

# HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM

## LOCAL AGENDA 21 FORUM

*The Borough's independent platform, taking initiatives today to improve our Quality of Life in the 21st Century*

### ANNUAL REPORT, 1997-98

*The aim of Local Agenda 21 is to take into the local community the international Agenda 21 process, agreed at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (the Earth Summit) held in 1992. The Local Agenda 21 process is endorsed by all political parties. In our borough, we have sought for the community as critical a role as possible in choosing the path we take towards a more sustainable lifestyle, and for it to feel committed enough to ensure that the quality of life of future generations is not lessened as a result of decisions we take today. We recognise that we must earn the trust of the community, as a credible forum for debate and decision-making. To this end, our meetings are not prescriptive in their format. We identify areas of society's activity using performance indicators which can measure our progress towards commonly-held goals.*

#### OUR PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES DURING THE YEAR

##### *Information dissemination*

**Newsletter** The Forum reviewed alternative strategies; it could 'piggy-back' *Streetlife* or a local paper if it set out to reach the majority of the population, or it could target those it saw as the 'multipliers' in the community. A questionnaire was circulated leading to 25 responses. A quarterly journal was preferred, distributed free. Respondents felt they could best contribute on the following subjects (in order): the Environment; Social Issues; Health; Employment; the Elderly; and the Disabled. A dozen other subjects were raised. Accordingly, a submission for an 8-page, quarterly community newsletter in tabloid form, with a 10,000 circulation was prepared for a *National Grid Community 21 Award*. This submission failed but the Forum is still keen to pursue the proposal.

**Community Video** The Forum's submission for funding from the *National Lotteries Charitable Board* was refused. We joined a seminar convened by the Council and were pleased to note that, from this Autumn, the shortcomings in unsuccessful submissions will be indicated.

**Development Information Centre** The Forum now meets in the Centre, in the Hammersmith Broadway shopping centre. We are very grateful to the *Hammersmith Community Trust* for providing a display board. This will feature our activities and ask for ideas and new initiatives.

**The WorldWideWeb** The Forum has set about building a website, to link with the council's site and also that of the *London 21 Sustainability Network*.

**London 21** The Forum is represented by two members on the board of this city-wide initiative, one serving as a trustee. It links our activities with those in other boroughs.

### *Setting standards to aim for*

#### **Performance Indicators**

**Recycling** Against an ever-changing scene, it has been difficult during the year to set baseline performances which can be used in future years. The Forum hopes to settle these shortly.

**Transport** Initial indicators, monitoring the timekeeping of several London bus routes, are now being monitored.

**Health** A set of indicators has now been established, using information supplied by the West London Health Promotion Agency

**Employment** A set of indicators has now been established, using information supplied by Borough.

**Social Change** The Forum has presented to HAFAD a menu of possible indicators and awaits the opportunity for further discussion.

### *Offering a platform*

**DON'T CHOKE LONDON** The Forum worked closely with the Council and others to raise awareness of the *Don't Choke London* week. It co-operated with the *World Development Movement* on the Fair Trade stand. The Forum intends to participate in the consultation exercise on Controlled Parking Zones.

**Community Arts** We were introduced to the radical ideas of this local organisation, and introduced them to the Masbro' Centre and the Watermans Arts Centre.

**Healthy Living Centres** The Forum supports the Council's bid for National Lottery funding for a Centre in the north of the Borough. This would fulfil many of the Forum's objectives, being grounded in the view that good health is easiest achieved by locally-based sustainable development initiatives such as Food Co-ops and Credit Unions. We have stressed the need for local people to be actively involved in the design of a Centre so that it caters for their needs and preferences. The Forum anticipates being represented in local groups, as the proposal progresses.

### *Listening to opinion*

**River Thames** The Forum is setting up a group, liaising with the *London River Group*. We wish to maintain links between riverside groups and those living in other parts of the borough.

**Education in Citizenship** The Forum supports moves towards the introduction of education in citizenship, and life-long learning, as a key part of sustainable development. The *Crick Report* was discussed at length and the Forum will support initiatives to develop citizenship through education, particularly those involving children. We plan to meet educationalists and school governors in the Borough, to explore how the report's recommendations can be realised throughout the Borough, and to link this with the Forum's action programme.

### *Assisting the borough in reaching target groups*

**The new Unified Development Plan (UDP)** The Forum hopes to participate in the drawing up of this document.

**Warm Homes Campaign** The Borough presented its proposals for reaching elderly isolated people. The Forum offered several ideas how this could be done cost-effectively.

**White City SRB Bid** The Forum discussed the Bid with Borough officials. We stressed the importance of liaising with known representatives of sectors of the community involved with the necessary performance monitoring, especially the CRE and HAFAD. We also urged the strengthening of proposed training programmes as these would assist in attaining our economic performance indicators.

### *Collecting information*

**The Chelsfield development** The Forum, represented by its Transport Group, met the developer's representatives. We observed that we saw little evidence of a roads strategy or concept of a bus lane in Wood Lane and few signs of thorough research into traffic movements. The developers seemed unaware of the proposed light rail development along Uxbridge Road. We are maintaining close surveillance on this development as also, we understand, is the Council. Upon the presentation of the revised plan, we will seek to determine local reaction.

**Liaison with adjacent LA21 groups** The Forum has set about strengthening links with nearby Local Agenda 21 groups. All are different, with differing priorities.

**OPPORTUNITIES FOR CHANGE**, the government's consultation document The Forum submitted observations which, *inter alia*, addressed the need to reduce waste at source, especially packaging, and the need for better labelling. We stressed the importance of social accounting and support for new initiatives in education, especially in development issues, and also those aiming to increase public understanding of biodiversity.

### *Officers and Committee*

**Chair:** David Wardrop

**Hon Secretary:** Sue Ingham

**Hon Treasurer:** Arnondo Chakrabati

**Business:** vacant

**Young People:** Ieuan Rhys-Davies, *Urban Studies Centre*

**Employees:** Pete Turner/Oliver Donohue, *Hammersmith & Fulham Trades Council*

**Faith Groups:** Sumita Sinha

**Health:** *West London Health Promotion Agency*

**Ethnic and minority**

**communities:** Gerald Coogan, *Council for Racial Equality*

**Owner occupiers:** vacant

**People with disabilities:** *Hammersmith & Fulham Action for Disability*

**Tenants:** *Hammersmith & Fulham Tenants and Residents Association*

**Transport:** Anthony Lambert, *SUSTRANS*

**Women:** Paula Smith, *Womens Communications Centre*

**Council:** Cllr Gerald Johnson, *LB Hammersmith & Fulham*

**Individual members:** David Scott, Dido Berkeley, Emma Thornbury,  
Gabby Rowberry and Dorris Onogwa

**Local organisations (invited):**

*Groundwork West London, Friends of the Earth London Wildlife Trust  
and the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers.*