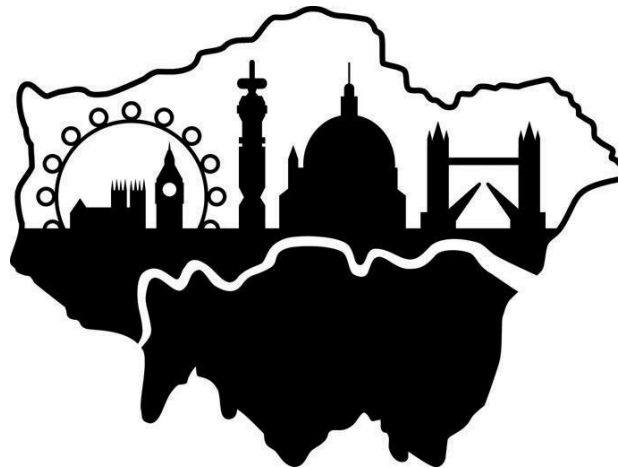


THE LONDON FORUM

of Amenity and Civic Societies

Founded 1988

Registered Charity Number 1093134



36th ANNUAL REPORT
2023-24

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The London Forum of Amenity and Civic Societies (“London Forum” or “the Forum”) is an unincorporated association founded in 1988 and registered as a charity in 2002. It is governed by a constitution last revised in 2008 and with further revisions recommended for approval at the 2024 AGM.

The Forum’s aim is to protect and improve the quality of life of people living, working in or visiting the area of Greater London. The objects of London Forum can be summarised as the promotion and encouragement of:

1. High standards of planning, design, infrastructure and transport;
2. Conservation and heritage protection;
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, Non-Government Organisations and others;
5. Civic pride and community involvement;
6. Sustainable development.

Activities of the London Forum are summarised in the final pages of this report. The Trustees have had regard to the Charity Commission’s guidance on public benefit.

Organisation structure

The London Forum is managed by an Executive Committee of up to fifteen trustees, elected at the Annual General Meeting by the voting members which are amenity and civic societies in the Greater London area. Matters of detail are delegated to the Planning, Environment and Transport Committee which reports to the Executive Committee. In addition, a small sub-committee of Trustees form an Editorial Group, to support the *Insights* editor with decisions on the content of *Insights* - the regular e-newsletter sent to the membership. The Executive Committee provide the steer for the newsletter’s content.

Following the 2023 strategy review, the Forum set up a Member Services Committee to strengthen the ties between the Forum’s core team and member societies, to ensure that the Forum’s activities are closely aligned with the needs of member societies and to increase our capacity to deliver what members want.

Two representatives from member societies participate in meetings of the Member Services Committee which reports to the Executive Committee.

All the work of London Forum is carried out by volunteers.

Archives

During the year back copies of the Forum's annual reports and minutes of Executive Committee meetings were lodged with the London Metropolitan Archives together with copies of the Newsforum newsletter.

REVIEW OF THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

Throughout the year the London Forum continued to monitor matters of relevance to its member societies and provide support and information to them. The trustees seek to keep the Mayor and the Greater London Assembly in no doubt of the central importance of the civic society movement and to bring the special position and needs of London to the notice of the Government and Members of Parliament. This is achieved by discussions with politicians and officers and in writing including consultation responses.

Committee and Officers

The Executive Committee met five times during the year, as did the Planning, Environment and Transport Committee.

As always, London Forum welcomes nominations from member societies for trustee and officer roles, as experts for the Planning, Environment and Transport Committee and as member representatives on the Member Services Committee. An urgent appeal was issued to large societies for help in succession planning for a number of roles in London Forum, as our Chair, Treasurer and other trustees will be stepping down at the 2024 AGM.

Government and Legislation

For London Forum, the year brought yet more proposed legislative and planning policy changes by the Department for Levelling-up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) for consideration and response. These included extending permitted development rights (PDR) for converting existing properties to dwellings, reforms aimed at speeding up the preparation of local plans, high street rental auctions, the prioritised use of brownfield land for development and short term lets (such as Airbnb). London Forum pressed for all developments carried out under PDR to be subject to the Prior Approval process.

The Government consulted on its proposals for [Street Vote Development Orders](#). The stated goal is to encourage residents to bring forward proposals for new development, usually additional storeys, that they would support, and which would make a contribution to their street. London Forum suggested

increasing the threshold of supporting residents required to make a proposal to 30%. The response also stressed the importance of ensuring that any proposal truly has broad community support before an order is made, and of protecting councils from any additional financial or other burdens.

The Government proposed an [accelerated planning system for major commercial developments](#) which create more than 1,000 sqm of employment floorspace. Applicants will pay a higher planning fee, in exchange for which the local planning authority (LPA) will be required to determine these applications within 10 weeks (rather than the 13-week statutory time limit), with a guarantee that part or all of the fee will be refunded if the application is not determined within this timescale. London Forum takes issue with the notion that LPAs are solely to blame for the length of time taken to process these applications today.

The Government amended planning regulations relating to PDR for Electric Vehicle (EV) chargepoint installation on the public highway. The change (which came into effect in July 2024) allows chargepoint operators acting on behalf of a local planning authority to install EV charge points without the need for planning permission. In some boroughs charge points carry large advertising screens. It is unclear whether these are covered by the PDR, and if so, whether Prior Approval is needed for these installations.

Their location could be skewed towards places where advertising is likely to be most profitable, not to those where charging points are most needed. Permitted Development may remove such things from scrutiny, as happened with the saga of advertising hoardings masquerading as telephone kiosks.

The Levelling-up and Regeneration Act ([LURA](#)) was passed in October 2023, including provision for a new Infrastructure Levy, Environmental Outcome Reports to replace Environmental Impact Assessments, strengthened powers for compulsory purchase, policies to incentivise the prompt build-out of housing sites and the introduction of National Development Management Policies (NDMP).

Our concerns about the Act's policy changes were covered by several amendments during the Commons Committee Stage, but they were ultimately not progressed owing to an overwhelming majority of Conservative MPs opposing them.

However, London Forum's chair, Peter Eversden, held discussion in the House of Lords with Opposition front bench Peers who managed to achieve some of the changes required, including that NDMPs would be consulted upon before any are introduced.

London Forum supported the concern of the Open Spaces Society that the then Secretary of State for the Environment, Thérèse Coffey, sought to dump the consensus approach to registering historic rights of way. This could lead to the loss of many footpaths and other rights of way.

The editions of *Insights* and *News/Updates* from July 2023 gave details of the Government's planning activity and changes. However, the General Election was called for July 2024, just after the period covered by this annual report ends. At June 30th it was unclear what a new Government will implement of the provisions of LURA and which, if any, of the planning changes that have been consulted upon by the last Government.

Among the most concerning proposals by the outgoing Government was to "legitimise" existing short-let tourist accommodation, by reclassifying these as former housing. This will need a rethink: the prospect of such a wholesale loss of housing should be abandoned, London Forum believes.

The Mayor and Assembly

The Mayor has published [London Plan Guidance](#) to support the implementation by boroughs of the 2021 London Plan. Unfortunately, much of it was late arriving, in 2023 and early 2024, making it difficult for boroughs to bring their own local plans in line, especially given the uncertainty around the direction of national policy.

The London Plan team conducted a '[Planning for London](#)' programme to collect views of the public and key stakeholders on the content of the next London Plan. This was an opportunity for the London Forum and its member societies to comment. The May 2024 GLA elections delayed reports on the outcome of the workshops.

Michael Gove, then Secretary of State for DLUHC, in his "Falling back in love with the future" speech castigated the London Mayor for under-delivery on housing targets, and announced a review of London Plan policies, to be led by

Chris Katkowski KC, the well-known planning barrister. This review failed to identify specific policies that were hampering house building in London, but judged that action was nevertheless required to boost housing supply, specifically on brownfield sites.

Mr Gove called for reports by the Mayor in June and September 2024 on industrial land and opportunity areas respectively, but a new Government may have a different approach to planning in London.

Almost all development in London is on previously-developed land, so-called brownfield sites. London Forum's position is that development is not held back by the planning system, but by the problems of land assembly, decontamination, lack of infrastructure, increased construction costs, etc., and their impact on viability. Ultimately the amount and speed of delivery of new housing is determined by private developers, not the Government, nor the Mayor nor local planning authorities.

Little mention has been made in the media of one of the provisions of LURA which, under certain circumstances, allows the compulsory purchase of land/buildings at or near to existing use value. This came into effect in April 2024 and may improve the viability of brownfield sites. The level of takeup will be determined by the boroughs.

Following a revolt by Conservative MPs outside London, the Government tried to impose a 35% uplift in housing targets for twenty major cities including London. The London Forum opposed this because London does not have the land capacity to build the target 95,000 new homes annually.

The Mayor had failed by June 2024 to publish Annual Monitoring Reports (AMRs) for the first three years of the March 2021 London Plan.. That means there is still no published assessment of the achievement or failure of the Key Performance Indicators, or way of highlighting policies that may need to be changed. On behalf of London Forum, the Planning and Regeneration Committee is chasing the Mayor for these AMRs.

At the May 2024 GLA elections, Mayor Sadiq Khan was re-elected. The composition of the Greater London Assembly remains almost unchanged - 11, 3 and 2 seats respectively for Labour, Greens and LibDems as before, with the Conservatives ceding one of their previous 9 seats to ReformUK. For the first

time the Liberal Democrats have won a constituency seat (South West) and Labour took the last inner-London constituency seat held by the Tories. There are several new Assembly Members and London Forum's trustees will, as before, be meeting them and holding discussions with the chairs and vice chairs of some of the committees. It is important that societies work closely with their constituency Assembly Member on any points that should be raised with the Mayor or an Assembly committee.

The Planning and Regeneration Committee published a letter to the Mayor on Shaping the Next London Plan and recommendations on retrofit versus rebuild. It is unclear as at June 2024 what kind of review the Mayor will undertake of the London Plan. The Planning and Regeneration Committee's latest investigation is into the [barriers to housing development in London and how they can be overcome](#).

The Assembly's Housing Committee met seven times this year. The main topic was the Mayor's Affordable Homes Programme; they also covered women and housing, supported housing, new legislation concerning housing, consultation with tenants and access to home ownership for young Londoners.

The second Affordable Homes Programme 2021-2026 concentrates on housing for social rent. The Mayor's fund provides only 10-15% of the money needed to build these new homes and so it must be used strategically and effectively. The Deputy Mayor for housing has introduced a new programme management approach which prioritises issue resolution and works flexibly, which has ensured the better use of funding.

A meeting on women and housing acknowledged that women were adversely affected by high housing costs to a greater degree because of lower average earnings and childcare responsibilities. Supported living can be a good option for older residents but there is insufficient data to estimate the need accurately. Moreover, the GLA has not been able to spend the money allocated to this type of housing because, although it can finance the building, it cannot provide revenue funding to cover the support costs.

The Housing Committee is also concerned about home ownership and recognised that this is a particular problem for young people. The two GLA schemes directed towards this problem are London Living Rent and Shared

Ownership. High rents in the private sector create major difficulties for many and may be addressed by the new government.

The Grenfell Tower Inquiry highlighted a problem with tenants' complaints not being taken seriously. Generally, tenants' rights are unclear and the GLA has a role in setting standards and using funding as an enforcement measure. The London Plan includes a requirement to engage tenants in discussion about standards and performance.

Some trustees also participated in consultative meetings on housing held by the GLA as part of its initial work in preparation for the coming revision of the London Plan

Borough Councils

London Forum continues to monitor the impacts of the High Streets Task Force, Permitted Development (which we oppose where Councils and communities cannot control local changes) and Local Plan revision.

It is important that Councils have policies to take advantage of the delegation of responsibilities contained in the March 2021 London Plan. In particular, policies around tall buildings, for Good Growth and for Design Codes that determine the type and purpose of development allowed and for controlling densification of the suburbs. Without those, even Councils with recent plans will still be unable to refuse developments that fail to meet local needs and expectations.

The LURA requires Local Planning Authorities to have a new development plan within a fixed timescale to 2026, and that will be difficult for some local authorities with limited planning resources. London Forum supported a LURA clause for a new neighbourhood planning tool called a 'Neighbourhood Priorities Statement', providing communities with a "simpler and more accessible way to set out their key priorities and preferences for their local areas" and which should be considered for Local Plan content.

GLA information on residential completions by borough showed continuing decline in applications and, especially, any real start to the building of many approved schemes.

London Forum continues to monitor the community alliances that are working in some boroughs and offer support to them when requested.

Transport

The Forum has continued to monitor transport developments and to support member societies in their campaigns when appropriate. A significant development came at the Conservative Party conference when the Prime Minister announced the cancellation of phase 2 of HS2 and revised arrangements for the Euston approach.

London Forum has strong reservations about the future of HS2 and about a number of impractical proposals for the Euston end. Residents of Camden, after 15 years of uncertainty, still have no end in sight.

Transport for London recorded an operating surplus for the first time, but needed government funding for capital projects. It had sought £500m for the current year but received only £250m to pay for new Piccadilly line trains, already ordered, built and in testing. The signalling upgrade that would optimise their value is not funded, nor is there anything for Crossrail2 or the Bakerloo line extension. Some in TfL seem optimistic that a new government might fund smaller schemes linked to house building (West London orbital, Thamesmead).

The Mayor has introduced “Superloop” express bus services in outer London, with the promise of more to come. London Overground lines were rebranded individually which will enable clearer communications with passengers. After the cuts to south-eastern rail services reported last year, there has been some improvement in the most recent timetable change, with the longest gaps in service reduced. London Metro services were cut to improve longer distance runs.

The proposed redevelopment of Liverpool Street station, reported last year, has made little progress having attracted opposition from a wide range of heritage and community groups.

A disappointing development has been the summary closure of the King’s Cross Thameslink station entrance, first as a COVID measure, but now bricked up without consultation with local people or stakeholders. London Forum is looking at ways this might be challenged.

Member Societies

During the year we welcomed five new members but six did not renew. In most cases, we believe, they had ceased to operate.

The London Forum communicates regularly with its members by email bulletins, our email newsletter London Forum *Insights* and the X feed (formerly Twitter). Our website is regularly updated with information and comment about matters of London-wide significance in the News/Updates section. During the year, the new website went live.

Insights

Five issues of *Insights* were produced during the year and sent by email in July, September, December, March and May to subscribing individuals. We are never short of content; indeed the problem is usually what to leave out. The newsletter has carried a number of articles by officers of member societies and external contributors, and we try to find space for these wherever possible. Topical articles covered the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill, London Plan Guidance, design review panels, permitted development rights and plan making reforms as well as tall buildings, metropolitan open land, EV charging points.

Open Meetings

During 2023/24 we held several well attended open meetings for members. Each, except the May meeting, was reported in the following issue of *Insights*.

22 August 2023 - Roof-top Summer Gathering at Cowcross Street which was reported in *Insights* December 2023

12 October 2023 - AGM with presentations from our Patron Professor Tony Travers and president Ben Derbyshire

15 November 2023 on Zoom - to brief member societies on the long-awaited GLA London Plan guidance documents on Characterisation and Growth Strategy, Optimising Site Capacity and Small Site Design Codes. There was concern that authorities do not have the staff to deliver the admirable aspirations in the guidance.

16 January 2024 - Is Building on the Green Belt Inevitable? The discussion, triggered by a proposal in Enfield circled round the issue of 'grey belt' spaces, lack of confidence in housing need assessment, rejection of the view that

planning constraints are causing the shortage when it seems evident to many that the key issues are tenure and distribution.

22 May 2024 on Zoom – Thames-side Policy - Is it sound? which explored what is working well and what is failing for planning and development in the [Thames Policy Area](#) described in the London Plan, embracing tall buildings, climate change and flood prevention, as well as other issues. The progressive weakening over successive London Plans of planning policies to protect the river and riverfront was remarked on.

Collaboration

Forum officers have done what they can to keep in active touch with senior officials in the Chief Planner's department, and have attended meetings of All-Party Parliamentary Groups of MPs (APPGs), Select Committees and Committees of the Greater London Assembly.

The Forum has endeavoured to liaise with a wide range of national and London-based organisations, including Civic Voice, Heritage Alliance; Historic England; Town and Country Planning Association; Travelwatch; CPRE (London); the Royal Town Planning Institute; the London Society; Business LDN; Centre for London; Policy Forum for London; London Planning and Development Forum; National Planning Forum; New London Architecture; Just Space Network; London Tenants Federation; London Councils; Generation Rent; Urban Design London; Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors; London Friends of Green Spaces Network; London Living Streets; West London River Group and many of London's academics from LSE, UCL and elsewhere.

London Forum assigns committee members to work with collaborators but welcomes participation by people in member societies who have been associated with those organisations or have a strong interest in their work.

Last year London Forum and others donated money to Civic Voice after a fraudulent misappropriation of their funds created financial difficulties. We are pleased that those funds have since been recovered so that Civic Voice can continue to fulfil its role as a national organisation in negotiation with Government departments and issuing advice to communities.

Appreciation for Alan Baxter

The Forum warmly thanks Alan Baxter Cowcross for their continuing support in generously providing the Forum with office space and meeting facilities in Farringdon; the opportunity to network with other organisations; and for continuing to take a close interest in the Forum's work and wellbeing.

FINANCES FOR YEAR TO 30 JUNE 2024

In preparing the annual report and accounts the Forum's trustees have applied the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice (FRS102), together with Update Bulletins 1 and 2 (collectively the "SORP") with certain exemptions permitted for smaller charities.

Income

Gross income for the year was £9,478 (2023 £9,314) with £4,500 of this sum arising from the imputed donation the Forum received through a waiver of rent (2023 £4,300).

Subscription income was £4,203 (2023 £4,202) with new member subscriptions essentially offsetting the loss of income from member resignations. Donations from society and individual members remained the same as 2023 and are much appreciated.

Expenses

Total expenses for the year, including the value of waived rent, were £6,353 (2023 £15,333). This significant decrease compared to the prior year arises because developer costs for rebuilding the website were not repeated.

Face to face member meetings including the AGM and networking event incurred a net cost of £251.

Copying and posting AGM material to members cost £631 and trustees are proposing that this significant cost be eliminated in future by amending the constitution so that members can be notified of the AGM by email.

Financial Outcome

The net outcome for the year resulted in a surplus of £3,125 (2023 deficit of £6,019) and this has been added to the Forum's unrestricted fund.

The balance sheet of the London Forum at 30 June 2023 shows total net assets amounting to £39,556 (2023 £36,056) held entirely in cash and interest bearing deposits.

Risk Management

The major risks to which the Society is exposed, as identified by the trustees, are regularly reviewed and the trustees are satisfied that appropriate action has been taken 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 Forum and of the income and expenditure for the year then ended. In preparing those 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 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 Forum and enable it to ensure that the financial statements comply with charity regulations. It also has responsibility for safeguarding the assets of the Forum and for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

On behalf of the Executive Committee.

Peter Eversden, Chair

20 August 2024

The London Forum of Amenity and Civic Societies
Charity Registration Number 1093134

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended June 30

	Note	2024 £	2023 £
Income from			
Donations:			
Membership subscriptions		4,203	4,202
Member meetings		135	459
Other donations		4,709	4,509
Investments		431	144
Total income		9,478	9,314
Expenditure on			
Charitable activities:			
Member meetings		385	738
Professional services		-	1,750
Support costs	2	5,968	11,845
Donations:		-	1,000
Total expenditure		6,353	15,333
Net surplus (deficit) for the year		3,125	(6,019)
Reconciliation of funds			
Unrestricted fund brought forward		36,056	42,075
Designated IT improvement fund		375	0
Unrestricted fund carried forward		39,556	36,056

Balance Sheet as at June 30

		2024	2023
	Note	£	£
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	4	-	-
Current assets			
Investments		36,415	36,996
Cash at bank and in hand		3,141	4,542
Prepayments		-	33
Total Current assets		39,556	41,571
Total assets		39,556	41,571
Liabilities			
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year		-	-
Provision for liabilities		-	5,515
Net current assets less current liabilities		39,556	36,056
Total assets less current liabilities		39,556	36,056
Represented by			
Unrestricted Fund		39,556	36,056

Approved by the trustees on 20 August 2024 and signed on their behalf by:

P. Eversden - Chair

S. Speak - Hon. Treasurer

1. Accounting policies

a. Basis of accounting

The financial statements have been prepared on an accruals basis under the historical cost convention as a going concern and in accordance with FRS102. The Charities Statement of Recommended Practice (FRS102), together with Update Bulletins 1 and 2 (collectively the 'SORP') has been applied with exemptions as permitted for smaller charities.

b. Income and expenditure

Income is recognised when received, or when there is certainty of receipt. Income received in advance is carried forward and expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis.

The SORP expects costs to be allocated between meeting charitable objectives and fund raising activities, together with their respective management and administration. Where the direct attribution of costs is not possible, apportionment is applied based on the estimated effort accorded to each activity.

c. Services provided

The Forum has regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit. It represents the interests of its member societies and communicates with them on relevant matters using a variety of media and through workshops and meetings.

In pursuing its charitable objectives, the Forum benefits from various skills and services provided without charge by committee members and friends of the London Forum. The benefit received from general volunteers is not recorded in the accounts because it is not practical to estimate its value.

d. Cash and investments

Cash consists of petty cash and funds held in the Forum's current account and at PayPal. Investments represent term and call deposits held specifically to generate an income return.

e. Fixed assets

Fixed assets are stated at cost less depreciation. Fixed assets are depreciated on a straight-line basis over 4 years, but the Forum does not currently have any fixed assets to report.

2. Resources expended

The Forum does not employ any staff nor pay any employee benefits. The Independent Examiner does not charge a fee for examination of the accounts.

The Forum's support costs in furtherance of its charitable objectives are as follows:

	2024	2023
Shared Office	4,500	4,300
Printing & Communication	749	337
IT expenses	97	6,497
Insurance	250	244
Memberships & Subscriptions	304	289
Other	68	178
Total	£5,968	£11,845

The Shared Office expense represents the value of facilities donated to the Forum by Alan Baxter Cowcross.

3. Transactions with Trustees

No trustee or related party received any remuneration for services as a trustee or in any management capacity during the year. Some trustees have been reimbursed for their out of pocket expenses with the value and number of trustees involved as follows:

Expense type	2024		2023	
	Amount Reimbursed	Number of Trustees	Amount Reimbursed	Number of Trustees
Event provisions	£351	1	£838	3
Telephone	-	-	£36	1

There were no transactions between the Forum and a related party.

4. Fixed assets

The Forum does not have any fixed assets to report.

5. Provisions

In 2023 the Forum resolved to make a provision of £5,515 for work completed in redeveloping the website which had not been invoiced at the year end. However, the developer's final invoice was £500 less than the amount provided. During the year some of this over-provision was used to offset the cost of upgraded licences and add-ons which have been installed subsequent to the website's formal handover. Trustees propose to retain the unused balance of the provision as a designated fund in the unrestricted reserves exclusively for future website improvements and licences.

6. Reserves

The reserves consist solely of an unrestricted fund with a portion designated for future upgrades to the website.

Unrestricted fund	Designated	Undesignated	Total
Balance brought forward at 1 July 2023	£0	£36,056	£36,056
Net change in resources for the year	£500	£3,000	£3,500
Transfers	(£125)	£125	-
Balance carried forward at 30 June 2024	£375	£39,181	£39,556

London Forum retains reserves to protect it from short term financial pressures and other risks, and to enable it to invest for strategic and operational purposes.

The trustees expect to use some of the reserves to: improve functionality of the website and databases; subsidise member workshops; fund studies into matters of common concern; and promote the work of London's civic groups.

The trustees also recognise that the loss of the office, storage and event space currently donated by Alan Baxter Cowcross would require the use of the reserves to fund these needs on an interim basis.

In the opinion of the trustees, the current level of reserves is appropriate.

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of London Forum of Amenity and Civic Societies ('the Trust') for the year ended 30 June 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed: Miles Storey

Relevant Qualification: Retired Banker

20 Sandown Road, Deal, Kent

Date: 21 July 2024

Committees

Patrons

Alan Baxter CBE
Professor Tony Travers

President

Ben Derbyshire PPRIBA FRSA
HonAIA

Vice-President

Nicky Gavron

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Trustees

Peter Eversden MBE • Chair
Bedford Park Society

Andrew Bosi
Islington Society

Paul Thornton • Vice-Chair and
Membership Secretary
Amwell Society

Michael Hammerson
Highgate Society

Stephen Speak • Honorary Treasurer
Kew Society

Mary Hogben
Finchley Society

Clare Birks • Secretary
BermondseyStreet.London

Michael Jubb
Battersea Society

Michael Bach • Chair Planning
Environment & Transport Committee
Kensington Society

John Myers
Camden Civic Society

Darian Mitchell • Minutes Secretary
Amwell Society

Peter Pickering
Finchley Society

Helen Warner
Westcombe Society

MEMBER SERVICES COMMITTEE

Paul Thornton • Chair
Helen Warner
Mary Hogben

Michael Jubb
Clare Birks
Lesley Hodsdon
Annabel McLaren

PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

Michael Bach • Chair
John Allan
Clare Birks
Andrew Bosi
Michael Coupe
Peter Eversden
Michael Hammerson

Daniel Instone
Michael Jubb
David Kaner
Brian Keane
Darian Mitchell
Peter Pickering
Paul Thornton
Helen Warner

Members

Amwell Society
Angel Association
Balham Society
Barnet Residents Association
Barnet Society
Battersea Society
Bayswater Residents Association
Bedford Park Society
Belsize Society
Bermondsey Street London
Bexley Civic Society
Blackheath Society
Bloomsbury Residents Action Group
Brentford Voice
Brixton Society
Brockley Society
Bromley Civic Society
Brompton Association
Camden Civic Society
Cathedral Area Residents Group
Chelsea Society
Chislehurst Society
City Heritage Society
Clapham Society
Covent Garden Community
Association
Culverley Green Residents
Association
Dulwich Society
Ealing Civic Society
Ealing Fields Residents Association
Earls Court Society
East Greenwich Residents
Association
Enfield Society
Finchley Society
Forest Hill Society
Friends of Battersea Park
Friends of Greenwich Park
Friends of Jubilee Gardens
Friends of St Georges Gardens
Fulham Society
Gidea Park and District Civic Society
Greenwich Society
Hackney Society
Hadley Wood Neighbourhood
Planning Forum
Ham and Petersham Association
Hammersmith and Fulham Historic
Buildings Group
Hammersmith Society
Hampstead Garden Suburb
Residents Association
Hampstead Neighbourhood Forum
Harrow Heritage Trust
Heath and Hampstead Society
Herne Hill Society
Highbury Community Association
Highbury Fields Association
Highgate Society
Hillgate Village Residents Association
Isleworth Society
Islington Society
John Innes Society
Kensington Society
Kew Society
Kingston-upon-Thames Society
Knightsbridge Association
Ladbroke Association
Ladywell Society
Lee Manor Society
Lodge Lane N12 Residents
Association
Mapesbury Residents Association
Marylebone Association
Metropolitan Public Gardens
Association
Mill Hill Preservation Society

London Forum Member Societies

Mortlake with East Sheen Society
Muswell Hill and Fortis Green
Association
Netherhall Neighbourhood
Association
New Barnet Community Association
Northwood Residents Association
Norwood Society
Old Chiswick Protection Society
Osterley & Wyke Green Residents
Association
Paddington Residents Active
Concern on Transport
Paddington Waterways and Maida
Vale Society
Peckham Society
Peckham Vision
Pembroke Association
Penge Forum
Pinner Association
Positive Plumstead
Putney Society
Queen Annes Gate Residents
Association
Richmond Society
Romford Civic Society
Seven Dials Trust
Shad Thames Residents Association
South East Bayswater Residents
Association
South Woodford Society
Southgate District Civic Trust
St Johns Wood Society
St Marylebone Society
Stamford Brook Residents
Association
Strawberry Hill Residents
Association
Streatham Society
Sydenham Society
Teddington Society
Telegraph Hill Society
Tewkesbury Lodge Residents
Association
Thorney Island Society
Tottenham Civic Society
Towpath Group
Victoria Drive Conservation Area
Residents Association
Waltham Forest Civic Society
Wandsworth Society
West Chiswick and Gunnersbury
Society
West Hampstead Amenity and
Transport Society
West Hampstead Gardens and
Residents Association
Westcombe Society
Westminster Society
Wimbledon Society
Woolwich and District Antiquarian
Society
York House Society

THE LONDON FORUM

The Forum represents and engages with civic and amenity societies and like-minded individuals concerned with protecting and improving the quality of life in London.

Since its foundation in 1988, the Forum has grown in strength and influence, and now has over a hundred and twenty member societies representing tens of thousands of Londoners.

The Forum's core activities include:

- Representing members on national and London-wide issues to influence policies on planning, environment, transport and infrastructure;
- Regularly surveying our members to ensure that we know their views and concerns;
- Responding on behalf of members to key consultations, draft strategies and policy documents which affect London and Londoners;
- Publishing London Forum Insights, a regular online newsletter which informs members and provides a platform for their views;
- Organising open meetings on topics of importance to members, addressed by leading guest speakers;
- Informing members about legislation and policy developments via our website, email and Twitter.

The Forum aims to:

- Influence planning policy;
- Give local issues a bigger voice;
- Provide expert information;
- Give members a London-wide perspective;
- Play a proactive role with Government, the Mayor and GLA Assembly Committees.

Priority concerns include:

- Safeguarding heritage assets;
- Suburban housing densification;
- Protection of green spaces;
- Resisting tall buildings in the wrong places.

Activities in 2023/24

Policy change responses:

- Introduction of a use class for short-term lets
- High Street rental auctions
- Infrastructure levy
- GLA affordable housing and viability testing
- Compulsory purchase compensation reforms
- Freight and logistics in the planning system
- DLUHC implementation of plan making reforms
- DLUHC permitted development rights.
- DLUHC street votes and development orders
- Historic almshouses
- Industrial land uses
- Changes to various permitted development rights
- Strengthening the planning process for brownfield development
- Accelerated planning system.
- GLA new London Plan consultation meetings

Open Meetings:

- Small Sites and a Design-Led Approach.
- Is Building on the Green Belt Inevitable?
- The Thames

Membership

Full membership is open to amenity and civic societies within Greater London. Full members have voting rights to nominate and elect trustees to the London Forum Executive Committee, and to decide the direction of its policies and activities. Individuals who support the Forum's goals are welcome to apply for individual membership.

The London Forum welcomes enquiries from organisations (including businesses) that share our goals but are not eligible for full membership, and would like to explore an Associate relationship with us.

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