

HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM LOCAL AGENDA 21 FORUM

ANNUAL REPORT 2003-2004

The Forum has met regularly to address issues of importance to quality of life and sustainable living in the Borough. We have also taken an active part in putting some of these aspirations into practice. This year, the issues and activities included the following:

Biodiversity

The year has seen significant developments in promoting local biodiversity. The Forum was the lead community partner in developing the Council's Biodiversity Strategy, endorsed by the Environment & Regeneration Scrutiny Panel in February 2004, which will provide a valuable reference for supplementary planning guidance as well as enabling targeted activity in the voluntary sector. We have also funded a superb full colour leaflet to publicise and raise awareness of wildlife in the Borough, designed by Jane Knight of Friends of the Earth. Wormwood Scrubs Local Nature Reserve was officially launched in summer 2003 and was the site of the Forum's meeting in September. We have also successfully collaborated with Network Rail and various partners to secure the West Brompton lineside as a nature area and will be responsible for implementing the site management plan during the coming year(s).

Transport & Air Quality

In Town Without My Car Day: The Forum was involved with Council officers in planning this event in September. Despite excellent organisation, the weather conspired against us!! Nevertheless, excellent relationships were formed and will benefit the same event in 2004. *West London Green Festival:* Our member, John Griffiths, representing H&F Cyclists, organised the first festival in summer 2003, giving widespread publicity to cycling, sustainable energy, and other "green" issues, and this event will be repeated in 2004. *Air Quality:* We also made submissions prior to publication of the Council's Air Quality Strategy during the year.

Waste Management/Recycling

The Forum welcomed the introduction of the SmartSack kerbside collection scheme across the Borough, which has increased domestic recycling rates from 8% to 21%. However, we continue to press for improved facilities for recycling and waste reduction in housing estates and mansion blocks, both via our meetings and by our input as a co-optee on the Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Panel. In addition, we are currently involved in the design, co-funding and distribution of local Recycling Guides to promote recycled goods, waste reduction, composting, and recycling.

Fair Trade

We continue to support efforts to raise awareness of the links between local actions and worldwide equity in trade and development. In particular, members participated in Fairtrade Fortnight and One World Week and have lobbied the Council to promote fair trade across the Borough with the aim of gaining "Fairtrade Town" status. This was also a chosen project for the Children's Parliament, organised by the Urban Studies Centre.

LA21 Web Site and Publicity

The Forum's website at www.hfla21.org.uk is directly linked to the Council's central website and has links with other related organisations. It aims to promote sustainability in the Borough as well as provide relevant information. Local Agenda 21 priorities continue to be developed by partnerships with local voluntary organisations and individuals, our presence at Borough festivals, and by the use of Hammersmith Information Centre. An advert for the Forum was also placed in the healthcare magazine distributed to all hospitals and GP surgeries in the area with the aim of generating new active members.

Matt Dunckley, *Chair*
February 2004

David Wardrop, *Hon Secretary*