



**HARLESDEN
NEIGHBOURHOOD
FORUM**
shaping . planning . living

Annual Report



2015-2016



ABOUT THE HARLESDEN NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING FORUM

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

Through the end of 2014 and early 2015 an interim steering group, supported by Lift, guided the development of an application for a Neighbourhood Forum and Neighbourhood Plan boundary area. The Harlesden Neighbourhood Planning Forum officially launched in April 2015 and we now have more than 70 members and more than 10 associate members representing residents, businesses, voluntary organisations and faith groups.

The Forum focuses on key areas of interest that include the Local Economy, Housing, Transport, Environment & Open Spaces and Community Facilities. These themes were identified as priorities for local people from discussions at the first formal meeting of the forum 12 months ago and have been developed since.

OUR WORK

In July 2015 the Forum's Chair, Vice Chair and Treasurer met with the leader of Brent Council, Cllr. Butt, to introduce the Harlesden Neighbourhood Forum and discuss future collaboration with the council. Cllr. Butt confirmed his commitment to support the work of the Forum. In November 2015 the application for the Neighbourhood Plan boundary and Neighbourhood Forum was approved by the two relevant local planning authorities: Brent Council and the Old Oak & Park Royal Development Corporation (OPDC) meaning the Harlesden Neighbourhood Forum was officially designated!

The relationship between the Harlesden Neighbourhood Forum, Brent Council and the OPDC has continued to evolve. Following the Forum's work in highlighting the need to ensure Harlesden benefits from the OPDC development, Brent Council and the OPDC decided to set up a Harlesden Sub-group, in which the Forum was invited to take part as a means of continuously feeding into the development process



The Neighbourhood Forum constitution, adopted at our inaugural meeting in April 2015, commits the Neighbourhood Forum Committee to hold at least three general forum meetings and six committee meetings per year and to work towards the delivery of a Neighbourhood Plan for Harlesden.

Since April 2015, the Forum has established five working groups; Local Economy, Housing, Transport, Environment & Open Spaces and Community Facilities. These groups were created to provide insight and research into the key areas that would make up the completed chapters of our Neighbourhood Plan for Harlesden.

A cross-cutting Communications and Community Engagement group was also created to work on engagement strategies, develop a vision and to create a visual identity for the Forum. As well as a Forward Planning Group whose task is to ensure progress is made.

Over the past year, seven committee meetings have been held, the first of which immediately followed the first Annual General Meeting in April of 2015. The committee has also held two away days in which it created a code of conduct, worked on establishing a vision for the Forum and also enjoyed a presentation from Beauty in My Backyard (BIMBY) and discussed the potential for future collaboration between BIMBY and the Forum.

The Forum has also held four general meetings that have dealt with a variety of important issues facing our community to help feed your concerns into the Harlesden Neighbourhood Plan:

Harlesden Neighbourhood Forum Meetings 2015-2016

• **April 8, 2015 Launch**

- First Annual General Meeting and official launch of the Harlesden Neighbourhood Forum
- First Committee to serve the Harlesden Neighbourhood Forum is elected

• **July 6, 2015**

- Presentation and Q&A from Old Oak Park on the redevelopment of the Car Giant site

• **November 4, 2015**

- Update from Communication & Community Engagement Group on the vision of the Forum
- Consultation and workshop session on the main issues concerning each working group; Local Economy, Housing, Transport, Open Spaces and Community Facilities.

• **February 17, 2016**

- Presentation of timeline for draft Chapters and Committee Meetings
- Presentation of vision statements and voting

• **AGM April 13, 2016**

- Second AGM and election of Committee Members

*Our Vision:
To build a better
Harlesden by
giving our
community the
opportunity to
affect positive local
change.*



A positive start has been made on developing the draft Neighbourhood Plan. Several consultation meetings with the Forum membership have taken place to identify and discuss local issues and options to address them. And to date, three draft chapters of the Plan have been delivered with further review and refining to take place within the relevant working groups.

FUTURE WORK

Throughout the Spring and Summer of 2016 the Harlesden Neighbourhood Forum working groups will collaborate with our planning advisor, Ken Hullock, to deliver the draft chapters of the Plan. Once the draft Plan has been completed it will then be presented to the community for consultation. The Harlesden Neighbourhood Forum will work to support various consultations and community events to engage residents and gain feedback on the draft Plan.

We would like to thank everyone who has attended meetings and participated in the planning process. We would also like to thank our work partners who have helped us in our efforts over the course of this exciting year: **OPDC, Brent Council, Lift, Harlesden Methodist Church/Tavistock Hall, Old Oak Park and our advisor Ken Hullock**

Neighbourhood Forum Accounts 2015-16

Please note that as the Neighbourhood Forum is still in the process of setting up a bank account, Lift has applied for grants within the national Neighbourhood Planning Grant Programme and held these funds on behalf of the Forum.

Income

	2015	2016
Neighbourhood Planning Grant	4,000	
Neighbourhood Planning Grant		2,000
Total Income for 2015-2016	£6,000	

Expenditure

	2015	2016
Planning consultancy	3,000	1,800
Branding consultancy	275	
Governance (Committee Away days – June 2015 and February 2016)	525	
Meeting and consultation expenses (catering, printing, room hire)	200	200
Total expenditure for 2015-16	£6,000	
Total funds at end of year*	£0	

*All grant monies had to be spent within specific timescales. The grant received in early 2016 had to be spent by 31st March 2016. The Forum is eligible to apply for more funds from the Neighbourhood Planning Grant Programme after 1st April 2016.