

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENT FORUM HELD ON TUESDAY, 27TH JULY, 2021

MEMBERS: Councillors Katherine Chibah (Associate Cabinet Member (Enfield West)) and Lindsay Rawlings, Cllr Saray Karakus, Cllr Mahmut Aksanoglu

Officers: May Hope (Plan Making Manager), Edward Jones (Principal Planner), Natalya Palit (Area Plans Manager), Hanan Osman (Senior Planner), Tom Rumble (Urban Design Lead and Deputy Team Leader (Urban Design)), Michael Kennedy (Senior Urban Designer), Helen Murch (Head of Strategic Planning and Design), Koulla Panaretou (Governance Officer)

Also Attending: Neil Paddon-Smith (Meadway Conservation Area Study Group), Chris Horner (Southgate Green Association), Robert Wilson (Hadley Wood Conservation Area Study Group), John West (The Enfield Society), Dave Cockle (Chairman The Enfield Society), Dennis Stacey (Bush Hill Park Conservation Area Study Group), Juliet Barnett (Trent Park Conservation Committee), Carol Fish, Denise Gandhi (Federation of Enfield Residents and Allied Associations), Paul Hutchinson (Grange Park Conservation Area Study Group) Andrew Newman (Clay Hill Study Group)

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

The Chair, Cllr Katherine Chibah, welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologies for absence were received from Cllr Saray Karakus, Cllr Mahmut Aksanoglu and Ann Bishop-Leggett.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest registered in respect of any items on the agenda.

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the Environment Forum held on the 29th June 2021 were agreed.

4. LOCAL PLAN CONSULTATION

A presentation was received from members of Strategic Planning in respect of the consultation taking place on Enfield's Local Plan, with focus on environmental policies and design and character policies.

Strategic Planning and Design Officers were keen to hear from the local experts in attendance to help shape and refine the policies.

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The process (set out by Government) at Enfield is currently at Stage 1 - the plan preparation stage is known as Reg 18 and involves collecting evidence about the borough's needs and using this to identify issues and ways that they could be addressed through the plan whilst testing options. Reg 18 can be repeated several times until it reaches Stage 2 known as Reg 19, a draft plan which can be published, hopefully by the summer of 2022.

Therefore, focus on the following policies were received:

Climate Change

The following issues were suggestion for inclusion in the Plan:

- Overheating resulting in fewer or no trees
- Tree preservation
- Biodiversity
- Green space preservation
- No more flooding
- More reuse of building materials in new builds
- Less Pollution and vehicle, waste and rubbish dumping
- Green space preservation
- U.H.I
- Build for a Lifetime - high quality buildings
- Embodied carbon
- Compliance of enforcement
- Embedding Principles
- Education
- Rewilding
- Air Quality
- Should all policies relate to refurbished developments

Blue and Green Enfield

The following points were received:

- Paving over front gardens - policy and enforcement issue (why allow paving over)
- Positives include water gardens
- Degradation of boundary walls etc
- Loss of verges for crossovers
- Good example boundary ditch nature area
- Further work needed eg Salmons Brook link
- Better links with Lea Valley Park Authority and Thames Water

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Lack of attention to agriculture
Conflict between Blue & Green and the proposed development north of Enfield Road and Crews Hill.
Enhancement of Green Space at Trent Park and commercial activities
Enfield Chase - historical landscape
SPG3 - offsetting is in developers' advantage
Use of buy-out versus offset eg Tottenham Hotspur Training Ground

Design and Character

The following points were received:

Take note of public interest as public need to decide what they want
Not just residents, focus must be for all users
Importance of mixed use - walkable facilities - large scale design, social infrastructure and public space
Remove obstacles (eg. Nursing Homes)
CIC needs to go to comms where development is

Character

Reflect existing character
Problems with height and loss of greenery
Densify in ways which respects character

Policy Responses:

Categorisation of change for example Hadley Wood should not be a focus for change and change should be slow

Generally positive but concerns about individual decisions

Contradictions such as Heritage and Environment versus development pressure.

Anything Missed:

How to involve the public with site briefs and area-based design coding.
Hierarchy of assets and character needs to be discussed.

Transport

The following points were received:

Sustainable active policies and active travel.

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How:

walk to school, quality of schools,
employment close to home
Can commuting be reduced
Offices, workshops, industry in suburbs
Work hubs
Emphasis on school zones, LTN's
Car sharing/Car Club
Enforcement of planning matters eg. Car free development
Arnos Grove to Grovelands - alternative routes.
Need to repair potholes
Maintain cycle safety
Footways need better design
Better cycle parking at key transport hubs
Scooters - safety only in cycle lanes
Reduce public transport fares.

Priorities:

Protection - threats to landscapes, places, buildings and settings from schemes
Heritage at risk register
Not all assets on the lists
Weighting given in practice - but more weighting is needed
Conservation/protection - keep what is in good condition
Interest in local lists and put on national lists

Policy Response:

GPR (Ground Penetrating Radar) used for archaeology purposes
Street naming and intangible heritage - can we link in policy
Pre-application consultations with stake holders and link with process
Loss of areas of special character such as landscape at Enfield Chase
Make character of growth clearer.

Anything Missed:

Character appraisals
Need to make clear that local views are not just the ones in the map
How does heritage inform new design?
Enforcement
Design briefs for sensitive sites
Gatekeeping of sites and the heritage value - if something credible then policy can be triggered
Area of arch interest to be revised
Development with heritage setting - should have condition to prevent PD (or article 4)

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Policies need to be strong on “intangible heritage” with an interpretable way finding for local stories to make place

Edward Jones thanked everyone for their contributions and asked if there were any further questions, which were received as follows:

1. Clarity was sought on the “Character of Growth” report.

In response it was noted that all the Borough was looked at and the purpose of the study was to see how much is valued in certain areas and how much change is needed. This area can be revisited later on in the year if necessary.

2. Results of the consultation were explained. Staff will go through each consultation and where significant change of direction is needed, then each representation will be looked at. If the Mayor of London chooses not to proceed then the consultations will start again, until the inspectors find an acceptable version.

3. It was confirmed that Enfield are not losing residents as envisaged through the recent census. The population is not growing but it is not declining either. The London Plan has been adopted not just about population numbers but providing housing for those who are living in the Borough.

5. **WORK PROGRAMME 2021-2022**

The amended work programme was agreed.

6. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

The Forum received a request from Dennis Stacey (Bush Hill Park Conservation and Study Group) to invite Andy Higham (Head of Development Management) to a future meeting to provide an update on enforcement.

The Chair agreed to speak to the Cabinet Member for Licensing & Regulatory Services, Cllr George Savva. **ACTION: Cllr Katherine Chibah**

7. **DATES OF NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Tuesday 28th September 2021.

Dates for future meetings are as follows:

Tuesday 28th September 2021

Tuesday 19th October 2021

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Wednesday 24th November 2021

Wednesday 12th January 2022

Tuesday 15th February 2022

Tuesday 29th March 2022

The meeting ended at Time Not Specified.