings now in place.

Residents living at the border are asking to expand the area further around Roundwood Road, the stretch of Church Road that joins Craven Park and the grid of roads between them.

Some residents live in a part of the area assigned to the

Heritage Action Zone

HNF has become a member of a local consortium supporting the delivery of the Heritage Action Zone initiative on Harlesden High Street, attracting funding of £100,000 through convening and working as part of a consortium of six local community groups. The consortium, led by Young Brent Foundation on behalf of Brent Council, aims at celebrating culture and heritage in Harlesden, involving communities and young people in the process.

Regeneration

Some fascinating projects will be finalised soon in Harlesden: the regeneration of the former HSBC building by Refugee Education UK, as well as plans for the Design Works building on Park Parade and work currently ongoing at the former Picture Palace public house. The Forum has made the case to CVS Brent, leading a consortium of organisations managing the Picture Palace, for ensuring that the new space delivers the vision outlined in the Neighbourhood Plan voted by the community.



Structure Governance and Management

At the time of writing, there are 6 trustees and 4 volunteer ambassadors. Each trustee member is responsible for a particular portfolio of activity and these activities are covered in detail in this report by the responsible committee member.

In July the former Chair Madeleine Jennings stood down, with Sandra White being appointed as chair.

We want to expand the number of trustees as the workload has increased over the last year. The Forum's constitution, allows us to co-opt new committee members between AGMs as well as appointing trustees at AGMs.



Become a trustee

Being a trustee can be very rewarding

You will support the Forum's development

Use your skills and experience while learning from others

Be part of a very passionate team

Join Us !

HARLESDEN NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM
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HNF is a registered charity set up to bring together Harlesden's diverse community so that we can decide how to make our home a better place to live and work, and to help us deliver on that vision

Designated in 2015 by the London Borough of Brent and the Old Oak and Park Royal Development Corporation under the Localism Act 2011

info@HarlesdenNeighbourhoodForum.com
www.HarlesdenNeighbourhoodForum.com
Twitter / Facebook: @HarlesdenForum

The Essential Trustee

6 main duties



THANK YOU!

First, we offer a big thank you to the Harlesden community. The Forum would not exist if not for your support and valuable feedback on improving what we do.



FUTURE WORK

As we approach two years of working as a registered charity, the Forum and its trustees continue to work with our members and the wider community. We want to continue to involve the younger generation in planning matters through our projects. Regarding the implementation of the Plan, the Forum will negotiate with the two local planning authorities that relate to the Forum area and leverage the political influence the HNF has gained through helping to organise local community.

As highlighted by the pandemic, the need to use open spaces and enjoy the outdoors is even more pressing. HNF will be working towards implementing a more comprehensive clean air and environment strategy.

In the immediate future, we will be focusing on improving open space opportunities and campaigning for clean air and a clean environment. We will continue to scrutinise planning applications and licensing to make sure council policies are applied.

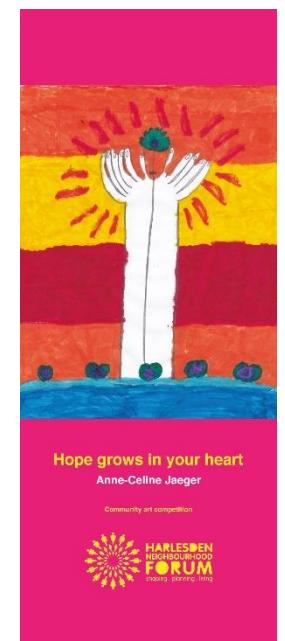
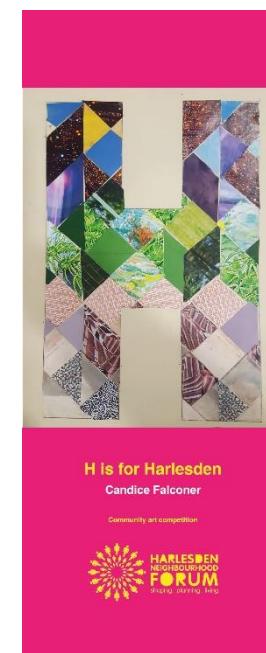
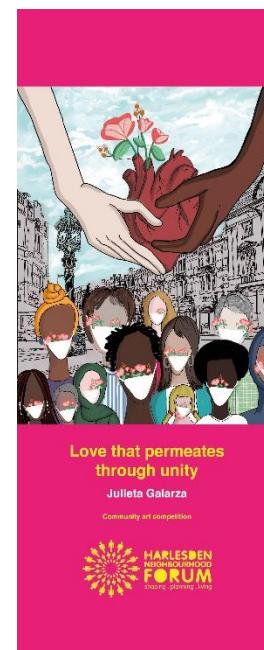
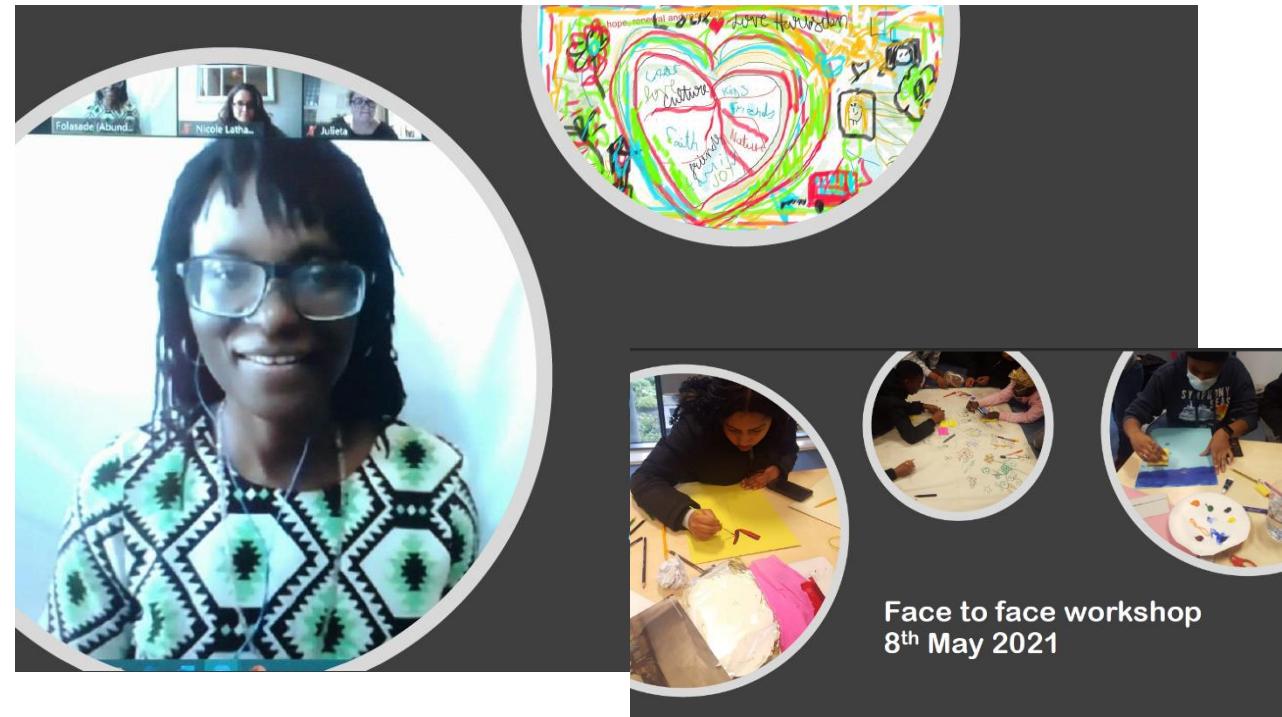
The third round of the Harlesden Wayfinding project will involve residents on a creative journey to advocate for clean air and a clean environment.

The Brent Biennial promoted by Metroland Culture will have several spots in Harlesden. The Forum will be involved in engaging the community in different activities.

We will be involved in the Heritage Action Zone Activities and working with the town team to decrease Antisocial behaviour, encouraging more and diversified businesses to invest in Harlesden

As we continue to implement the Neighbourhood

Plan, we hope that more people will join us to build a brighter vision for Harlesden and the community.



STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2020-2021



| Section A Receipts and payments | | | | | |
|---|---|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| | Unrestricted funds to the nearest £ | Restricted funds to the nearest £ | Endowment funds to the nearest £ | Total funds to the nearest £ | Last year to the nearest £ |
| A1 Receipts | | | | | |
| Trust for London | - | 20,000 | - | 20,000 | - |
| Veolia | - | 1,400 | - | 1,400 | - |
| Crisis | 7,217 | - | - | 7,217 | - |
| | - | - | - | - | - |
| | - | - | - | - | - |
| | - | - | - | - | - |
| | - | - | - | - | - |
| <i>Sub total (Gross income for AR)</i> | 7,217 | 21,400 | - | 28,617 | - |
| A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table). | | | | | |
| | - | - | - | - | - |
| | - | - | - | - | - |
| <i>Sub total</i> | - | - | - | - | - |
| Total receipts | 7,217 | 21,400 | - | 28,617 | - |
| A3 Payments | | | | | |
| Staff costs | - | 11,779 | - | 11,779 | - |
| IT revenue costs | 195 | 110 | - | 305 | - |
| Insurance | - | 587 | - | 587 | - |
| Other administrative costs | 74 | 516 | - | 590 | - |
| Project delivery (wayfinding) | - | - | - | - | 1,552 |
| <i>Sub total</i> | 269 | 12,992 | - | 13,261 | 1,552 |
| A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table) | | | | | |
| IT equipment | - | 604 | - | 604 | - |
| | - | - | - | - | - |
| <i>Sub total</i> | - | 604 | - | 604 | - |
| Total payments | 269 | 13,596 | - | 13,865 | 1,552 |
| Net of receipts/(payments) | 6,948 | 7,804 | - | 14,752 | - 1,552 |
| A5 Transfers between funds | - | - | - | - | - |
| A6 Cash funds last year end | 1,400 | - | - | 1,400 | 2,952 |
| Cash funds this year end | 8,348 | 7,804 | - | 16,152 | 1,400 |

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

| Categories | Details | Unrestricted funds to nearest £ | Restricted funds to nearest £ | Endowment funds to nearest £ |
|---|---|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| B1 Cash funds | Unrestricted funds | 8,348 | - | - |
| | Restricted funds | - | 7,804 | - |
| | | - | - | - |
| | Total cash funds | 8,348 | 7,804 | - |
| | <small>(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))</small> | OK | OK | OK |
| B2 Other monetary assets | Details | Unrestricted funds to nearest £ | Restricted funds to nearest £ | Endowment funds to nearest £ |
| | | - | - | - |
| | | - | - | - |
| | | - | - | - |
| | | - | - | - |
| | | - | - | - |
| | | - | - | - |
| B3 Investment assets | Details | Fund to which asset belongs | Cost (optional) | Current value (optional) |
| | | | - | - |
| | | | - | - |
| | | | - | - |
| | | | - | - |
| B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use | Details | Fund to which asset belongs | Cost (optional) | Current value (optional) |
| | IT equipment | Restricted | 604 | 300 |
| | | | - | - |
| | | | - | - |
| | | | - | - |
| | | | - | - |
| | | | - | - |
| | | | - | - |
| B5 Liabilities | Details | Fund to which liability relates | Amount due (optional) | When due (optional) |
| | | | - | |
| | | | - | |
| | | | - | |
| | | | - | |