



Application for re-designation of the Maida Hill Neighbourhood Forum (MHNF)

Supplementary information

Purpose of the MHNF

The Maida Hill neighbourhood area was designated on 10 January 2014 and the MHNF (or the Forum) was designated on 07 September 2015.

The MHNF was established to promote and improve the social, cultural, economic, environmental health and well-being of the Maida Hill area and its residents, workers, businesses and volunteers. The focus of the Forum is on the following priorities:

- Preparation of Maida Hill Neighbourhood Plan (MHNP) for the designated area, under the provisions of the Localism Act (2011)
- Commenting selectively on significant planning applications relating to the MHNF area
- Commenting on emerging planning (and other relevant) local, regional and national policies that could affect the MHNF area
- Seeking to ensure that the neighbourhood portion of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and other planning obligation monies where possible, are utilised in line with the results of community engagements and, once prepared, of the MHNP
- Monitoring the application of policies in the MHNP to ensure they have been applied consistently and interpreted correctly in response to planning applications
- Reporting annually or biennially on outcomes
- Reviewing the policies and updating the MHNP from time to time, subject to resources
- Bringing the MHNP and neighbourhood planning to 'life'.

The Forum has been engaging with the wider community since 2015 and began drafting its MHNP in 2018. The work on the MHNP slowed down in 2019-2020 due to the ongoing Westminster City Plan refresh, to avoid any abortive work related to the City Plan strategic policies that MHNP must comply with.

MHNF's activities to date

Since its designation, MHNF has carried out the following activities:

1. held regular AGMs and Committee meetings
2. organised several community engagement sessions including walkabouts, planning workshops, interactive ideas gathering and design workshops, gathering views regarding neighbourhood plan policies and priorities
3. started drafted MHNP policies
4. with Westbourne Neighbourhood Forum and Queen's Park Community Council set up the Harrow Road Community Steering Group and took part in several meetings and workshops related to Harrow Road Place Plan, resulting in extensive proposals for areas of interest to all three communities (eg Maida Hill market square, Harrow Road shopping area, Woodfield Road development area)
5. engaged with Westminster City Council's Placeshaping, Economic Development and Planning teams over various issues related to Harrow Road Place Plan, planning

- policies, planning applications, support for local businesses, applications for project funding etc relevant for the MHNF area
6. engaged with local businesses and landowners (including housing associations with properties in the area) over issues related to the operation of Maida Hill market and shops in Harrow Road; design of Maida Hill square and shopfronts overlooking the square
 7. engaged with Walerton & Elgin Community Homes (WECH) over the design of a new public space in Harrow Road (part of WECH estate)
 8. engaged with Paddington Arts and London Taxi Drivers Association over proposed regeneration of the Woodfield Road area
 9. engaged extensively with Kindred Studios arts collective over meanwhile use of Westminster College properties in Saltram Crescent and potential community uses on the site; also in relation to the proposed redevelopment of the site
 10. successfully applied for the designation of the Westminster College site in Saltram Crescent as Asset of Community Value
 11. set up a Community Interest Company (CIC) with the aim of implementing projects resulting from community engagement by MHNF and its neighbourhood planning work
 12. engaged with scheme promoters and commented selectively on significant planning applications submitted to Westminster City Council within and adjacent to the MHNF area, including Hathaway House and The Collective proposals in Woodfield Road, residential developments in Harrow Road, proposed change of use of The Chippenham and The Squirrel pubs and shopping parade in Elgin Avenue etc
 13. took part in the judging panel for the New London Architecture's meanwhile use project for a location along Grand Union Canal
 14. took part in meetings of Westminster's "Forum of (Neighbourhood) Forums" to discuss the mechanism for applying for CIL, joint responses to policy consultations, general progress and issues related to preparation of neighbourhood plans etc
 15. submitted representations on the emerging Westminster City Plan – both the informal consultation draft (November 2018) and the Regulation 19 Publication Draft (June 2019) and took part in the Examination in Public (October 2020)
 16. promoted neighbourhood planning widely within and outside the MHNF area and took part in meetings of Neighbourhood Planners London network
 17. set up and refreshed the MHNF web site (www.maidahillforum.org.uk)
 18. established the MHNF Twitter page ([@maidahillforum](https://twitter.com/maidahillforum)) and posted regular planning and community related updates and information; contributed to the Harrow Road Facebook page.

Intended future activities of the MHNF

Over the next five year period, MHNF intends to pursue the following aims:

- a. conclude its work on the MHNP in light of the final adopted Westminster City Plan, the new London Plan and the outcome of the proposed changes to the planning system in England (Planning White Paper 2020) and oversee the conclusion of the independent examination, any necessary changes and the preparation for the referendum
- b. continue to monitor and selectively respond to consultations on planning applications within and adjacent to the MHNF area
- c. continue the work on identifying priorities for CIL in the area and prepare applications to Westminster City Council for CIL funded projects
- d. continue to monitor changes to the London Plan and Westminster City Plan as necessary, and respond to consultations subject to resources

- e. continue to engage with other neighbourhood forums in Westminster via the “Forum of Forums” primarily over planning policy, community empowerment and funding matters
- f. continue to maintain MHNF online communication channels, to be the first port of call for planning, placemaking, development and community wellbeing related matters relevant for the area
- g. continue to assess its Articles of Association and where deemed desirable, modify them to ensure that they are appropriate
- h. subject to successful completion of the MHNP:
 - monitor its implementation through the development control process
 - monitor its compliance with Westminster City Plan, London Plan and relevant national policies and legislation
 - report annually or biennially on application of the MHNP, both to the members of the Forum and, as appropriate, the residents, businesses and institutions in the MHNF area
 - continue to engage constructively with the residents, businesses and institutions in the area over the matters covered by the MHNP.

Prepared by Biljana Savic, for and on behalf of MHNF Committee
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