

REPORT OF THE LONDON FORUM EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2005-06

Constitution

The London Forum of Amenity and Civic Societies is an unincorporated association founded in 1988 and was registered as a charity in 2002. It is governed by a constitution last revised in 2004. The aim of the organisation is the protection and improvement of the quality of life of people living, working in or visiting Greater London. The objects of the London Forum can be summarised as the promotion and encouragement of:

1. High standards of planning, design, infrastructure and transport;
2. Conservation and the individual character of localities;
3. Improvement to the built environment, open spaces, waterways and amenities;
4. Knowledge of, and interest in, the aims of the London Forum by members, NGOs and others;
5. Civic pride and community involvement;
6. Sustainable development.

Organisation structure

The London Forum of Amenity and Civic Societies is administered by the Executive Committee of up to 15 trustees, which meets quarterly. The trustees are elected annually by the voting members of the London Forum, which are amenity and civic societies in the Greater London area. Matters of detail are delegated to the Planning and Transport Committee, which reports to the Executive Committee. All the work of the London Forum is carried out by volunteers.

Review of the year ended 30 June 2006

The year was dominated by changes in planning policies resulting from the 2004 Planning & Compulsory Purchase Act, revisions of national planning policy, the preparation of sub-regional development frameworks and the early stages of the first full review of the London Plan. Support was given to some societies at appeal inquiries and our concern, shared by London Assembly Members, about the Greater London Mayor's interventions in planning inquiries and decisions was publicised.

Meetings and Events Many members attended open meetings with Transport for London on policies and developments, a talk by Chris Smith on the work of the London Cultural Commission, the 2005 AGM followed by a talk by Nigel Kersey, Campaign for the Protection of Rural England (London branch), on Thames Gateway development planning and the Walter Bor Media Awards with exhibits and presentations to winning societies.

Aircraft nuisance Continued support and input were provided to those campaigning against proposals for Heathrow to have increased night flights, a third runway and the ending of runway alternation. There was a successful outcome when the Government decided eventually upon a limit on night flights. The Department of Transport is now faced with environmental issues around Heathrow which could prevent increased daytime landings and airport expansion. Aircraft noise from random landing patterns remains an issue for attention.

GLA policy Trustees attended meetings with GLA officers and others on housing capacity and delivery, waste management and the sustainability appraisal of both the revised London Plan and of a Water Framework.

London Plan London Forum was invited by Inspectors to participate in all sessions of the Examination in Public of the early alterations to the London Plan on housing and waste. That occupied two people for most of March and April. An Inspector's report is due in September

2006 and we hope for a policy framework for housing developments of appropriate density and mix and for sustainable arrangements for waste management which maximise recycling. The London Forum team has considered the version issued to the Assembly of the further alterations to the London Plan. Member societies were asked to study the changes also, in advance of the full consultation which will commence in Autumn 2006. Evidence was given to Assembly committees scrutinising the London Plan changes and assessing past planning decisions. Planning issues related to sustainability were raised with the Greater London Authority by a talk given at the launch of the London Development Database.

Community engagement Liaison has been maintained with the London Civic Forum, the London Social Forum, Urban Forum and the London Voluntary Service Council in trying to interpret the Government's agenda and policies for sustainable neighbourhoods, citizen engagement, third sector support, community empowerment and Local Area Agreements. Responsibilities for these subjects are now divided between Government departments. Clarification of their objectives and intentions have been sought for preparing advice and recommendations to civic and amenity groups.

Communicating with members E-mail bulletins were issued to members on planning topics and to publicise open meetings. We need more members to give us email contacts. Issues of Newsforum were published at regular intervals to report on events, consultation responses and views. The content of those newsletters gave additional detail for members, associates, local authorities and the GLA on the subjects in this annual report.

Major planning inquiries The appeal decision on the Lots Road development, to allow tall towers on the Thames each side of Chelsea Creek, was a great disappointment. Several member societies and our trustees were involved in the inquiry. The Inspector found around a dozen planning policies with which the scheme would not conform but the First Secretary of State did not agree and granted permission. By contrast, there was success for the London Forum and its local members at another inquiry that resulted in refusal for a development alongside Kew Bridge which the Mayor fully supported. It was criticised by the Inspector for being over-development with low q

Mayor's role in planning cases The responses given by the Mayor on planning applications referred to him have not been found satisfactory in some cases. Details were provided to the Assembly, Councillors and our members, as they are now considering the Government's proposals for increased powers for the Mayor.

Consultations London Forum had involvement with meetings and consultations on sustainable transport interchanges, the London Freight plan, network rail utilisation, low emission zone, urban design, manual for streets, Local Strategic Partnerships, climate change, bus routes, Underground later running, planning gain supplement, Civil Aviation Bill, advertisement regulations, heritage protection, de-listing of buildings, primary care and research on housing density. Criticisms were made of the report by Kate Barker for the Government on housing provision. Opposition was maintained to Congestion Charge extension, approved by the Mayor despite extensive public and business objections, and to the building of the Uxbridge Road West London Tram.

Governance To deal with the topics above, the London Forum of Amenity & Civic Societies' Executive Committee met four times and its Planning & Transport Committee held six meetings and is exploring the need for a transport subgroup. The Executive Committee maintained a programme of policies and actions to achieve the organisation's objectives and to develop its achievements. London Forum now has a new acting Honorary Secretary, Dr Stephen Thornton, and a trustee, Haydn Mylchreest, has taken over as Membership Secretary. More nominations of help from member societies are needed to assist our committees and help to sustain a programme of events.

Financial Report for the year to 30 June 2006

Total income for the year was £5,879, 41% above last year's level. This is principally attributable to subscription income, which was up 138% to £2,925. In fact, last year's level of subscription income was particularly low because of the timing of the issue of subscription demands. Accordingly, subscription income in 2006 included a larger catch-up element relating to the 2005 subscription year than usual. We anticipate that subscription income for the 2006 subscription year will be very slightly up on 2005 when it is all collected. Grant income from the Civic Trust continued at the same generous level of £2,000 as in the previous year.

Expenses for the year were £2,871, 32% above last year's level. This is principally due to higher level of support costs and an increase in the cost of the Annual General Meeting. The increase in support costs is the result of a number of factors including IT costs as the Forum began the long-awaited implementation of its web-strategy. The cost of newsletters was broadly comparable to last year although only 2 issues fell into the 2006 financial year in comparison with 3 issues in 2005. Additional one off costs were incurred in 2006 in enhancing the newsletter layout.

As a result of these changes in income and expenditure, the London Forum recorded a surplus of £3,008 for the year, in comparison with a surplus of £1,988 for the previous year. The London Forum is only able to achieve this result because of the very considerable donations in kind made by committee members and friends of the London Forum, which result in substantial savings in costs that would otherwise be incurred. We expect to see the London Forum increase its rate of expenditure in future years as the Forum rolls out its plans to enhance its expenditure on conveying its messages to a wider audience.

The balance sheet of the London Forum continues to be very strong with net current assets, primarily cash and deposits, amounting to £18,350 in comparison with £15,806 last year. This financial strength will be beneficial in enabling the London Forum's plans for a professionally-designed website, additional communications with member societies and further widening of membership across Greater London.

Risk management

Major risks to which the London Forum is exposed, as identified by the trustees, have been reviewed during the year and the trustees are satisfied that action is being taken where appropriate to manage those risks.

Statement of the executive committee's responsibilities for financial statements
Charity law requires the Executive Committee to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the London Forum and of the income and expenditure for the year then ended. In preparing the financial statements, the Executive Committee is required to select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently, make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent, and prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the London Forum will continue in business. The Executive Committee has responsibility for maintaining proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy the financial position of the London Forum and enable it to ensure that the financial statements comply with charity regulations. It also has responsibility for safeguarding the assets of the London Forum and for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

On behalf of the Executive Committee

P Eversden, Chairman

31st August 2006

Report of the Independent Examiner to the Executive Committee of the London Forum of Amenity and Civic Societies

I report on the accounts of the London Forum for the year ended 30 June 2006, which are set out on pages 5 to 8.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts; you consider that the audit responsibilities of section 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993 ("the Act") does not apply. It is my responsibility to state, on the basis of procedures specified in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners under section 43(7)(b) of the Act, whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the Acthave not been met; or
- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

S Baddeley FCA

Chiswick

31st August 2006

The London Forum of Amenity and Civic Societies

Statement of financial activities for the year ended 30 June 2006

	Note	2006	2005
		£	£
Incoming resources			
<i>Voluntary income</i>			
Subscription income		2,925	1,230
Donations		85	65
Gift Aid		-	27
Grant from Civic Trust		2,000	2,000
<i>Income from operating activities</i>			
Public meetings & events		127	156
<i>Investment income</i>			
Interest income		742	690
Total incoming resources		<u>5,879</u>	<u>4,168</u>
Resources expended			
<i>Cost of generating funds</i>			
		-	-
<i>Cost of charitable activities</i>			
Newsletters		1,289	1,387
Public meetings & events		316	79
Support costs		1,266	714
<i>Management and administration of the charity</i>			
		-	-
Total resources expended	2	<u>2,871</u>	<u>2,180</u>
Net incoming resources for the year		3,008	1,988
General fund at beginning of year		15,855	13,867
General fund at end of year		<u>18,863</u>	<u>15,855</u>

The London Forum of Amenity and Civic Societies

Balance Sheet at 30 June 2006

	Note	2006 £	2005 £
Fixed assets-tangible assets	4	513	49
Current assets			
Debtors & prepayments		198	27
Deposit account		17,738	16,345
Cash at bank and in hand		1,217	617
		<u>19,153</u>	<u>16,989</u>
Current liabilities: amounts falling due within 1 year			
Creditors & accruals		<u>803</u>	<u>1,183</u>
Net current assets		18,350	15,806
Total assets less current liabilities		<u><u>18,863</u></u>	<u><u>15,855</u></u>
Funds			
General fund	5	<u><u>18,863</u></u>	<u><u>15,855</u></u>

Approved by the trustees on 31st August 2006
and signed on their behalf by

PG Eversden – Chairman
AM Coleman – Hon Treasurer

The London Forum of Amenity and Civic Societies
Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2006

1. Accounting policies

a Basis of accounting

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention. They have been prepared in accordance with applicable accounting standards (including the Statement of Recommended Practice on Accounting by Charities published in October 2000) and on a going concern basis. The London Forum is an unincorporated association founded in 1988 and became a charity in July 2002.

b Income and expenditure

Income for the year is brought into the financial statements when received or when there is certainty of receipt. Income received in advance is carried forward. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis.

The Statement of Recommended Practice on Accounting by Charities requires that costs be allocated between direct charitable expenditure, fund raising, and management and administration. For those categories of expenditure where direct attribution is not applicable, apportionment has been applied on the basis of the effort estimated to have been devoted to each activity.

c Fund accounting

All of the London Forum's funds are unrestricted. The Executive Committee has designated a certain amount of the funds to be used for special projects.

d Subscription income

Subscriptions are recognised when received.

e Services provided

The Society benefits from the provision, without charge, of a variety of skills and other services by committee members and friends of the London Forum. The benefit is not reflected in these accounts since it is not regarded as practicable to estimate its value.

f Fixed assets

Fixed assets are stated at cost less depreciation. Fixed assets, which comprise office equipment, are depreciated on a straight-line basis over 4 years.

2. Total resources expended

There are no staff costs and the majority of costs comprises direct costs. The Independent Examiner does not charge a fee for his examination of the accounts of the London Forum.

3. Transactions with Members of the Executive Committee

No trustee or person defined by Accounting Standards as "related to them" received any remuneration for services as a trustee or in a management capacity during the year or any reimbursement of expenses other than for expenditure incurred as agent for the London Forum.

4. Fixed assets

<i>Cost of office equipment</i>	£
At 1 July	97
Additions	653
At 30 June	<u>750</u>
 <i>Depreciation of office equipment</i>	
At 1 July	48
Charge for the year	189
At 30 June	<u>237</u>
 <i>Net book value</i>	
At 30 June 2006	<u>513</u>
At 1 July 2005	<u>49</u>

5. General fund

The general fund, which is unrestricted, contains an element of funds that has been designated by the Executive Committee for use in special projects:

	Designated	Undesignated	Total
	£	£	£
Balance brought forward at 1 July 2005	4,249	11,606	15,855
Net incoming resources for the year	-	3,008	3,008
Transfers	-	-	-
Balance carried forward at 30 June 2006	<u>4,249</u>	<u>14,614</u>	<u>18863</u>

The trustees are satisfied that the reserves are sufficient to finance the existing level of activities. It is hoped to increase the level of activities of the London Forum in future years and a further assessment of the adequacy of reserves will be made when the implications of those proposals can be evaluated.

Bankers

Lloyds TSB
COIF Deposit Fund

Independent examiner

S Baddeley, FCA Chiswick, London W4

THE LONDON FORUM

Dame Jennifer Jenkins, DBE

Patron

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE FOR 2005-2006

Ex-Officio

Sir Richard MacCormac, CBE, PPRIBA, MA, RA

President

Tony Aldous, LLB, FRSA

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Marion Harvey, MBE, BA, MSc, FRSA

}

Judy Hillman, MA, FRSA

}

Martin Simmons, MA, Dip.TP, MRTPI

}

Bill Tyler, ARIBA

}

Vice-Presidents

Trustees

Peter Eversden

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Chiswick

Chairman

Andrew Coleman

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Richmond

Treasurer

Michael Hammerson

020 8341 1437

Highgate

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Heath&Hampstead

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Associate Editor *Newsforum*

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Tom Ball

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Haydn Mylchreest

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Battersea

Jim Nicolson

020 7735 3473

Vauxhall

Co-opted

Bill Tyler

020 8883 2006

Stephen Thornton

020 7281 2667

THE LONDON FORUM AT LARGE

Dame Jennifer Jenkins, Patron

President, Ancient Monuments Society
President of the Oxfordshire Branch of CPRE

Sir Richard MacCormac, President

Chairman of the Architecture Committee of the Royal Academy
Member of the Dublin Corporation Architectural Advisory Panel
Representative Trustee of the Sir John Soane's Museum
Past President of the RIBA
Past Commissioner for English Heritage

Judy Hillman, Vice-President

Council member of the London Parks and Gardens Trust
Patron, Friends of Regent's Park and Primrose Hill
Member, South East Regional Design Panel

Bill Tyler, Vice-President

President, Finchley Society; Consultant on Historic Buildings
Chair, Avenue House Management Committee

Tony Aldous, Vice-President

Conservation Journalist

Andrew Coleman, Treasurer

Victorian Society - Vice-Chair and Finance Trustee

Peter Eversden, Chairman

Secretary, Association of Chiswick Amenity Societies
West London River Group

Harley Sherlock

President, CPRE London Branch; President Islington Society

Dick Allard

London Sustainable Distribution Partnership of TfL (GLA)

Tom Ball

London Planning and Development Forum
Liaison with Trees for London and the Metropolitan Police

Michael Hammerson and Peter Pickering

Standing Conference on London Archaeology

Michael Hammerson

Policy Consultant, The Civic Trust; President Highgate Society
Member, English Heritage's London Historic Environment Forum

Alastair Hanton

Chair, London Living Streets
Transport Activists Round Table
ALG Transport and Environment Committee Users Forum

John How

Member, English Heritage's London Historic Environment Forum

David Lewis

London Energy Forum; Wandle Forum
West London River Group
Wandsworth Environment Forum

The LONDON FORUM helps civic societies, residents' associations and other community groups to work together to protect and improve the quality of life in London.

Since its foundation in 1988 under the auspices of The Civic Trust, for which the London Forum is the London Region Association, it has grown in strength and influence; derived from the participation of over 130 local societies with a combined membership of some 100,000 Londoners, plus around 50 Associate Groups and individual subscribers.

The LONDON FORUM

Represents

. its members on London-wide issues, liaising with the Mayor's office and Greater London Authority Assembly members, national and local government, government agencies and bodies influencing planning, the environment, road management, transport and regeneration in London.

It was a member of the development team of the London Civic Forum that works with the Greater London Authority (GLA).

Supports

. local community and civic societies and channels their views and concerns to other relevant London-wide groups.

Responds to

. key consultation papers, draft strategies, reports, and other policy documents, as they arise, regarding London's ever changing issues and concerns.

Publishes

. "Newsforum", a regular newsletter aimed at keeping member societies informed and providing a platform for their views and for mutual support. All major London professional and environmental groups, Borough Chief Executives and Leaders, the Mayor, GLA members and officers, London MPs and MEPs and the media receive copies.

Organises

. meetings, events, seminars, award schemes and exhibitions on topics of importance to those who live and work in London and publicity for the achievements of its member organisations.

The LONDON FORUM's responses

. are based on surveys of member societies' views. These have shown a remarkable consensus on a range of London-wide issues. Our most recent feedback shows that the priorities are

- ▶ **strategic planning and control for sustainable development with context sensitivity and sufficient local infrastructure,**
- ▶ **development of an integrated London-wide public transport and traffic policy,**
- ▶ **efficient, safe and affordable transport, of adequate capacity,**
- ▶ **addressing issues related to**
 - ◆ traffic, rat-running and pollution
 - ◆ parks, open spaces, sports fields and green belt
 - ◆ regeneration of local shops and town centres
 - ◆ good urban design
 - ◆ protecting Conservation Areas
 - ◆ retaining and developing local amenities
 - ◆ proliferation of licensed premises - the 24 hour society
 - ◆ personal safety
 - ◆ graffiti, litter and vandalism
 - ◆ lack of resources and cuts in borough front-line services
 - ◆ entirely different standards of public engagement among London Boroughs

Membership

Full Members are civic and local amenity societies across London

Associates are businesses and professional organisations London-wide and single interest groups

Individuals can also join.

Details available from:

Haydn Mylchreest - 020 7720 2429

Principal address of the charity is

The London Forum, 70 Cowcross Street,
London EC1M 6EJ tel 020 7250 0606

E-mail: email@londonforum.org.uk

Together we can make a better London