



Penelope Williams
Governance and Scrutiny Officer
Direct: 020 8132 1330

email: penelope.williams@enfield.gov.uk

ENVIRONMENT FORUM

Tuesday, 30th March, 2021 at 7.00 pm (Virtual)

[Click here to join meeting](#)

Membership: Councillors Mahmut Aksanoglu (Vice Chair), Anne Brown, Katherine Chibah(Chair) and Lindsay Rawlings

AGENDA – PART 1

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Members are asked to declare any disclosable pecuniary, other pecuniary or non pecuniary interests relating to items on the agenda.

3. REWILDING AND TREE PLANTING (Pages 1 - 18)

To receive a presentation on rewilding and tree planting plans for the borough.

4. LOCAL PLAN POLICIES (To Follow)

To receive a presentation from Helen Murch (Head of Strategic Planning and Design) on local plan policies including housing types.

5. RETROFITTING - DOMESTIC AND COUNCIL BUILDINGS (Pages 19 - 36)

To receive a presentation on retrofitting Council buildings – recent progress and next steps.

6. MINUTES FROM THE MEETING HELD ON 16 FEBRUARY 2021 (Pages 37 - 46)

To receive and agree the minutes of the meeting held on 16 February 2021.

7. REVIEW OF WORK PROGRAMME 2020/21 (Pages 47 - 48)

To note the revised work programme for 2020/21.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

To consider any other items put forward for discussion.

9. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

To note the dates agreed for future meetings of the Forum:

- Wednesday 28 April 2021

10. FOR INFORMATION - PLANNING APPLICATIONS AND OTHER PLANNING POLICIES - HOW TO RAISE AN ITEM FOR DISCUSSION (Pages 49 - 50)

For information only - details of how to raise an item for discussion on planning applications and other planning policies.

Rewilding and Tree Planting

Wednesday 30th March 2021



Rewilding

- Large scale restoration of ecosystems to the point where nature is allowed to take care of itself

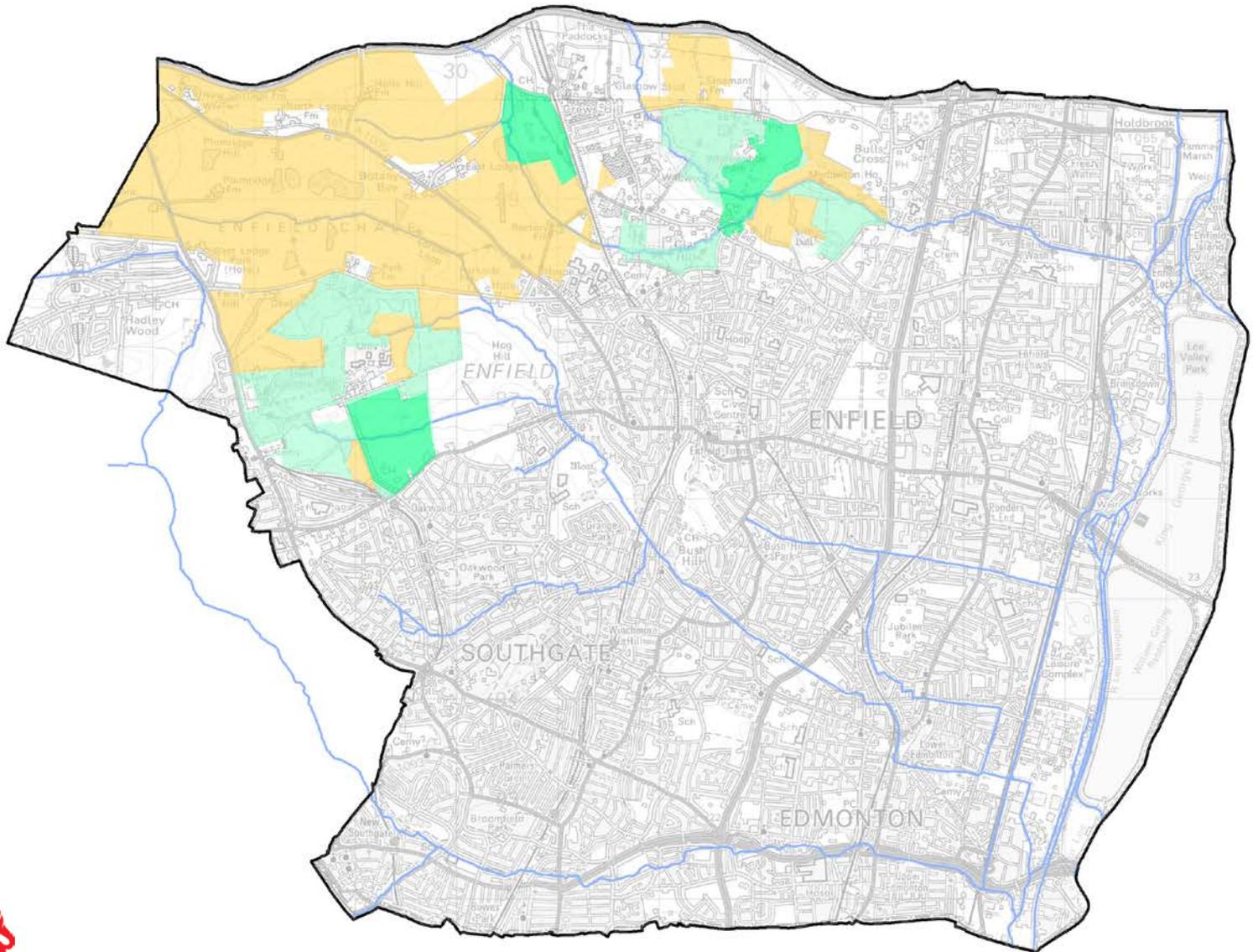
Rewilding aspirations

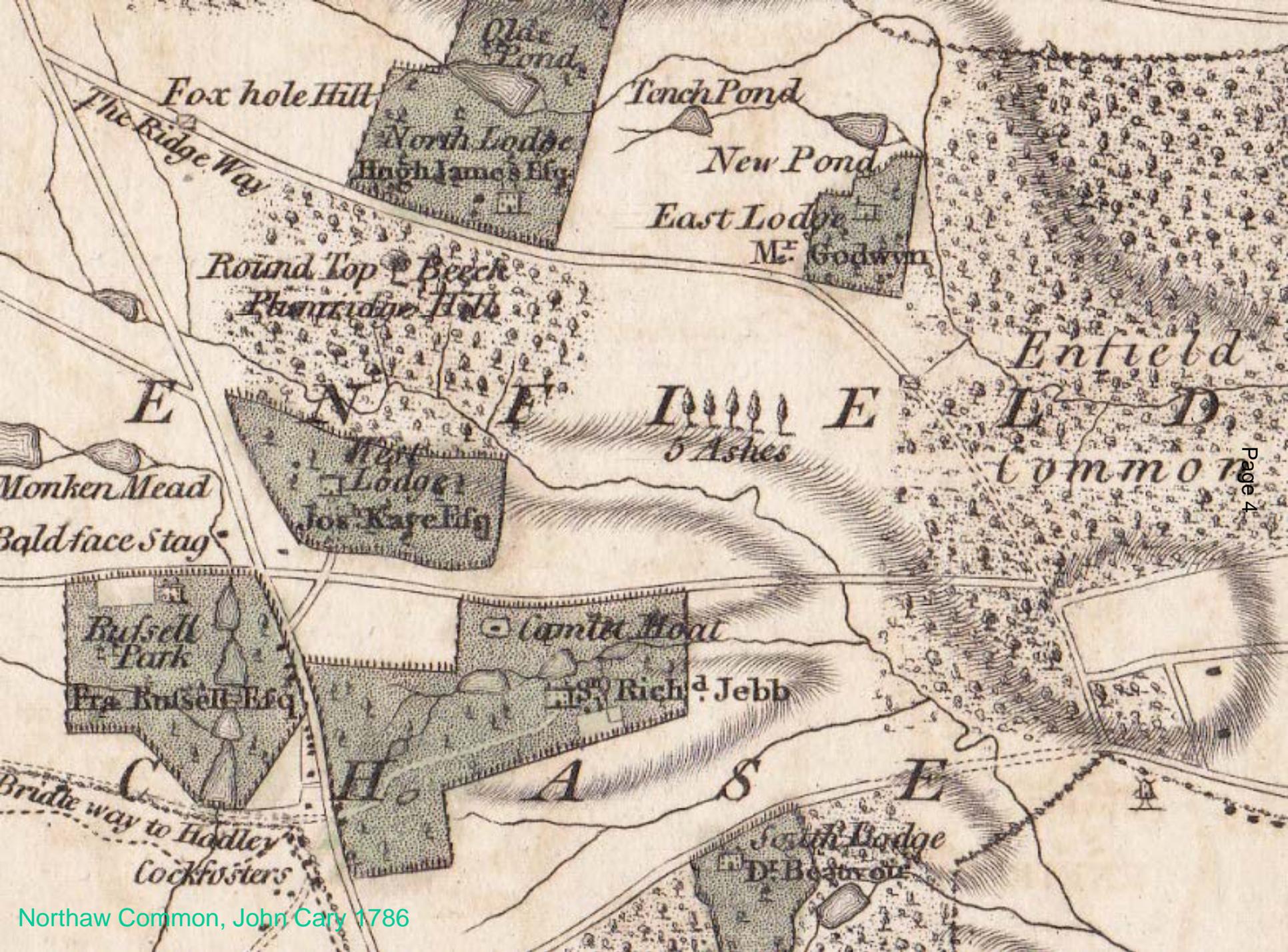
- Reverse the loss of biodiversity in large areas
- Restore ecosystems to a functional and resilient state
- Reignite people's passion for the natural world
- Provide opportunities for communities to diversify and revitalise local economies in ways that work ecologically
- Reintegrate nature and society for the benefit of both
- Reintroduce key missing species where it makes sense

London Plan Good Growth Policies

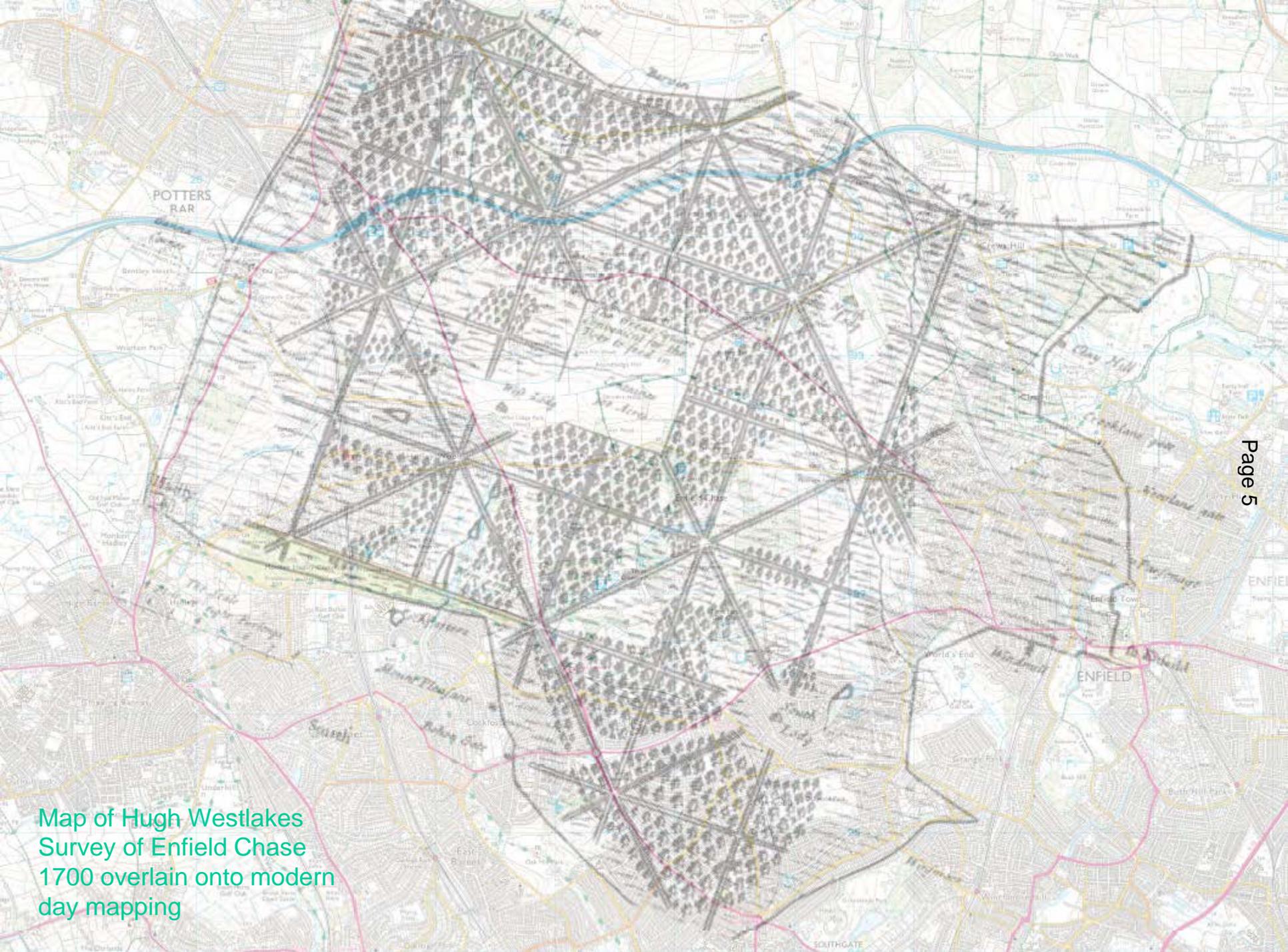
- Building strong and inclusive communities
- Making the best use of land
- Creating a healthy city
- Delivering the homes Londoners need
- Growing a good economy
- Increasing efficiency and resilience



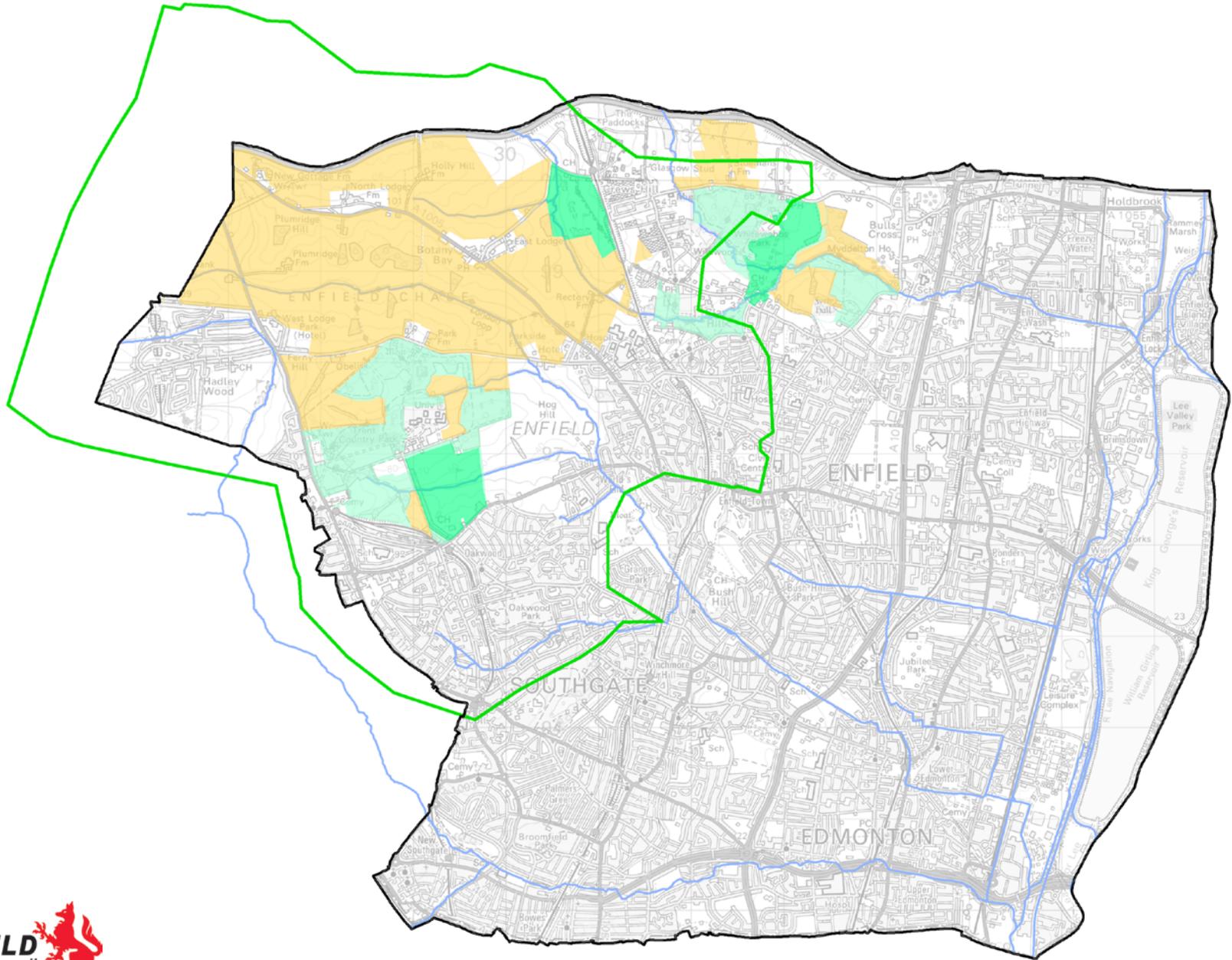




Northaw Common, John Cary 1786



Map of Hugh Westlakes
Survey of Enfield Chase
1700 overlain onto modern
day mapping



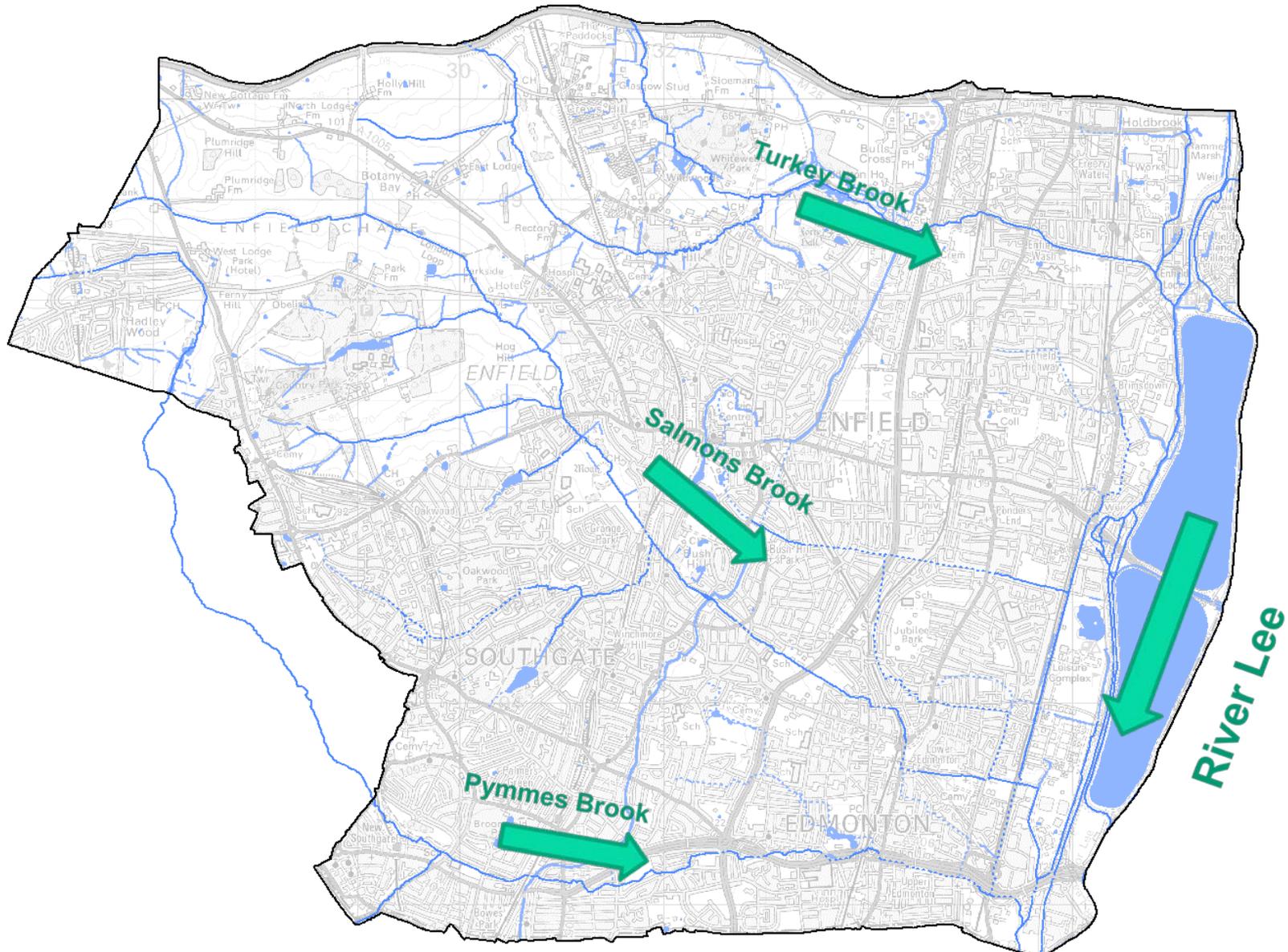


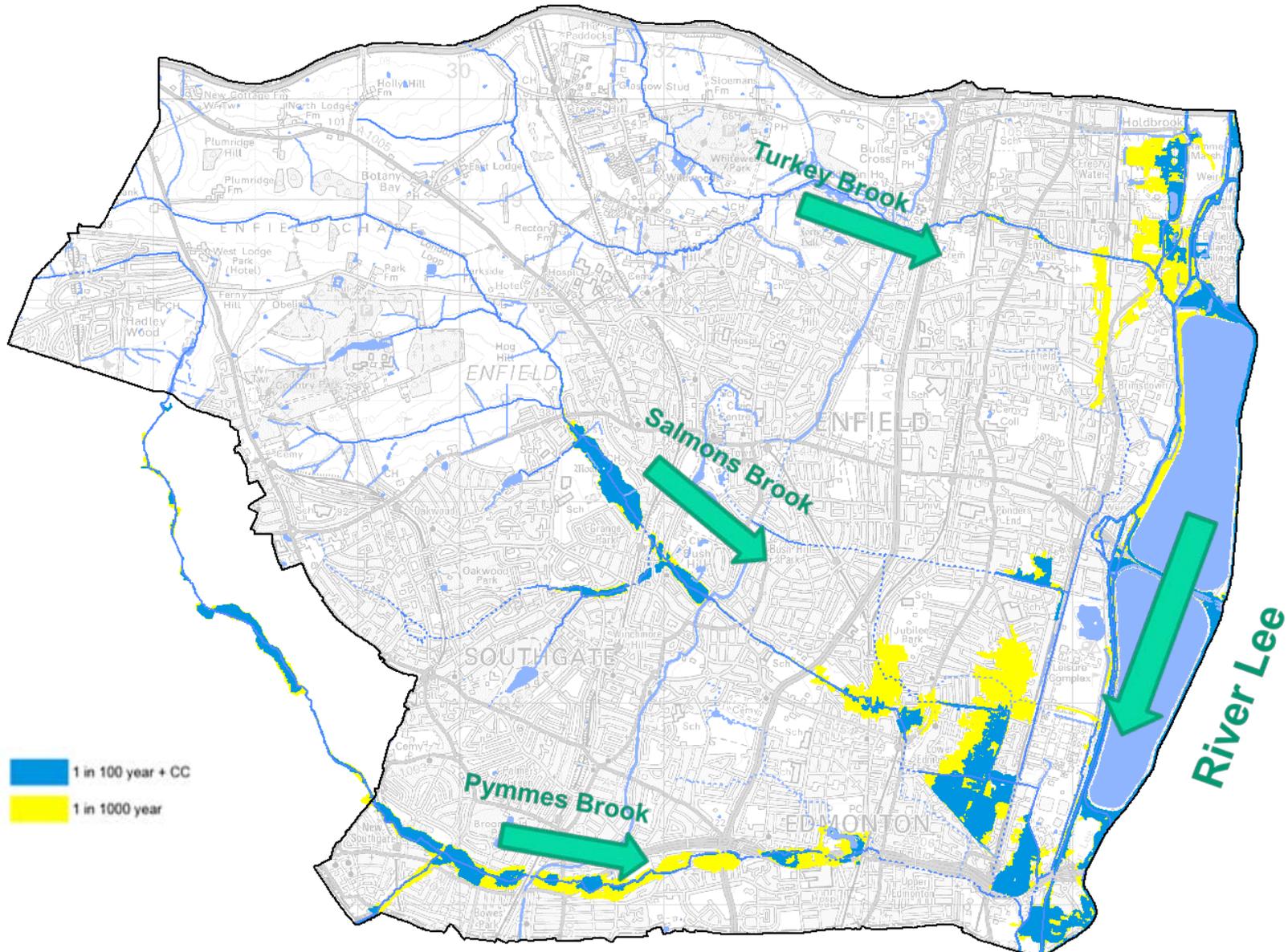
Enfield Chase farming today





Enfield Chase farming 100 years ago





1 in 100 year + CC
 1 in 1000 year



River restoration



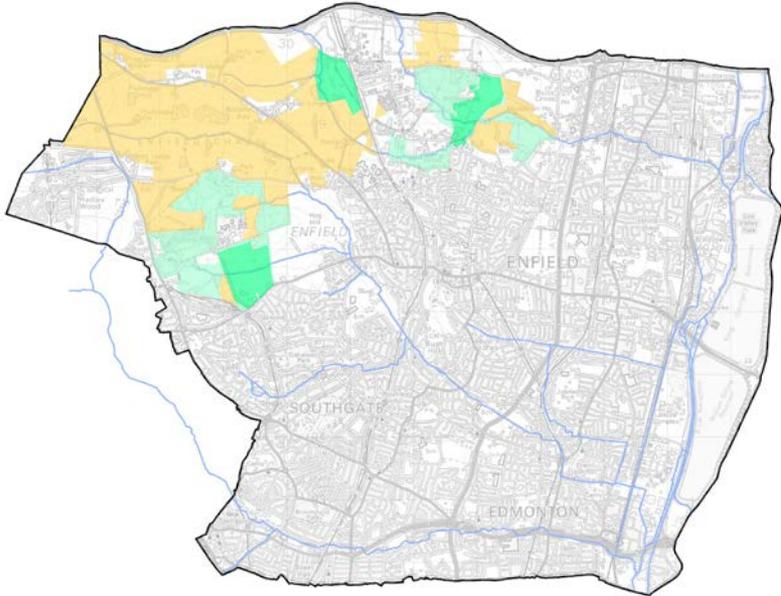
Bury Lodge Wetlands



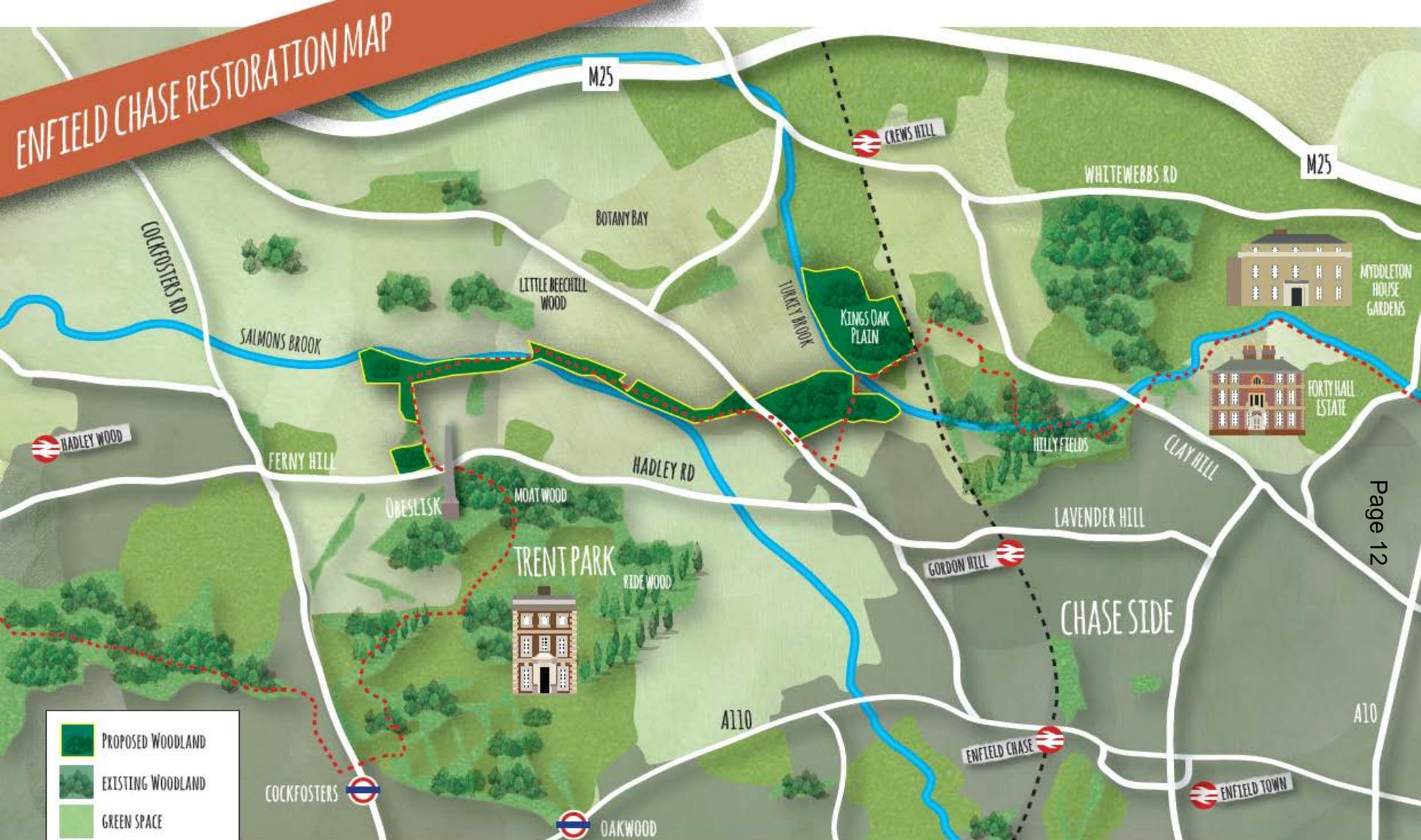
Woodland creation

Natural Flood Management measures include:

- Ponds and wetlands
- River restoration
- Re-connecting floodplains
- Woodland creation



ENFIELD CHASE RESTORATION MAP



- PROPOSED WOODLAND
- EXISTING WOODLAND
- GREEN SPACE
- FARMLAND
- URBAN AREA
- LONDON LOOP

SUPPORTED BY
MAYOR OF LONDON

£748k

Forestry Commission

£344k

THAMES21

CLIMATE ACTION ENFIELD

ENFIELD
Council

£150k

£678k National Lottery Heritage Fund

Multiple Benefits

- **Biodiversity** – creation of a wide range of habitats including woodland, meadow and wetlands
- **Heritage** – restoring natural heritage: landscape, wildlife and land management practices such as wood pasture
- **Reduced flood risk** – to downstream urban areas such as Edmonton and Meridian Water downstream
- **Reduced pollution** – less use of pesticides and fertiliser
- **Improved amenity** – opportunity to open large areas to public access (similar landscape to Epping Forest)
- **Public health** – increased recreational activities, social prescribing potential
- **Community activities** – volunteering
- **Education** – forest schools, site visits
- **Economic opportunities** – free-range cattle, camping/glamping, safaris, mountain biking, market gardens, etc
- **Increased employment potential**
- **Carbon sequestration** – contributing to Enfield's Climate Change Action Plan by capturing an estimated 234 tonnes of carbon annually (60 hectares of woodland)





Existing Aerial View - Zoom 01



Proposed Aerial View - Zoom 01 Increased Scrub Areas



Impression of the Woodland Creation at maturity



Large size tree zone

Medium size tree zone

Shrub planting zone

Rectory Farm

This page is intentionally left blank

Finalising the Vision

Environment Forum
30th March 2021

Page 19

Agenda Item 4

www.enfield.gov.uk

Striving for excellence



Background

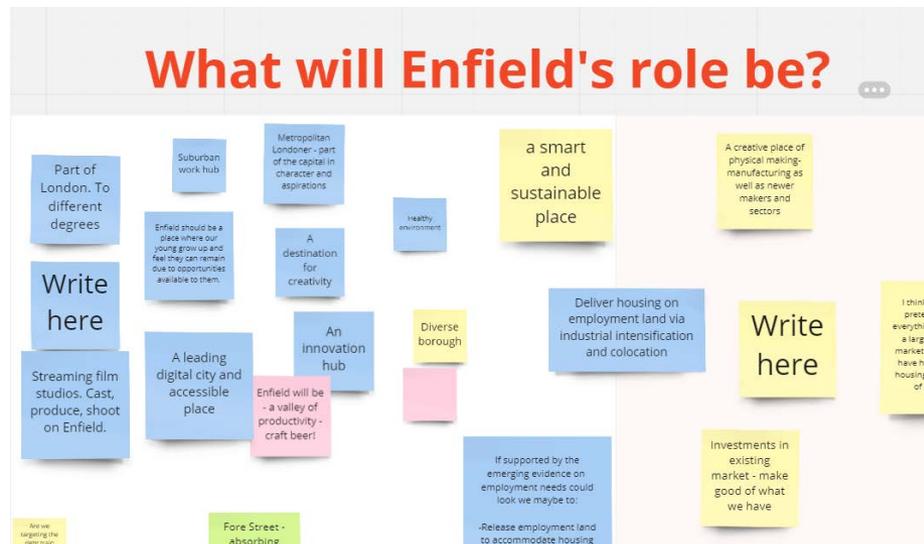
- Enfield's vision is a **succinct framing statement**, supported by several **strategic objectives** and underpinned by **four guiding threads**.
- The vision will be used to define spatial options, setting out the scale of growth and where in the borough growth will be accommodated. The vision and strategic objectives will together inform the formulation of strategic and detailed policies in the new local plan.

What we did - workshops

- A series of engagement sessions were held during February 2021. We proactively reached out to colleagues across the planning service, to officers of the Strategic Planning Board, and to officers across the council. Four officer sessions were held in total.
- A bespoke session was carried out with Enfield Youth Parliament to gain the input of young people and understand their priorities for the future development of the borough.
- Engagement sessions were held with elected members, with a choice of a morning or evening session, to gain input from local politicians. Two member engagement sessions were held, with follow-up sessions on request of members.

What we did - workshops

- The engagement sessions followed an interactive format to draw out views and discuss aspirations. An introductory presentation was followed with three thematic sessions on the following topics:
 - What will Enfield's role be in the future?
 - What kind of growth do we want to accommodate?
 - What type of character do you want Enfield to have?



What we did - survey

- A survey was used to capture wider views. The survey was structured around several key themes:

- Future role
- Connectivity
- Scale of growth
- Type of place
- Type of character
- Making choices

Enfield's future connectivity and role in its wider context.

6. What role do you think Enfield should be playing in its wider context by 2039? (tick all that apply) *

- A self-sufficient borough – Inwardly focused place located on the outer edge of the London metropolitan area, limited new physical connections to surrounding areas and taking limited benefits and making limited contribution to London's regional needs.
- An enthusiastic Londoner – A place that sees itself as a key part of the global city of London, providing for some of the capital's regional functions (including housing and strategic industrial capacity) and being highly connected into it socially, culturally, economically and environmentally. Largely focussed south to London with the M25 border as a limit of focus.
- A north south corridor – A place that is part of a highly connected north/south corridor linking central London with the growth areas and countryside areas to the north of the M25. A place that is part of both London and the wider southeast.
- A deeply green Londoner – A place where the green open spaces of the borough permeate through

What we did - survey

- The survey was publicised on the council website. It was also disseminated to key respondents:
 - To **local people and interested stakeholders** via the local plan consultation distribution list. This resulted in detailed responses from Enfield Road Watch and Hadley Wood Neighbourhood Planning Forum.
 - To Enfield Council **staff members** via the 'Staff Matters' update and by email to council services via business managers.
 - To **elected members** by a section in the members newsletter, and subsequent follow-up emails.
 - To **three local MPs and GLA member**

Taking on board wider council priorities

- Enfield Council Plan 2020-2022
- Climate Action Plan
- Housing and Growth Strategy 2020-2030
- Children and Young Peoples Plan
- Enfield Poverty and Inequality Commission: report and recommendations
- Emerging Blue and Green Strategy
- Economic Development Strategy
- Heritage Strategy
- Cultural Strategy

What did people tell us? Workshop sessions

Enfield Youth Parliament

- Enfield should be a place of future opportunity, with east-west disparities addressed.
- Enfield should be a green place, with access to nature.

Growth should be:

- Supported by community infrastructure, such as allotments and shared services everyone can benefit from. Public transport should be improved.
- Sustainable – environmental damage should be limited. Opportunities should be taken to reduce the emissions of buildings.
- Focused on the delivery of affordable housing.
- Prioritised on previously developed sites like car parks, with green spaces protected.

What did people tell us? Workshop sessions

In terms of Enfield's character:

- Density can be increased in certain locations, whilst safeguarding character. Increases in density need to be supported by green space and accessible amenities.
- Opportunities should be taken to support the greening of new developments, knitting new development into green networks.
- Imposing luxury developments should be avoided.
- The rustic character of the north of the borough should be protected.

What did people tell us? Workshop sessions

Members

Enfield's role:

- Bringing together the best of town and country – offering ready access to open spaces, green and blue networks and good air quality.
- A place of green attractive neighbourhoods with a good quality of life.

Needs:

- Some scepticism about quantitative assessments of need, and the imposition of housing numbers from central government and the Mayor.

What did people tell us? Workshop sessions

Growth should:

- Be spread throughout the borough and should address disparities between east and west of the borough.
- Focus on quality and supporting infrastructure – not just the delivery of small units.
- Support a good quality of life.
- Improve east-west transport connectivity.
- Focus on the needs of families and existing residents.
- Address housing needs and deliver affordable housing.
- Create a broad-based economy, improving industrial areas to building on successes.
- Support wildlife and food growing in rural Enfield
- Fundamentally, we can't achieve everything with a finite amount of land, and the council needs to be transparent about this.

What did people tell us? Workshop sessions

In terms of character:

- Concern with dense and tall schemes.
- The distinct character of Enfield's communities should be maintained and heritage should be valued.
- Opportunities to intensify some council estates.
- Scope for environmental improvements in the east.
- Opportunities to make the most of natural assets (such as preserving trees) as part of new development.
- Crucial importance of green space in all parts of the borough.
- Opportunities to make industrial areas more vibrant – to attract businesses and make the best use of our hubs.

What did people tell us? Survey

- 278 responses.
- 84% residents of Enfield.
- 65% were aged over 50, and the same proportion identified as White British.
- However, only 31% of Enfield residents are aged over 50 and 35% are estimated to be White British.

Local Plan vision - help shape the development of Enfield

Our new Local Plan will shape the development of the borough over the coming years. It will set priorities and make strategic choices about what kind of place Enfield will be in the future.

A key part of this is defining a spatial vision that will set the direction of travel. This will be used as the basis for formulating strategic and detailed policies against which development proposals will be assessed. It involves making important choices about the role Enfield will play in its wider context, what level and type of growth we want to accommodate and deciding what character Enfield will have in 2039 and beyond.

Enfield's future connectivity and role in its wider context.

1. What role do you think Enfield should be playing in its wider context by 2039? (tick all that apply)
- A self-sufficient borough –
Inwardly focussed place located on the outer edge of the London metropolitan area, limited new physical connections to surrounding areas and taking limited benefits and making limited contribution to London's regional needs.
 - An enthusiastic Londoner –
A place that sees itself as a key part of the global city of London, providing for some of the capital's regional functions (including housing and strategic industrial capacity) and being highly connected into it socially, culturally, economically and environmentally. Largely focussed south to London with the M25 border as a limit of focus.
 - A north south corridor –
A place that is part of a highly connected north/south corridor linking central London with the growth areas and countryside areas to the north of the M25. A place that is part of both London and the wider southeast.
 - A deeply green Londoner –
A place where the green open spaces of the borough permeate through the urban fabric from wild places in the rural north. A place that leads London in terms of providing access for all to green and blue infrastructure, nature recovery and access to green spaces.
 - An innovative and smart Londoner –
An energetic and regionally important innovation hub providing high quality employment and super connected in terms of IT networks and smart city technology.

What did people tell us? Survey

Enfield's role:

- 72%: a **deeply green Londoner** - A place where the green open spaces of the borough permeate through the urban fabric from wild places in the rural north. A place that leads London in terms of providing access for all to green and blue infrastructure, nature recovery and access to green spaces.
- 63%: a **family retreat** - A place catering to the needs of families, with excellent educational facilities, and opportunities for young families to stay in the borough and flourish.
- Least support (12%) for Enfield as a 'self sufficient borough'

What did people tell us? Survey

Sustainable movement is a clear priority:

- 67% want to see Enfield highly connected by networks of walking, cycling, bus and train routes.
- 45% prioritise providing a significantly improved network of east to west walking, cycling, bus and train routes.
- Least support (14%) for improved east west connections for cars and vehicles.

What did people tell us? Survey

Meeting needs:

- 66% would like Enfield to provide for all or some of our identified housing need (4,397 homes per year).
- More people (45%) than not (41%) would like Enfield to meet the Mayor of London's housing target up to 2039.
- More (41%) think employment needs should be met in full than not (35%).

What did people tell us? Survey

Type of place: **environmental aspirations** are strong –

- 68% want the borough to be a clean and unpolluted place where water and air quality is prioritised and protected.
- 60% want Enfield to be a deeply green place where nature and green and blue spaces penetrate through streets, open spaces and buildings through innovative and pioneering design.

Also, 67% believed that Enfield should be an **intergenerational place**.

Least support (11%) for Enfield as a ‘vibrant city scale place.’

What did people tell us? Survey

What about character?

- 61%: Enfield should be a place where built heritage is prioritised and protected from the potential negative impact of modern developments.
- 49% favour a mix of suburbs, town centres, regeneration areas, large and small employment areas, recreation and open spaces linked by transport corridors.
- Least support (11%) for growth accommodated through tall buildings.

What did people tell us? Survey

Setting a spatial vision: most popular choices:

- 41% agreed that providing for improved biodiversity and networks of green spaces and access to nature to improve people's health and wellbeing takes priority over other types of needs such as housing and employment.
- 40% agreed that the borough should improve air quality, human health and mitigate and adapt to climate change, even if it means reducing the reliance on the car and reducing parking provision and reducing road capacity.
- 39% favoured the conversion of industrial areas to housing so that urban areas can be preserved, and large-scale housing developments can be avoided in countryside areas, even if it means losing industrial jobs and businesses.

What did people tell us? Survey

Setting a spatial vision: least popular choices –

- 63% disagreed that providing for all our housing requirement is a top priority even if it means building taller or in countryside areas.
- 55% disagreed that providing for all our industrial and logistics needs is a top priority, even if it means building on countryside areas.
- 38% disagreed with intensifying our existing town centres and suburban areas to enable countryside to be protected from development, even if it means accepting tall buildings in our town centres.

Support for meeting needs in principle, but some discomfort with the spatial consequences.

Survey: drilling down

- Under 30s – 15 responses.
 - Support for Enfield as a deeply green Londoner (87%).
 - Support for sustainable transport options.
 - Support meeting all or some of housing needs (66%) and Mayor of London's target (53%).
 - Support for meeting employment needs.
 - Want Enfield to be a place that nurtures young talent/ entrepreneurs, a place of equality, an intergenerational place with green links (meshing of rural and urban).
 - Support new homes with gardens and access to green space, improved biodiversity and air quality.

Survey: drilling down

- Elected members – 12 responses. Broadly similar to overall results (inc. deeply green, intergenerational).
 - Support meeting all or some of housing needs/ Mayor of London's target.
 - Support for meeting employment needs.
 - Support for new homes with gardens.
 - Do not support meeting housing requirement by building taller or in countryside areas/ converting industrial areas to housing.

Survey: drilling down

Kate Osamor MP

- Supports meeting housing needs/ targets
- Supports meeting employment needs in full

“While I support increased provision of housing, I certainly don’t think that this should be focused in a particular area in the south or east of the borough. All residents should be entitled to access to green space whether they live in Edmonton or further north. We should not seek to pack too much housing into already dense areas. Low-rise housing can be much more conducive to a pleasant living environment and the entire breadth of the borough has a duty to help support housing need.”

Survey: drilling down

Enfield Road Watch

- Many options presented are not mutually exclusive, e.g. can look to London and to the north.
- Mayor's housing target 'manageable' without releasing Green Belt land.
- Support for intensification, not new employment sites.
- "The vision should start with protecting and improving the environment and then creative green solutions employed to meet housing, employment, community, health and other needs."

Hadley Wood Neighbourhood Forum

- Housing targets should be challenged.
- Argue that tough choices do not need to be made, i.e. "We can improve air quality without reducing parking provision or road capacity."
- Support for improved public transport connectivity.
- Support for new homes with gardens, but not on the green belt.
- Oppose the loss of green belt and garden sites.

The emerging Vision

By 2039 Enfield will have grown to be a place of opportunity for future generations, the green heart of London where new homes and jobs help all our communities thrive.

The four threads - draft

A deeply green place

- A growing place where enhanced green open spaces and waterways permeate through the urban fabric from the wild places in the rural north. A place that leads London in providing access for all to nature on their doorstep. A place where people can live in and escape to nature. A borough that is carbon neutral.



The workshop of London

- A place that accommodates growing hubs of productivity, innovation and creativity across the borough. A place of quality work environments knitted into the borough's green networks. A place that capitalises on Enfield's strategic position in the UK Innovation Corridor. Enfield's hot house of creativity encompasses our homes, town centres and industrial heartlands.



The four threads - draft

A distinct and leading part of London

- A place of growing neighbourhoods whose valuable character, heritage and natural environments have been enhanced and celebrated. A place which offers the best of town and country. A place that leads London in terms of intergenerational communities, and access to nature, diverse economic opportunities and quality of life.



A nurturing place

- A place that provides people with the ingredients for good life – healthy communities, beautiful places, more quality affordable homes and jobs, community facilities and excellent education, leisure and cultural opportunities. A more equal place where growth delivers better outcomes for all.



Key events – March to May 21

March

- Spatial vision confirmed
- Spatial options and site selection workshops with officers and Members
- Decision on spatial strategy and sites
- Draft policy development
- On-going evidence base work
- On-going Duty to co-operate discussions

May

- Finalising draft plan
- Finalising and circulation of Full council papers
- Finalising evidence base work
- On-going Duty to co-operate discussions

April

- Testing and finalising policy and evidence
- Circulating draft plan for internal comment
- On-going Member engagement
- On-going evidence base work
- On-going Duty to co-operate discussions

June

- 2nd June Papers published
- 9th June Full Council meeting



Reg 18 Draft Plan proposed forward programme



Key evidence base updates completed
Jan 2021



Vision updating, spatial option generating, and site selection
Feb – Mar 2021



Series of Member workshops and involvement in plan development
Feb – Mar 2021



Focussed community engagement
Feb to March 2021



Preparation and testing of draft plan policies
Mar – April 2021



Plan to Full council
9 June 2021



Reg 18 draft Plan consulted on June – July 2021

The preparation timetable

- Preparation of draft plan November 2020 to April 2021
- Draft Plan to Full council – June 2021
- Reg 18 Draft Plan consulted on June – July 2021
- Preparation of Reg 19 publication Plan 21/22
- Reg 19 Plan Publication 2022
- Submission of draft plan to SoS 2022
- Examination from Autumn 2022/23
- Adoption in 2023/2024

Domestic and Council Building Retrofit

Environment Forum –
30th March 2021

Dominic Millen



ENFIELD
Council



Agenda Item 5

Page 49

What is retrofit?

Changes to a building which:

- Improve energy efficiency
- Decarbonise heat
- Increase renewables / offsetting.

Fabric (in and out) – doors, windows, walls, roofs

Heating – source and controls

Energy generation – solar panels, heat pumps.

Can involve one, some or many (“deep retrofit”).

Retrofit is Challenging... But Worth It!

- Type of building including heritage status
- Tenure of building
- Range of approaches and quality of installations
- Cost of delivery and compulsion to deliver
- Measuring success including quality
- Capacity of sector and skills gap.

Benefits:

- Buildings vast majority of Council's emissions
- Housing 38% of Enfield's borough emissions
- Healthier and wealthier households.

Retrofit in the Council's Climate Action Plan

The Council will be a carbon neutral organisation by 2030 and Enfield will be a carbon neutral borough by 2040

Number of actions supporting retrofit such as:

- Increase private rented property SAP / EPC
- Targeting fuel-poor households
- Low carbon Council housing plan with target of SAP 86 / EPC B
- Lower carbon Council buildings and schools
- Securing funding.

Retrofit London

Green recovery / good growth housing retrofit programme looking to achieve EPC B or equivalent by 2030; also net zero scenario.

Current strands of work:

- Assessment of all housing and retrofit need
- Development of action plan
- Preparing for delivery and monitoring.

Huge opportunity for delivering retrofit at scale.

Commercial to follow.

Green Homes Grant – Voucher Scheme

- £2 billion government scheme providing home improvement voucher direct to customer
- Primary Measures (at least one required): Building fabric insulation (e.g Loft, Wall, Floor) and / or Low carbon heat (e.g. Heat pump and Solar Thermal)
- Secondary Measures including glazing & door replacement, draught proofing, hot water insulation and heating controls.
- 8% of target 600,000 households have taken up:
 - Administration and management
 - Availability of suppliers.

Edmonton Council Housing Pilots – Different Routes, Same Destination

36 individual homes

Whole homes retrofit via the Energiesprong model, with major fabric improvements and related quality control.

£3.3m Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund Demonstrator (tbc) and Council funding

Delivery by Dec 2021



Edmonton Council Housing Pilots – Different Routes, Same Destination

22 storey residential
block

Integrated programme of
new cladding, fire safety
works, environmental
improvements, lower
carbon heat sources.

£12m in Council funding

On site from Nov 2021



Outcomes and Challenges

Outcomes:

- Reduced running costs and improved health
- Testing of approach to highlight practical challenges with delivery and support scaling up
- Identification of retrofit archetypes to inform future supply chain and funding bids.

Challenges:

- Securing investment
- Delivery including having residents in situ
- Timescales and sector capacity.

Energetik

Network expansion including into neighbouring boroughs – increases reach.

Retrofit pilot:

- Providing around 20 existing properties with connections to the Energetik network
- First there are up to 11 social housing properties
- Affordable and reliable connections to existing residents could be a significant step towards decarbonising heat sources.

Corporate Buildings Including Schools

There is a long term programme of investment in corporate retrofit via the Re:fit framework with future tranches:

- Corporate buildings
- Fusion leisure centres
- Maintained schools.

Also looking at opportunities for school retrofit linked to ongoing capital programme.

Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme

- Carbon emissions from corporate buildings make up vast majority of Council's direct emissions – need to cut these to net zero by 2030.
- Main route is through decarbonising buildings – energy efficiency (monitoring and material improvements) and low carbon heat sources.
- Government has made £1bn available across the public sector – Enfield secured nearly £3.8m in grant funding.
- Delivery deadline 30 September 2021.

Programme

- Main investment at Civic Centre.
- 9 other potential locations in submission including Morson Road, Edmonton Centre and Dugdale / Thomas Hardy House.
- Will deliver a range of heat pumps, solar panels, double glazing, insulation, light and heat controls.
- Predicted carbon savings of around 670 tCO₂e per year – about 3% of corporate total.
- Investment proposal developed and moving into delivery.

Offsetting and Renewables

- Continuing to restore woodland in the north of the borough
- Additional investment in street trees as part of ongoing capital programme
- Looking at approach to renewables in the community and on commercial sites including the role the Council can play
- Already supporting Solar Together, a group buying scheme for panels:
<https://solartogether.co.uk/enfield/home>

Conservation and Heritage

- Retrofit means changes to a building's fabric and potentially external additions.
- Hidden assets need to be identified.
- Consistent standards and processes reduce costs and complexity.
- Possible need for different approaches and skills to deliver changes to heritage assets.
- Availability and prioritisation of funding.
- Climate action is a global, national, regional, local and individual priority – how do we deliver two different types of conservation?

Priorities for 2021

- Delivery of existing projects
- Council Housing Asset Management Sustainability Strategy implementation
- Development of a pipeline of corporate retrofit projects including in schools
- Retrofit London programme delivery starting in autumn
- Lobbying Government for funding and powers ahead of COP26 and the Comprehensive Spending Review – both later in the year

Questions?



This page is intentionally left blank

ENVIRONMENT FORUM - 16.2.2021

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENT FORUM HELD ON TUESDAY, 16TH FEBRUARY, 2021**MEMBERS:**

Councillors: Mahmut Aksanoglu (Vice Chair), Anne Brown, Katherine Chibah (Chair) and Lindsay Rawlings

Dennis Stacey – Bush Hill Park Conservation Area Study Group

Andrew Newman – Clay Hill Study Group

Rex Bourne – Edmonton Hundred Historical Society

Denise Gandhi – Southgate Green Study Group

Paul Hutchinson – Grange Park Conservation Area Study Group

Robert Wilson – Hadley Wood Conservation Area Study Group

John West – the Enfield Society

Juliet Barnet – Trent Park Conservation Committee

Peter Fisk – Forty Hill Conservation Area Study Group

Officers: Sarah Cary (Executive Director Place), Ned Johnson (Principal Health Safety and Pollution Officer), David Taylor (Head of Traffic and Transportation), Metin Halil (Governance and Scrutiny) and Penelope Williams (Secretary)

Also Attending: Sue Reuss, Carol Fisk, Simon Allin, Lorraine Hinds (Transport for London), Esther Johnson (Transport for London), Lydia Somnah, Helen Osman, Gail Nielen (Friends of Firs Farm)

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies for lateness were received from Councillor Mahmut Aksanoglu.

2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interest.

3. COMMUNITY INITIATIVES SUPPORTING ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY**1. Enfield Society Tree Project**

The forum received a presentation from John West (Enfield Society) on the Enfield Society Trees Project.

1.1 Presentation

ENVIRONMENT FORUM - 16.2.2021

The following points were highlighted during the presentation:

- The overall aim of the Enfield Society was the conservation and enhancement of the civic and natural environment.
- The society managed a tree nursery at the Trentwood Side Allotments where they cultivate about 140 saplings a year, varying in size from small specimens to 3 metre high trees.
- People donate saplings, often found in their gardens, and these are grown on until they are ready to be planted in local parks and open spaces.
- The planting of native species is encouraged as well as European trees in decline such as the Mulberry and the Black Walnut.
- The Society work closely with the friends of the park's groups and the Council's arboricultural and parks' officers.
- Recently they have provided trees in Arnos Park, Bush Hill Park, Firs Farm Wetlands and the Weir Hall Recreation Ground.
- The Society are currently working with the Friends of Broomfield Park and on providing trees along the London Loop as part of the Enfield Chase Restoration project.
- Once trees are planted, local people are encouraged to monitor them to ensure that they survive.
- The Society has produced a book "Young Explorers" aimed at key stage 1 and 2 to encourage an interest in young people.
- Many Enfield trees were planted in the first half of the 20th century and were now reaching the end of their natural life and so needed replacing.
- The society is always looking for young saplings and sites that would benefit from a tree.

1.2 Questions/Comments

- 1.2.1 Members thanked John West for his presentation which they found very informative.
- 1.2.2 Trees were monolithed often to reduce root growth especially in street trees. There was some concern about this being done to trees in Trent Park. It was suggested that questions about this would best be addressed to the Council's arboricultural officer.
- 1.2.3 Concern about protecting the newly planted trees in Enfield Chase which were felt to be vulnerable to theft and vandalism.
- 1.2.4 The request that Bowes School along the North Circular be considered for future planting projects.

1.3 Summing up by the Chair

The Chair summed up by thanking John West for his presentation, referring the query on molithing trees to the Council's arboricultural officer and requesting that the Enfield Society book on tree spotting be made available to the Council to help promote.

2. Firs Farm Wetlands Project

ENVIRONMENT FORUM - 16.2.2021

Helen Osman with Gail Nielen from the Friends of Firs Farm gave a presentation on the Firs Farm Wetlands Project.

2.1 Presentation

The following points were highlighted during the presentation:

- Firs Farm was originally farmland, used during the second world war as a prisoner of war camp and after as a playing field. But it had become dilapidated and underused in recent years.
- In 2013 Toni Guiver and others had decided that something should be done. They had leafleted the local community and got together a core group of people to form the Friends of Firs Farm. The Friends Group worked with the Council, Thames 21 and Thames Water and eventually manage to obtain £175,000 from the GLA to develop part of the playing fields as a wetland habitat and Community Park.
- This was based on five objectives - HERBS (Health, Education, Recreation, Biodiversity and Sport).
- Work took place from 2015 to 2017. Part of the Moore Brook which fed into Pymmes Brook was transformed from one of the most polluted rivers in the country into an attractive wetlands area. Hundreds of volunteers had taken part in the project and over 900 trees and shrubs planted. Nature had soon taken over to create this very attractive wetlands area. A local naturalist had recently found around 85 different species around the ponds.
- It had been a tremendous community achievement and an excellent example of collaboration between the Council, the community and corporate sponsorship. A lot of money had been raised for the project and fundraising was continuing for further works.
- Children had been at the heart of everything. Many child-based activities had been organised, including for National Children's Day, Halloween and a Winter Christmas Castle. Downloadable sheets were available as well as pond dipping activities, teddy bear and fairy hunts, mud kitchen and play area. Families and schools had all taken part in tree planting events.
- It had been extraordinary how many people had used the area during lockdown, even on freezing cold days.
- The wetlands had united people from both the east and the west of the borough.
- The project had more than met objectives. It had improved health and wellbeing, was an educational resource for local families and schools, provided recreational opportunities, creating a wild space for the community, reduced the risk of flooding, reduced pollution and encouraged more sporting activities.
- Even more sporting facilities were planned, including an upgrade to the changing rooms to create a new community hub. This project had stalled due to the pandemic, but would be pursued.

ENVIRONMENT FORUM - 16.2.2021

- The wetlands had been achieved through strong community leadership. Special thanks were due to Toni Guiver who had lived and breathed the project, pushing it through despite many obstacles.
- There had been an enormous amount of community engagement especially involving children. Monitoring the number of visitors every year at specific entry points, the first year there had been 8 people, last year at the same point over 400.

2.2 Questions/Comments

- 2.2.1 Thanks and appreciation from the members for a fantastic example of community collaboration and an amazing achievement.
- 2.2.2 Councillors offered their help and support saying that they were always willing to engage with local residents on projects like this. Help with creating the community hub was requested. Money, time and staff help was always needed.
- 2.2.3 Litter was always a problem, particularly as numbers of visitors increased. It was addressed by volunteers who took part in regular litter picks.
- 2.2.4 Helen Osman said the Friends were always happy to talk to other groups to share their practice and experiences.
- 2.2.5 The Friends were also hoping to bring more sport to the park. Hiring out the sports pitches brought in regular income.
- 2.2.6 Thanks were given to sponsors, Thames 21 and Ian Russell at the Council for his great guidance and support.
- 2.2.7 It was suggested that that more should be done to co-ordinate activities in Enfield which was one of the greenest boroughs in London and to communicate what was being done. So much was happening and it did need to be pulled together.

2.3 Summing up by the Chair

The Chair thanked Helen Osman and Gail Nielen for their presentation. She said that it was important to bring together people working across the borough and to communicate what was being done. The more that is known about, the easier it is to provide support.

4. EXPANSION OF THE ULTRA LOW EMISSION ZONE (ULEZ)

The panel received a presentation from Lorraine Hinds and Esther Johnson (Transport for London) on the proposed expansion to the ultra low emission zone.

1. Presentation

ENVIRONMENT FORUM - 16.2.2021

The following points were highlighted during the presentation:

- Air pollution in London was a huge problem responsible for many early deaths. The coroner had recently ruled in a landmark case that it caused the death of a young child Ella Kissi Debrah.
- Pollution was worst along major roads and in central London.
- The parameters of the extended ULEZ would run just inside the North and South Circular Roads. It would operate 24 hours a day every day except Christmas Day.
- EU directives on air pollution remained in place. There were 13 key pollutants. Nitrogen Oxide was one of the worst. Diesel vehicles were the most polluting. However, 80% of current vehicles were already compliant.
- The congestion charge area had been operating a ULEZ zone in Central London since April 2019
- Non-compliant vehicles would be charged £12 and lorries/buses and coaches £100 per day. Enforcement would take place using number plate recognition technology.
- Since the introduction of the central ULEZ, there had been a 44% reduction in pollution in the central zone and 441 fewer polluting vehicles on the road.
- The Zone was due to be expanded on 25 October 2021, up to but not including the North and South Circular roads.
- All vehicles will have to comply with the Euro 6 standard.
- A small part of the London Borough of Enfield would be included including the North Middlesex Hospital. Transport for London was working with hospital staff to ensure that the implementation would not deter patients and staff visiting the hospital.
- There were no resident discounts, but there were some exemptions. It would not be bought in until 2025 for disabled vehicles. Military and private hire vehicles would be exempt as well as historic vehicles more than 40 years old.
- Work is being done to raise awareness of the issue that everyone needs to check that vehicles are compliant with the new standard.
- A communications tool kit was available and could be accessed by local groups and organisations on request.
- All London buses already meet or exceed the target.
- A van scrappage scheme was also in place to help small businesses switch to cleaner vehicles.
- Over 3,900 zero emission capable taxis are already licensed to operate in London. Over 300 rapid charging points have already been installed by Transport for London and local boroughs are installing more.

2. Questions/Comments

ENVIRONMENT FORUM - 16.2.2021

- 2.1 Councillor Brown asked for some information which she could forward on to her residents. Local groups were invited to get in touch: contact details and further information would be provided after the meeting.
- 2.2 The scheme was linked to the DVLA and should be up to date.
- 2.3 There was also support for low income households and registered disabled.
- 2.4 Concern that there was no discount for those living in the area and that the scrappage scheme was currently suspended.
- 2.5 There was a grace period up until October 2025 for blue badge holders.
- 2.6 It was emphasised that over 80% of vehicles already met the required standard and this number was increasing.
- 2.7 Transport for London was one of the functional bodies including MOPAC (the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime) and the London Fire Service for which the elected Mayor of London was responsible for. People voted for the Mayor to administer Transport for London.
- 2.8 Concern that pollution was affecting children in schools across the borough and the view that the ULEZ should be extended to the M25.
- 2.9 Air pollution was a major problem within the North and South Circular roads. Outer London was less badly affected.
- 2.9 The need for monitoring to ensure that pollution around the North Circular in Enfield did not increase as a result of the zone.
- 2.10 There were complex arguments, including economic, for and against an extension to the M25 boundary, but most members expressed support for an extension.

3. Summing up by the Chair

The Chair agreed that this was an issue that needed careful consideration. She felt that there was a need to wait and see what the impact of the current extension of the zone would be before considering extending further. It was a good move forward for the environment and hopefully it would be a success.

5. AIR QUALITY IN THE BOROUGH

The forum received a presentation from Ned Johnson (Pollution Control and Air Quality - Principal Officer) on air quality in the borough.

1. Presentation

ENVIRONMENT FORUM - 16.2.2021

The following points were highlighted in the presentation:

- The great smog of 1952 eventually led to the high point in Environmental Law the 1956 Clean Air Act.
- Air pollution is major concern. It is one of the world's biggest preventable killers. Everyone is at risk. It can cause heart disease, cancer and respiratory illnesses.
- The major sources of air pollution are road traffic, industry and domestic heating. There are more than 160,000 vehicles a day travelling along the A10 and A406 with 325,000 on the M25.
- One of the major pinch points is outside Bowes Primary School on the A406 where traffic is often at a standstill.
- Industrial emissions and sites such as the incinerator are subject to greater control than traffic under European Union directives.
- Gas domestic heating is a major concern. The way houses are heated will have to change. District heating schemes are very efficient.
- The council monitors PM10 particles and nitrogen dioxide levels. PM10 particles can penetrate the airwaves and go into the bloodstream. Nitrogen dioxide exceeds safe levels on busy roads in Enfield. PM10 does not.
- There are 4 real time monitoring stations in the borough and 10 diffusion sites. The information gained is fed into the borough systems to calibrate modelled outcomes. This can help predict problems.
- Bowes Primary School is at one of the worst pinch points in the borough.
- Pollutants are affected by the weather. Safe PM10 levels are never exceeded and have fallen away recently with the phasing out of diesel fuel in buses and lorries.
- The Council has an Air Quality Action Plan setting out how the borough can reduce nitrogen dioxide and PM10 levels. This was first issued in 2003, updated in 2015 and a new one is now being prepared.
- The latest version contains 40 actions mainly based around traffic and encouraging more walking and cycling. The Council does not control the major roads running through the borough. These are under Transport for London and the Highways Agency. Most pollution comes from main roads.
- It is the significant improvement in vehicle technology, not a reduction in levels of traffic, that have helped reduce PM10 levels in the borough. There are signs that Nitrogen Dioxide levels are also decreasing but not fast enough. The extension of the ULEZ should bring about significant improvement.
- The Mayor of London has funded some major projects including a London wide anti idling project to help change perceptions and make people more aware of the dangers and a non-road mobile machinery project. Compliance has been high and these schemes have worked well.
- Recently there had been a project to create a green wall made of ivy outside Bowes School. This had been successfully in reducing

ENVIRONMENT FORUM - 16.2.2021

nitrogen dioxide emission levels, on the school side of the wall, by 20%.

- The London Bus Low Emission Zone had also been a success. This had involved all buses travelling between Seven Sisters and Edmonton meeting Euro 6 emission level.
- Everyone had a responsibility to reduce emissions.

2. Questions/Comments

- 2.1 Thanks to Ned Johnson for his interesting presentation.
- 2.2 Support for the green wall initiative and anti-idling measures.
- 2.3 Concern that the low traffic neighbourhood schemes were pushing more traffic onto the North Circular.
- 2.4 The suggestion, which had first been made more than 20 years ago, that the North Circular outside Bowes School should be put into a tunnel. This was unlikely to happen in the current economic climate.
- 2.5 Concern about the position of Bowes School and the suggestion that it should be closed if it was unsafe. Assurances that the Council would not allow children to attend if levels of pollution were unsafe.
- 2.6 There was a need for a shift away from car use which would hopefully gradually take place over the next 5-10 years and should lead to improvements in the levels of traffic and pollution, making the North Circular into a very different road.

3. Summing up from the Chair

Thanks to Ned Johnson for his very informative presentation and support for the green wall concept. It would be good if this could be extended. Ned Johnson informed the Chair that an Air Quality Audit was being undertaken and if funds allowed measures like this could be extended.

6. LETTER TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR HOUSING, COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT ON PERMITTED DEVELOPMENT

The panel received and noted the letter sent to the Secretary of State for Housing Communities and Local Government on permitted development rights.

NOTED

1. Concern about the challenges and issues raised by the new national legislative framework.

ENVIRONMENT FORUM - 16.2.2021

2. The Enfield Society and the Southgate District Civic Voice had also written to the Secretary of State to express their concern about the proposals.
3. The view that the proposals would undermine town centres and traditional high streets as well as the local authorities ability to control the character of the town centres.
4. The British Property Federation were also against these proposals.
5. Preparation of an Article 4 directive was taking place but nothing could be done until the new permitted development rights were in place.
6. Local authorities were resisting the new proposals which would take powers away from local councils and their ability to control inappropriate development. They would give developers more power and local authorities less.
7. Thanks to the Leader and officers for putting together the letter.
8. The Council would have to wait to see what the Government response would be.

7. MINUTES FROM THE MEETING HELD ON 13 JANUARY 2021

The minutes of the meeting held on 13 January 2021 were received and agreed as a correct record.

8. REVIEW OF WORK PROGRAMME 2020/21

The Forum noted the revised work programme.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

1. Enfield Town Planning Application

NOTED

1. Concern was expressed that there would not be another opportunity to discuss the Enfield Town Planning Application at a forum meeting.
2. So far there had only been an opportunity to consider the outline, and not the detailed application. This application was worth over £1.5 billion and would have a huge impact on Enfield Town Centre and could set a template for development across the borough.
3. The Chair agreed to take the comments on board and would follow the process established for the referral of planning applications for discussion at Environment Forum meetings.

ENVIRONMENT FORUM - 16.2.2021

4. That there were other means for raising questions about planning applications including questions, queries, deputations and planning panels.
5. Concern that it was more effective to look at and shape applications at an early stage before they were finalised. The forum members had a large amount of expertise which could be used to influence early decision making.
6. The Chair greatly appreciated the informed knowledge and contributions from the forum representatives but regretted that the forum could not be a replacement for the former Conservation Advisory Group (CAG). The former members of CAG could continue to meet up, but the Council no longer had the resources to provide the officer support that they had been able to supply in the past.
7. All comments made on planning applications at forum meetings were minuted and fed back to planning officers who would take them into account when making recommendations on planning applications.
8. The Environment Forum had a broader remit to cover many different kinds of environmental issues.
9. The former CAG members had discussed the possibility of continuing to meet as CAG but felt that without officer input it would not be so effective and that they could have more influence through attending the forum.
10. There was support for the suggestion that Governance should be asked to reconsider and to allow further consideration of the Enfield Town application at the forum.

10. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

The forum noted the dates agreed for future meetings:

- Tuesday 30 March 2021
- Wednesday 28 April 2021

Environment Forum: Work Programme 2020/21

ITEM	Support Officers	18 Aug 2020	1 Oct 2020	27 Oct 2020	25 Nov 2020	10 Dec 2020	13 Jan 2021	16 Feb 2021	30 March 2020	28 April 2020
Work Programme 2020/21	Penelope Williams	To agree	To review	To review	To review	To review	To review	To review	To review	To review
Membership Review	Jeremy Chambers		Update							
Sustainable Transport										
Under 18s and Freedom Passes Concessionary Travel	Dominic Millen / Carol Culligan / Peter Nathan	For discussion								
Further Rail Devolution TfL taking over GTR services	Dominic Millen									
Bus Economics Cost of Running Services	Dominic Millen / TfL						For discussion			
Impact of Covid 19 on Bus and Rail Services including cleaning procedures	Dominic Millen / TfL		For discussion							
Expansion of the ULEZ to the North Circular	Dominic Millen / TfL							For discussion		
Public Realm Changes to support cycling and walking	Dominic Millen / Richard Eason			For discussion						
Climate Action										
Community Initiatives promoting environmental sustainability	Dominic Millen / Harriet Potemkin							For Discussion		
Government Housing Retrofit Programme	Dominic Millen		For discussion							
Refurbishment and Retrofit in Schools and in Council Housing	Dominic Millen / Andrew Whelan								For discussion	
Waste Disposal and North London Heat and Power Project	Doug Wilkinson				For discussion					

ITEM	Support Officer	18 Aug 2020	1 Oct 2020	27 Oct 2020	25 Nov 2020	10 Dec 2020	13 Jan 2021	16 Feb 2021	30 March 2020	28 April 2020
Environment										
Air quality in the Borough	Ned Johnson							For discussion		
Enforcement in the Green Belt	Andy Higham						For discussion			
Workshop on development of green infrastructure and Parks Strategy	Ian Russell / Marcus Harvey / Regen?				For discussion					
Rewilding and tree planting	Ian Russell								For discussion	
Future landscape of planning including white paper and extension of permitted development	Vincent Lacavora / Helen Murch		For discussion							
Local Plan Policies	Helen Murch								For discussion	For discussion
Major applications that substantially affect the Green Belt	Andy Higham									
Footpaths and Rights of Way										
Fair Trade Status for the Borough										
Whitewebbs										
Heritage and Design										
Use of Heritage Lottery Funding	Christine White									
Workshop on housing needs, capacity and design of buildings	Various			For discussion					Further discussion	
Major applications that substantially affect conservation areas	Andy Higham			100 Church Street		Palace Gardens	Edmonton Green			
Monitoring the Listed Buildings and Local List	Christine White									

ENVIRONMENT FORUM - REFERRAL PROCESS ARRANGEMENTS (Planning Applications)

1. The Forum agenda may include major applications made under planning legislation which affect the categories in the Forum terms of reference (e.g. major planning application affecting heritage assets, listed building applications and major planning applications within the green belt, including sites adjacent to the green belt affecting its setting). The definition of a major planning application is given in regulations and is any planning application where:
 1. for residential development, the proposal involves 10+ dwellings or exceeds 0.5 hectare,
 2. for non-residential development, the proposal involves a building of + 1000 m² or the site exceeds 1+ hectare
 3. the proposal is for waste development
 4. the proposal is for development on a site having an area of 1 hectare or more
2. Members of the Forum may request relevant applications be added to the agenda by submitting the request in writing (e-mail) to the Governance team within 4 weeks of the application registration date (as published on the weekly list of applications received) and no later than 10 days prior to the Forum agenda despatch date.
3. Governance to consult Planning Service (Penelope Williams Penelope.Williams@enfield.gov.uk) on referral requests prior to referral to Chair.
4. Acceptance of referral requests will be the decision of the Chair of the Forum.
5. Where referral requests are approved, the Governance team shall invite the planning application agent to present the proposals to the Forum. Presentations shall last no longer than 15 minutes, followed by a Q&A and debate of no longer than 15 minutes (unless otherwise agreed).
6. Officers shall not be members of the Forum and a technical analysis of planning applications by officers shall not form part of the process. Officers may request relevant applications and projects be added to the agenda following the same procedure as Forum members.
7. The purpose of the Forum is to air and acknowledge issues raised by Forum members on applications and proposals. Forum members will already make representations direct to case and project officers. The added value of the Forum is to provide an arena for issues to be aired.
8. In the spirit of an advisory board, the output of the Forum in the form of a minute of the discussion, will be to highlight issues that Officers are asked to consider, as part of the assessment of the planning application.

