

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 1999-2000

The Forum meets regularly and addresses issues of importance to the quality of life in the Borough that relate to Agenda 21. We continue to invite specialists from various fields to advise and inform it on relevant matters. During the year, issues addressed included the following:

Newsletter & LA21 Web Site

The Forum's newsletter, HAF21 News, has now commenced publication with 2 issues during the year. It has been distributed to organisations and individuals interested in issues covered by Agenda 21 priorities, public libraries and the Hammersmith Information Centre. The Forum has launched a website at www.haf21.org.uk and www.hfla21.org.uk containing information on Agenda 21 with a particular focus on initiatives in the Borough and contact details for the Forum. It has several links with other related organisations and will shortly be hosted by the Council's web site.

Other Publicity

The Forum has contributed to the following publications: *HAFAD News*, *HFM Magazine*, *The Pensioner*, *Hammersmith & Shepherds Bush Gazette* and the in-house magazine of the Hammersmith Hospitals group (to be published in 2001). Louanne Tranchell, a member of the Forum, continues to display information in the Information Centre introducing the Forum and its work and publicising Agenda 21 activity in the Borough.

Fair Trade Fortnight

The Forum supported local efforts to raise awareness in the Borough of the links between local sustainable development and international equity in trade and development issues. This year's focus was "As if people and the earth matter".

***Your Borough, Your Future* Conference**

We worked closely with the Borough's officers in preparing for this major event at Fulham Palace in July, working closely in its conception with the Urban Studies Centre, Groundwork West London and the BBC. The event has been fully reported already elsewhere. We assessed the outcome of this event and agreed to organise a follow-on event entitled *Our Borough, Our Future* (see below).

Hammersmith & Fulham LA21 Video

The Forum commissioned and funded a video of *Your Borough, Your Future* which was produced by Whatever Pictures. This will now be a valuable aid for Forum publicity and activity.

***Our Borough, Our Future*, follow-up evening meeting**

The Forum organised an evening meeting at the Irish Centre in October to follow up issues raised by *Your Borough Your Future*. The Council's report, the video and the Forum web site were all presented and discussion groups led to the formation of Topic Groups on: The River Thames, Waste Management, and Transport & Air Quality. These groups were charged to develop action plans during the coming year.

Thames Landscape Strategy, Kew-Chelsea section

The Forum has, over the years, pursued the issue of the protection of the Thames foreshore in the Borough. Since 1997, it pressed for strong local support for a strategic plan for the river. This year, the Forum has participated fully with WS Atkins which has been commissioned to ascertain public priorities for the River Thames and its environs. We have shared our concerns at the (initial) lack of clarity in the programme's flexible strategy. The Forum was represented also at the GLA- convened meeting on Thames Community Involvement. Members of the Forum also participated in the annual *Riverwalk Clean-up* organised by Thames 21.

Recycling indicators

The Forum previously entered into correspondence with Rod Brown, the Borough's Principal Officer, Environment Programmes, concerning various methods by which useful indicators could be determined. Using the consultation document titled *Waste Minimalisation & Recycling-in the Community* as a guide, it selected the following three indicators as the best to reflect the aims of the Forum as outlined in earlier meetings:

- 1] amount of household waste recycled
- 2] housing estates and mansion blocks with collection of recyclables or *bring sites*
- 3] businesses with Council recycling bins

However, we have yet to agree on an indicator that will remain constant in the medium term. Members of the Forum have attended each meeting of the Borough's Environment & Regeneration Scrutiny Panel onto which the Forum has now been formally co-opted. The Forum has also assisted Cyckik in its successful move to establish a cycle recycling service for the community.

New Indicators: pedestrians

The Forum has strengthened links with the Pedestrians Association, Groundwork West London, the DETR and other bodies with the intention of assembling data on potential performance indicators to measure the Borough's performance on this activity. This interacts with the Borough's *Safe Routes to Schools* programme.

Mapping Exercise

The Forum has now received a summary report of the pilot Mapping Exercise it commissioned jointly with Groundwork West London. The exercise covered Conningham Ward. Upon formal publication of the report, the Forum will consider what moves should follow.

Healthy Living Centres

The Forum maintained close contact with the Borough and, through Cathy Maund, with the Hammersmith Community Gardens Association on this issue. The Borough's bid for a grant has passed the first round. Together with others, we await news on the success on the application for grant support for further work.

Citizens Panel & Youth Conference

The Forum acted as an expert witness on local sustainability and environment issues to the Panel and was represented at the Youth Conference at the Town Hall in October.

London 21

The Forum maintains close contact with the newly-established company, London 21 and participated in the launch of its publication *London-Pathways to the Future*.

Quality of Life - Indicators for those with disabilities

Draft proposals to assist HAFAD assess its members' priorities have been drawn up and shared with the Director of HAFAD. We hope to strengthen links with HAFAD over the coming year.

Matt Dunckley, *Chair* David Wardrop, *Hon Secretary* *November 2000*