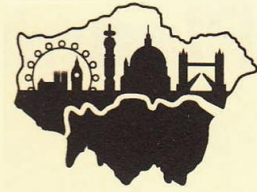


The **London Forum** of
Amenity and Civic Societies



working to protect and improve the quality of life in London

London Forum *Insights*

Issue 12, December 2022

Editorial

A new issue of *Insights*, a new **Housing Minister**, the 5th this year in both cases! As we welcome the Rt Hon Lucy Frazer KC, MP for SE Cambridgeshire to the hot seat, might we dare to think that this could be the last change before the next General Election?

The Government's **Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill (LURB)** was due to complete its Report Stage by the end of last month. However a rebellion by around 50 Tory MPs adamantly opposed to top-down housing targets stopped it in its tracks. **As we go to press**, Michael Gove has just announced a complex set of measures aimed at satisfying the rebels. **Rather than delay publication of *Insights*, we will communicate separately with members once the implications of this "deal" become clear.**

We start this 12th issue of London Forum *Insights* with six short articles about the main changes in the latest version of the Bill, topics still to be resolved and what to expect once the Bill has completed its passage.

There is also a report on the well-attended Forum **Open Meeting on High Streets**, and some early results of the survey carried out as part of the Forum's ongoing **Strategy Review**. We carry an article from the **Seven Dials Trust** on their lengthy campaign to improve their local streetscape. Andrew Bosi reports on **changes to TfL's bus network** following extensive consultation earlier in the year. And as always, we have raided members' newsletters for items of more general interest for inclusion in our **Round the Societies** feature.

This is the last issue of *Insights* for 2022. The editorial team thanks all our

contributors, and extends our best wishes for the festive season and the New Year to them and to all our readers

LURB (1) – What next for Housing Targets?

The recent revolt by some 50 or more Conservative MPs, mostly from outside London, has resulted in pressure on the Government to abandon the idea of centrally-imposed housing targets. The rebels' proposed new clause to abolish these targets is a direct threat to the Government's manifesto target of 300,000 new homes a year. So what does it mean for London? Is it just private grief? Our concern with the Government's attempt at a housing target for London was its arbitrary nature – some 95,000 new homes per year (compared with the 52,000 that the London Plan Inspectors thought was the maximum deliverable). However, the current debate is about a target being given to individual local authorities by the Government. This is not our fight.

London is fortunate in having housing targets through the London Plan, directly based on an assessment of London's housing needs and, most importantly, on the capacity of individual London boroughs to accommodate more housing. The targets reflect the availability of sites, and the overall need is allocated according to ability to deliver. The process is based on a detailed analysis of potentially available sites, and involves agreement between the boroughs and the GLA about capacity.

Whilst the outcome of this process might produce challenging housing targets, it is generally seen as relatively transparent, consensual and fair. This was reflected in the very limited debate about borough level housing targets at the examination of the London Plan. We have a system that works. Our main problem is the type of development that results, but that is a different matter. What concerns us is what the Government might do to the London Plan.

LURB (2) – Details published for Street Votes proposals

The Government has proposed an amendment to the LURB to enable a trial of street votes. London Forum provided extensive input during the initial development of the street votes idea, with the aim of making the planning system more community-led.

The intention of street votes is that where a large majority of residents on a street so wish, they may make a proposal to allow development of a particular kind on that street, subject to overall limits to protect other residents. The proposal might

involve a particular kind of extension or might be more ambitious. If the required majority is achieved, the proposal will become a 'street vote development order' granting planning permission in the same way as a Neighbourhood Development Order or Local Development Order.

The amendment provides for regulations to be made for consultation and the independent inspection of street vote proposals. The amendment gives a list of statutorily excluded development including green belt, local green space, metropolitan land, National Parks, AONB and listed buildings. Further exclusions, limits and conditions will be set out by regulation.

LURB (3) – Introducing Community Land Auctions

The Government has proposed an amendment to the LURB to enable a 10-year pilot of Community Land Auctions. The intention of Community Land Auctions is to ensure that the local community benefits from the majority of the value that is generated when a council's local plan allocates a site for development.

Under the pilot, where the Secretary of State and the local authority resolves to do so, owners of potential sites will be invited to grant their local authority an option to buy their land if it is allocated for development. The local authority would then be free to purchase and resell such land or to sell on the option. It would be required to use the proceeds to pay for local infrastructure as set out in the amendment.

Community Land Auctions were originally recommended in a paper published by think tank CentreForum, and trials have since been recommended by the Resolution Foundation and by the Institute for Public Policy Research. London Forum will watch the progress of the pilot with interest.

LURB (4) – Neighbourhood Priorities Statements

A Shot in the Arm for Neighbourhood Planning in London?

Compared with the rest of the country, Neighbourhood Planning, introduced via the 2011 Localism Act, has been slow to take off in London. We have 67 designated Neighbourhood Forums (fewer than 3% of the national total) and just 28 "made" (adopted) Neighbourhood Plans. With the time from Forum designation to Plan adoption now exceeding 5 years on average, it is scarcely surprising that new designations are few and far between. Much of the blame is placed at the doors of London's Boroughs, which are widely perceived as obstructive. 23 Boroughs have no made Neighbourhood Plans, and 8 have no designated Neighbourhood Forums (source: Neighbourhood Planners.London, see also [here](#)).

The Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill makes provision for the introduction of Neighbourhood Priorities Statements, which should be much simpler to produce and can cover a wider range of issues than just land use; and they must be considered by Local Planning Authorities in developing their Local Plans. Will this provision, which enjoys all-party support, inject fresh life into Neighbourhood Planning in London? “Not necessarily” says Tony Burton, convenor of Neighbourhood Planners.London, “I see them complementing Neighbourhood Plans, not replacing them. And if Neighbourhood Priority Statements gain serious weight in the planning balance, the less community-minded authorities might again find ways to slow down the process and frustrate the Bill’s intentions.”

If you would like London Forum to host a meeting for member societies on this topic, please contact membership@londonforum.org.uk

LURB (5) – The Case for a Third Party Right of Appeal

We have long believed it inequitable that, whereas a developer can appeal any planning refusal, however correct, a third party or community have no right of appeal against a demonstrably bad planning approval made against policy, other than through the costly Judicial Review process. We strongly believe that what is now widely considered a major injustice should be remedied through the introduction of a Third Party Right of Appeal.

To prevent vexatious or frivolous appeals, we propose that appellants must submit their case to a dedicated Tribunal or Independent Assessor, who will determine whether the case should go forward to the Planning Inspectorate. It could be administered by, for example, the RIBA, TCPA, RTPI, RICS or the Planning Inspectorate itself.

Such a system would have many benefits. It would redress a manifest injustice in the current system. It will help restore public confidence in the planning system and local democracy. And we have little doubt that it will actually lead to better, and more, development. Developers will be deterred from submitting applications for schemes that run counter to Local Plans (unless they have the prior support of their Council and the local community), and from appealing against refusals where this support is not forthcoming. In our judgement this will reduce the appeals workload on local authorities and on the Planning Inspectorate at a time when the resources of both are fully stretched.

The London Forum has proposed that a Community Right of Appeal should be added to LURB. An amendment was tabled by Chipping Barnet MP Theresa Villiers at the Bill’s Committee Stage, but rejected by the Government. It has

been tabled again for debate at the Report Stage.

Members are urged to ask their own MPs to support a Community Right of Appeal in New Clause 27 proposed for the Levelling-up and Regeneration Bill and to put us in contact with any Peers who would support it when the Bill comes to the Lords.

LURB (6) - Challenges for the Next NPPF

Whatever changes are made to the planning system as LURB makes its way into law, that is by no means the end of the planning reform journey. The current draft of LURB gives the Secretary of State (SoS) wide-ranging powers to direct Local Planning Authorities (LPAs) and other stakeholders via Statutory Instruments and other mechanisms. But how will these powers be used? It has long been clear that a new version of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) will be required, and there was talk 3 months ago of a prospectus being issued to set out the process and timescale for developing it. It is now promised by Christmas. Here are some of the topics that will need to be addressed:

- How will LPA's be incentivised to build new homes if (as seems likely) top-down targets will be for guidance only?
- What is to be the scope of National Development Management Policies?
- What powers will be retained/gained/lost by the London Mayor and other metropolitan mayors?
- How will Neighbourhood Priority Statements be factored into Local Plans?
- Will the SoS use his renewed powers to require early community consultation for certain classes of development, and if so, for which classes?

We will continue to press for organisations such as London Forum to be consulted and to have their views taken seriously.

Report on London Forum AGM

Once again, the Forum's Annual General Meeting was held by Zoom. Thirty-eight people attended, and business was, as always, conducted briskly and efficiently by Peter Eversden, our Chairman. The Annual Report, which had been circulated, included a full review of the year and Peter had only to pick out the most important points. He regretted that the long-awaited London Plan Guidance

documents, vital if boroughs were to implement the Plan properly, had still not appeared. He spoke about the progress of the Levelling-Up and Regeneration Bill, which had replaced the proposals in the abandoned White Paper 'Planning for the Future'. He also mentioned the Government's delay in producing a long-term financial support package for Transport for London.

Then Stephen Speak, our Treasurer, went through the accounts, which showed a surplus for the year of £3101, some of which would be spent on the redesign of the Forum's website, which was under way. He paid tribute to generous donation from Alan Baxter and Coombs, which completely offset the rent that the Forum would otherwise pay for the use of the desk space and facilities at the Gallery.

The Annual Report and Accounts were approved by the meeting, as was the appointment of Miles Storey as Independent Examiner replacing the long-serving John Egan. Finally, the Forum's officers were continued in office except for John Myers, the Secretary, who would remain a trustee but no longer had the time for the secretary's job. No new person from a member society had come forward, but Clare Birks was willing to become acting secretary. The four trustees who were retiring in rotation - Michael Bach, Andrew Bosi, Mary Hogben and John Myers, were re-elected. No-one voted against any of these motions.

Formal business having been completed, and there being no 'virtual' refreshments, Forum President, Ben Derbyshire, gave a talk about the advice he hopes that King Charles will offer to Prime Ministers, the essence of which can be read [here](#).

A decades long campaign to improve the local streetscape

David Bieda, Chair of the Seven Dials Trust reports

In 1991 the Seven Dials Trust published the first edition of the Seven Dials Renaissance Study to national acclaim as the first of its kind, followed by a congratulatory debate in the House of Lords. A Government-funded second edition was published as a national exemplar in 1998. These studies deal with the totality of the public realm: the buildings in private ownership and the streets in public ownership and the spaces between, and create a long term vision to which all stakeholders can contribute, financially, in kind, or with ideas for improvements.



The range of projects undertaken can be seen on our website <https://www.sevendials.com/projects/all-projects>, some funded by Shaftesbury Plc, who have used the study for many façade improvements and by Shaftesbury Plc and Camden via S106 funds for street improvements. The street works have provided a template for the wider Covent Garden area in Westminster as has the unusual Covent Garden Lighting Partnership comprising the Trust, Historic England, Camden, Westminster and the area's main freeholders, Shaftesbury Plc, the Mercers' Company and CapCo. Founder trustee Paul Draper designed the bespoke Covent Garden Lantern® for the Partnership, now seen in both Camden and Westminster.

Our new web-based study: *'Seven Dials in Covent Garden: Looking after a Historic Neighbourhood'* has many innovative features and could be a template for any city centre or inner city Conservation Area – link [here](#). If you have issues with al fresco dining, for example, look at 'Eating & Seating' in the STREETS section where an Excel spreadsheet helps predict noise levels. Comments welcome!

The Central London Bus Review

Andrew Bosi reports

At the end of November, Transport for London published a 369 page document detailing the responses to its consultation on bus services conducted over the Summer, together with its decision not to cut 18 of the 22 routes earmarked for the axe. Those that have not survived are the last remaining Red Arrow services (507 & 521), the 332 along Edgware Road, and the night service N11. £25m. is being taken from other GLA services.

Over 20,000 responses were received. Many of the detailed comments related to individual routes, but others such as ourselves, the Battersea Society, London wide Assembly members, and voluntary groups with a London wide remit made more general points on which we are promised a further response from TfL early

in the New Year.

There seems to be a recognition that bus services have to be made more attractive to recover lost passengers. Bus priority measures, notably bus lanes, removed to accommodate cycle lanes have demonstrated their worth through the adverse impact of their removal. The Hammersmith Society among others highlighted the off-putting cycle routes between bus shelter and boarding point. The Battersea Society has done a good job on highlighting the need to address the environment around the bus stop. Other general issues raised are the alternative of adjusting frequencies, and the need for double deckers to ensure sufficient capacity - a particularly important concern for people with poor mobility or other disabilities.

Some responses from the industry may not have been expected. Go-Ahead buses wanted fares increased to £2 in line with the fare cap applied outside London. Chiltern Railways gave a robust comment reflecting the perceived impact of the Euston Road proposals on their own passengers, often travelling with heavy luggage difficult to take on the tube at Marylebone.

While the decision not to cut several high profile routes hit the headlines, many of the smaller cuts are going ahead. The original package would have saved £35m. The 16 is being rerouted to cover the lost 332. The main changes are in central London, particularly around Waterloo, affecting the 3, 6, 11 and 59 - the latter will no longer serve Euston. The 23, which has become unrecognisable from the route that was heavily promoted thirty years ago, is also reformed yet again. Once it reaches Hyde Park Corner from Ladbroke Grove, it heads east instead of west and will terminate at Aldwych.

The date for these changes, and those resulting from earlier consultations adversely affecting the 1, 21, 168 and 271 (which have not been reprieved) is yet to be announced. The Elizabeth line's new direct links, available from November 6th, are changing patterns of travel and TfL will need to review these further as people discover shorter journey times or more a convenient interchange.

Forum Open Meeting on High Streets - 21st November 2022

John Myers reports

London Forum trustee, Clare Birks chaired the event, noting that many of the challenges facing High Streets had been exacerbated by the pandemic as people shopped more online. So the problems were now more serious than 3 years ago, when we last addressed this topic.

Professor [Matthew Carmona](#) described the existential crisis of traditional shopping streets. In 1910, Poplar High Street had 10 pubs, a music hall, and diverse retail activity. It is now much quieter, lined with houses, many of which turn their backs on the high street.

He talked about how High Streets create benefits where people come to multiple businesses. There is a risk of losing the public facing activities along a high street. Convenience and other factors that drive people to online shopping are even stronger than the factors which drove people to out of town shopping. He discussed the merits of intervention and the high current demand for residential as opposed to retail or office space. He noted the danger of losing critical mass of retail on the high street; people value having local retail facilities. But for people to use high streets, they have to want to do so. He suggested that we therefore need to think more about the leisure and the social offer of our high streets. Intervention to encourage walking and cycling can also help. Local authorities control public services and could move them back onto the high street. Some are buying up retail and repurposing it for community uses. Proactive curation is necessary.

Looking at Eltham High Street as an example, flats have recently been built just off it, bringing more customers. There is a good local market. The local authority has also moved the leisure centre back onto the High Street. His slides are [here](#).

[Alice Lester](#) MBE is the Operational Director for Regeneration at Brent Council. She spoke about her experience working on the GLA's High Streets for All mission, with the aim of finding new ideas for how to use our high streets better. High streets have been challenged for decades, with parking, out of town shopping, and now online. But high streets are resilient and do adapt and evolve. Outside the Central Activities Zone, 41% of all London businesses are on high streets.

As an Outer London borough, many of Brent's shops benefitted from people working at home. GLA data indicate that high streets have shown a recovery since 2020. The GLA is researching pro-business approaches to join up licensing, regulation and planning. Some councils have excellent practice, but current regulations prevent them from combining forms or fees to make things simpler. Alice described a wide range of projects Brent has done to improve public realm and shop fronts, although it had to relocate one new parklet because of anti-social behaviour. Her slides are [here](#).

Jeremy Leach is Chair of the [Walworth Society](#). He has been an active campaigner for improvements in place for many years, also with Living Streets. He led a successful campaign for 20 mph speed limits in Southwark.

Murder, shooting parties and a parachuting monkey: 200 years of Walworth's Beehive pub



He discussed the huge amount of change around Walworth Road, including Elephant Park. 40,000 people live within a ten minute walk of what used to be the old village centre, where East Lane and West Lane met. It is a diverse community with extensive council housing, low levels of car ownership and high reliance on walking and public transport. DfT, GLA, TfL and Southwark Council jointly altered the central part of Walworth Road with greenery and wider pavements, but outer sections remain unimproved. Many community-based projects have added more greenery to streets with council support. The density and good public transport, together with other assets, give a high potential for a low-carbon, fifteen minute city. He discussed the improvements to the East Street market under the GLA's High Streets for All challenge. Despite the predations during and after WW2, there are many conservation areas in Southwark. The community produced a 200 page Historic Area Assessment with a view to letting heritage help to make the area more appealing both to residents and businesses, with a range of positive results. His slides are [here](#).

Briefly Noted

Planning Inspectorate releases Videos on Local Plans

Readers might be interested in 5 short videos from the Planning Inspectorate which comprise an introduction to **Local Plans**. They concentrate mainly on the later stages of producing a Local Plan, once it is submitted to the Inspectorate for

Examination.

Darren McCreery, a Planning Inspector specialising in Local Plans, introduces the Local Plan in our first video here: <https://lnkd.in/ezAdsfuP>.

In the second video, Darren explains our part in the Local Plan system, which is to conduct an independent examination of the plan to determine whether it meets the legal requirements and the four tests of soundness, see <https://lnkd.in/epsgshJp>

In the third video, Darren details how you can have your say during a local plan examination through written statements by giving tips like keeping your statement focused or relating it to Matters, Issues and Questions as published by the Inspector. <https://lnkd.in/ebWHQRGM>

In the fourth video, Darren explains how you can have your say during the hearings. There is around 10-15 days of hearings for an average plan examination, with each session focusing on a specific issue as determined by the Inspector <https://lnkd.in/egfMvmWt>

In the last video, Darren wraps up by explaining that after the hearings, the Inspector will consider all the evidence to determine the soundness of the Plan. If changes are necessary, these will be agreed with the council and subject to consultation. <https://lnkd.in/ezTcxPkK>

Peckham celebrates a decade of community activism

Peckham Vision organised a stimulating evening for about 60 participants in the brutalist former car park, now repurposed as Peckham Levels and housing a range of commercial and community activities. The Levels, which retains its edgy feel, was saved from the wrecking ball by fierce community campaigning led by Peckham Vision Chair, Eileen Conn. About half those present represented community groups active in Peckham, with numerous participants from elsewhere in Southwark, other London Boroughs, and London-wide organisations including the London Forum and Just Space.

The purpose was to share practical experiences of community activism and how to achieve community-led rather than developer-led regeneration. Large, informative posters decorated the walls, highlighting the campaigns spearheaded by Peckham Vision over the past decade. Key takeaways: (i) civic societies cannot do this alone, we need to work in concert with other grass root groups in the area, and (ii) “Councils should see community activism as a blessing, not a threat”. A full write-up should be available shortly.

New Report on Pride in Place

Civic Voice, the national association for the civic movement has drawn our attention to a new report from the National Lottery Community Fund entitled **From neighbours to neighbourhood: learning on how to boost pride in place** – see here. Improving Pride in Place is one of the 12 Levelling Up missions that the Government has set itself, though it should be noted that the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill allows the Secretary of State to delete, amend or add to these missions at will.

London Forum Strategy Review and Consultation

Clare Birks and Michael Jubb summarise the survey results

The Forum's officers and trustees began a review of its strategies and priorities this autumn. We have not undertaken such a review for several years, and much has changed, not least because of the pandemic. So we are reviewing our current pattern of activities, and the way we organize to deliver them; and seeking to set a direction for the next five years. We aim to produce the new strategy in spring 2023.

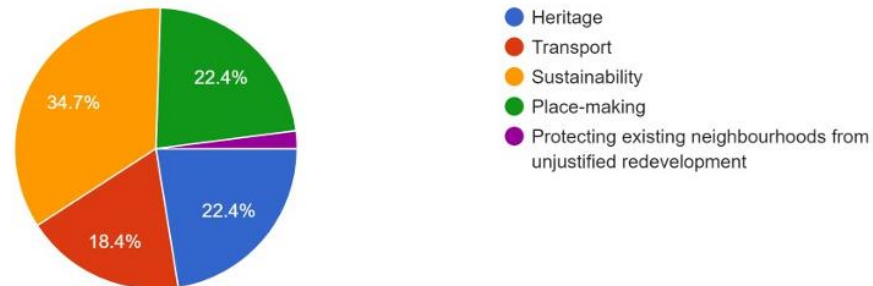
As part of the review, we have been consulting our member associations, through interviews with a small representative sample, and via an online survey circulated to all. We received 50 responses to the online survey (around 40% of member societies), a good response rate.

Ways to enhance relationships and two-way communication with our members have been a key focus of the review. We were pleased to find very positive responses on that front. Over 80% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that the Forum meets its key objectives well, and 87% agreed that the Forum is effective in communicating information and views to its members. Slightly fewer, but still over 70%, think the Forum is effective in enabling member societies to learn from each other.

In response to a question asking whether the Forum should focus more attention on matters such as transport, heritage, sustainability or place-making, there was rather less of a consensus, with a spread of 'votes', see the pie chart below. And although 75% agreed that the Forum's lobbying – much of it 'behind the scenes' – is effective, around 50% suggested we should do more public campaigning. However, only a minority, 19%, thought that their members would be able to volunteer to help in London Forum's work.

6. At present, London Forum's main focus is on planning matters. It has been suggested it could do more on related issues eg heritage, transport, sus...iation feel London Forum could be of most benefit?

49 responses



All in all, the survey responses were positive in tone and respondents made many constructive suggestions for things the Forum could or should do, and we will be taking those into account in the next stage of the review. Thank you, all, for your very helpful input.

Round the Societies

Selected highlights from members' newsletters

Following the **Highgate Society's** account of their problems with Haringey's planning department, it is heartening to report that they subsequently secured a meeting with Haringey's new Chief Executive and Director of Placemaking and Housing, who had read the piece in their newsletter "and were clearly shocked". Agreeing the need for cooperation, they will aim to repeat that meeting annually and have quarterly meetings with their planners.

The Streatham Society question how to play a more active role in heritage conservation, reflecting concerns held by many societies. In a national survey 87% agreed that new uses should be found for historic / community buildings, including pubs, rather than demolishing them, with disappointment that a focus on development often leaves heritage considerations "side-lined". **The Barnet Society** say, "one of the finest buildings in New Barnet", (33 Lyonsdown Road), although on Barnet's Local List, is not in a Conservation Area and remains

threatened because the developers can demolish it under permitted development. The case has featured twice in *Private Eye*. MP Theresa Villiers MP has stepped in.

The Charlton Society highlight growing tensions and issues along the Thames Riverside. The Rockwell site application, rejected by the community, Greenwich Council, and the Mayor, is now reverting to a role as a logistics hub, illustrating how national planning can eclipse local.

The Enfield Society notes that owing to rapidly rising building costs, several major housing schemes are currently on hold. And the **Mill Hill Preservation Society** also report a relative lull in major planning applications. However, the **Thorney Island Society** note a large number of developments, particularly hotels, suggesting a change of focus from workplace to visitors.

The Brixton Society welcome Lambeth's move to protect the Brixton Creative Enterprise Zone and existing Key Industrial and Business Areas (KIBAs) by making an Article 4 direction.

The Metropolitan Public Gardens Association highlight the CPRE 2022 report, *Forever Green?* More than 50 green sites across London threatened by development and the amount of Green Belt Land offered for development has increased by 21% since 2021 and 127% since 2016.

Enfield Society are very concerned about proposals in the draft Local Plan for thousands of new homes on the Green Belt at Crews Hill Golf Course and Chase Park.

The Isleworth Society have asked the Planning Inspectorate that proposed development on the Park Road allotments be heard by full public inquiry.

The Sydenham Society articulates concerns that new buildings in the wrong place may cause the area's springs and underground watercourses to divert and cause flooding. They are in discussions with the Sydenham Wells Park Improvement Group on reopening and naturalising the former stream. There is no comprehensive local map of underground springs and streams!

The Islington Society report that developer Tishman Speyer has received permission to redevelop the (controversial) site around the Angel tube, built as recently as 1988 but already outdated.

Barnet's refusal of 539 flats on the former gasworks site, Victoria Quarter, has been dismissed, with important implications for other big developments in the area.

The Knightsbridge Association report the successful completion of the first phase of the Knightsbridge Estate development, retaining the attractive 19th century facades around the site and improving the station entrance. **The**

Greenwich Society proposed a pavement widening scheme in the town centre, costed by Atkins Engineering pro bono, which has been awarded a £250,000 grant. **The Westcombe Society** lead with an outcry at (Southeastern's) Department for Transport's decision to "slash peak-hour train services" on the Greenwich line. There was no consultation with users and a full campaign, with local MP support, is now being undertaken to try to get services re-instated in 2023. **The Barnet Residents Association** decry the loss of the 84 bus serving Potters Bar.

The **Kew Society** report a recent fall in roadside NO2 concentrations despite being surrounded by three major roads, attributed to decline of diesel cars, growth in electric and hybrid cars, and the introduction of the ULEZ in 2019, resulting in a decrease of 44,000 polluting vehicles daily.

The Friends of Battersea Park report that the Park was awarded a Green Flag for 2022-3.

The **Highgate Society** has produced a new map describing 114 places of interest. It was funded with CIL funds from ... Camden, (although half of the area is within Haringey!)

The Kingston Society have mounted an exhibition to celebrate their 60th anniversary. Display boards for each decade can be seen on their website.

The Kew Society has produced a fold-out map giving a short circular walk and some of Kew's history, partly funded by the London Borough of Richmond. <https://www.kewsociety.org/2022/06/05/kew-circular-walk>

Life was livened up in **Dulwich** when a 9ft Python escaped from a house, luckily discovered by a passer-by who knew where it lived!

N.B. As always, a fuller, more comprehensive version can be found [here](#)

Forum Vice President, Nicky Gavron wins NLA New Londoner Award

We are delighted to report that London Forum Vice President and former Deputy Mayor Nicky Gavron has won the New London Architecture (NLA) New Londoner of the Year Award. The citation reads as follows:



The New Londoner of the Year Award celebrates those who have, during their careers, had a significant impact in shaping New London and making a positive contribution to the city.

NLA's New Londoner of the Year 2022, Nicky Gavron, was an elected politician from 1986 until last year and has a track record in urban policy at every level of government, from neighbourhood to national. Gavron was the first Deputy Mayor of London, a post she held for seven years. Subsequently, she led on planning. She was alternate chair/deputy chair of the cross-party planning committee and was Labour's planning spokesperson. She has been at the forefront of developing integrated and sustainable land-use, transport and environmental planning policies for London.

As Deputy Mayor, she worked closely with Mayor Livingstone to set up the Greater London Authority's working processes and policy frameworks, with particular responsibility for the London Plan. She also played a central role in shaping the agenda for women and established the GLA's Children and Young People's Unit.

Leading London's response to climate change, she introduced policies and programmes to reduce CO2 emissions across energy, water, waste, transport and sustainable design and construction. Her initiatives include establishing the London Climate Change Agency and the C40: Large Cities Climate Leadership Group.

Gavron is internationally recognised for her work on urban planning and the environment, and she continues to advise cities and city networks

Save the Date – 31st January 2023

London Forum Open Meeting on **Early Community Engagement**

Where/when? The Gallery, 70 Cowcross Street, 18.30 – 20.00 hrs

Marion Harvey MBE

We have just received the sad news that London Forum's founding Chair, Marion Harvey has died. A tribute will appear in the next issue of *Insights*.
