

# Queen's Park Community Council

## Annual report

2017-2018



## Contents

- 1 Word from the Chair
- 2 Summary of activities
- 3 Community Council elections, May 2018
- 4 Queen's Park Community Councillors: 2018-2022
- 5 How the council operates
- 5 In the coming year...
- 6 Finance: summary receipts and payments for the year ended 31 March 2018
- 7 Councillor attendance 2017-2018
- 7 Message from the incoming Chair
- 8 About Queen's Park Community Council

## Word from the Chair

The past year has been a hugely significant one in the short life of Queen's Park Community Council: we have reached the end of our first four-year term of office. This has also been our first full year with two members of staff: chief officer Kevin Harris and community officer Lindsey Brown both joined us in spring 2017 and have immeasurably improved the service we offer to you, Queen's Park's residents.

The community council year has a rhythm in part dictated by our calendar of free, local events: our summer festival in August, the fireworks on November 5, and our winter fair in December. All these are held in Queen's Park Gardens: they are part of who we are as a council.

The other main event of the past year was May's local elections, when the 12 seats on the community council became vacant. Some existing councillors were nominated, others stood down, while some new people stepped forward. The rule for community/ parish councils is that only if there are more candidates than seats, is there an election - and of the four zones in Queen's Park, only one was contested this time. We now have a council composed of five new councillors, and six who also served in 2014-18. I would like to thank Philip Andokou, Katie Cowan, Julius Hogben, Nasima Khan, Emma Morgan and Angela Singhate - who served in our first term but are no longer councillors. We have one vacancy which we hope soon to fill.

As well as the projects above, we put together and delivered four issues of the Queen's Park *Voice* - our newsletter - as well as an election special.

Work on our Neighbourhood Plan is, finally, almost complete. We awarded grants to a number of local organisations, and made the second of three bigger contributions to the Avenues Youth Centre - which we believe to be a vital local resource and hope will soon be on a firmer financial footing. In March the planting of the community orchard in Queen's Park Gardens was the latest improvement to our local park. With the wildlife area now open every day, instead of locked, the playground well used, regular children's sports activities on the games area, and a new fence provided by Westminster City Council, we believe the enhancement of the park is among the major successes of the community council's first four years.

On the downside, we are really sorry that the Jubilee sports centre is due to close next month, as the site is redeveloped for housing. While I am looking forward to the opening of the new, enlarged Moberly centre, I regret that the community council was unable to prevent the loss of a hugely valued local asset.

We are keen to engage with more residents, and invite suggestions and contributions of all kinds. Please get in touch and let us know what you want from us - and how you would like to be involved.

At this month's annual meeting Gill Fitzhugh was elected chair - so this is my last "word from the chair". I am full of hope for the future of Queen's Park Community Council - still the only parish council in London. Onwards and upwards.

**CLlr Susanna Rustin**

## Summary of activities

### Environment & Open Spaces

Our park management contract with Hammersmith Community Gardens Association has continued to bring benefits including support for volunteers and the development of the Community Orchard in Queen's Park Gardens. Through design support from Willmott Dixon we have developed plans for the Hut in the gardens and these will be used in funding applications to carry out the work.

### Neighbourhood Plan

The Queen's Park Neighbourhood Plan has been submitted to Westminster City Council and we await their decision. It contains a number of proposed developments that could transform parts of the area.

### Events

Throughout 2017, QPPC successfully organised another set of landmark events on the Queen's Park calendar, including the Summer Festival, the Fireworks display and the Winter Fair. We are enormously grateful to the Westminster Ward Councillors for their support for all of these events; to estate agents Douglas and Gordon who sponsored the fireworks night; and all of the residents and organisations who donate their time and energy to making these events such a huge success.



### Queen's Park Voice

A review of the design process for the Voice led to a refresh of the content and layout, with some new features including recipes, Newsflash, the Tea Break interview, and our columnist Joe Gordon's rebranded Memory Lane column devoted to local history. New contributors have included David Philip, Anthony Graham and Jill Forgham. We're always keen to hear from anyone with ideas of new content for the Voice - one of our ambitions for the year ahead is to work with our local primary schools.

### Grants and donations

Community Grants were awarded to the following organisations: All Nations Drop-In; Creative Futures; Friends of Queen's Park Gardens; Munro Health; and Musicus CIC. The grants fund was underspent in 2017-2018 as we begin a complete review of the forms and conditions (the underspend has been carried forward to 2018-2019). In 2017-2018 council agreed a new 'Pop Up Fund' to distribute small amounts of funding with minimum administrative requirements. For the third successive year, council voted to donate £20,000 towards the running of the Avenues Youth Project.

### Website

We have contracted with a web design company for a complete re-design of the Queen's Park Community Council website, which will come online in the summer of 2018.

## Community Council elections, May 2018

Local elections were held in Queen's Park on 3 May 2018, when residents voted both for Queen's Park Community Council and for Westminster City Council. The two tiers of government deal with different things - e.g. street cleaning and housing (Westminster City Council), and resident-led neighbourhood planning, events and local projects and initiatives (Queen's Park Community Council). Elections are held every four years and this was only the second time that elections have been held for Queen's Park Community Council which was set up following a referendum in 2012. The first were in 2014 and there are 12 community councillor positions each time.

Thirteen nominations were received from residents wanting to stand as community councillors. All these were non-party so the candidates stood as independents. The community council is based on the Westminster City Council polling district boundaries. For the community council elections, the ward is then divided into four zones, QPA, QPB, QPC, QPD with three community councillors to be elected in each of the four community council zones. If three or fewer persons were nominated to stand in any of the zones then a community council poll does not take place in these zones and the persons who are nominated will serve on the community council.

In zones A and D, three nominations were received, and in zone B, two nominations were received. This means that all candidates in these zones were returned unopposed and there was not a community council poll in these zones. The community councillors in these zones are the following:

Zone A	Zone B	Zone D
Ryan Dalton Gill Fitzhugh Emma Sweeney	Ray Lancashire Susanna Rustin	Leslie Barson Orrel Lawrence John McArdle

In zone C, five nominations were received and as a consequence a community council poll was carried out. The successful candidates in the community poll were:

Zone C
Brian Nicholas Eartha Pond Stella Wilson

Because only two people put themselves forwards for Zone B, a vacancy arose and the council has begun the process of co-opting a new member.

The council will be carrying out an evaluative review of the entire elections process - from publicity, through the nominations procedure, officer time invested, spin-off benefits, and perceived impact. The study will be conducted in collaboration with the National Association of Local Councils (NALC). If you would like to contribute your views, please contact the Chief Officer, Kevin Harris.

## Queen's Park Community Councillors: 2018-2022



Gill Fitzhugh (Chair)  
gfitzhugh@queensparkcommunitycouncil.gov.uk



John McArdle (Vice Chair)  
jmcardle@queensparkcommunitycouncil.gov.uk



Ryan Dalton  
rdalton@queenspark  
communitycouncil.gov.uk



Stella Wilson  
swilson@queenspark  
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Orrel Lawrence  
olawrence@queenspark  
communitycouncil.gov.uk



Ray Lancashire  
rlancashire@queenspark  
communitycouncil.gov.uk



Leslie Barson  
lbarson@queenspark  
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Eartha Pond  
epond@queenspark  
communitycouncil.gov.uk



Susanna Rustin  
srustin@queenspark  
communitycouncil.gov.uk



Brian Nicholas  
bnicholas@queensparkcommunitycouncil.gov.uk



Emma Sweeney  
esweeney@queenspark  
communitycouncil.gov.uk

## How the council operates

**Council meetings and working groups** - QPCC consists of 12 councillors, who are local residents and offer their time voluntarily. There are ten full council meetings each year (these take place every month except August and December). Members of the public are fully entitled to attend council meetings and encouraged to do so. Council currently operates with two committees and a number of working groups and. There are committees for Human Resources and for Appeals. At present the working groups are as follows: Air Quality; Environment & Open Spaces; Events; Forward Planning; Grants; Planning; Public and Community Arts; The Voice. Members of the public are invited to contribute to the Working Groups: if you are interested in serving on any of them, please contact the Chief Officer.

**Staff** – the council employs two part-time staff, a Chief Officer and Community Development Officer.



## In the coming year...

**Partnership, collaboration and volunteering** – the council intends to develop and maintain partnerships with all relevant agencies such as community groups, schools, police, Westminster City Council, ward councillors, the ward panel, housing providers etc; and to strengthen and extend our involvement with volunteers who contribute to the council's priorities and projects, supporting and rewarding them as appropriate.

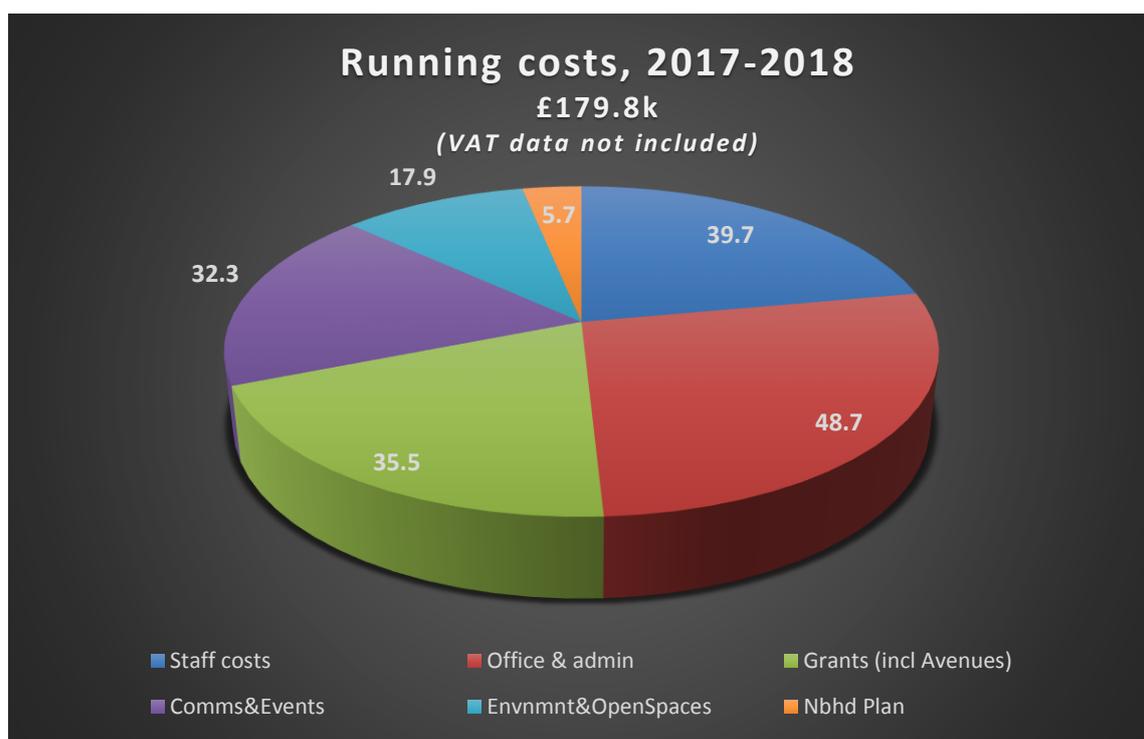
**Grants and fundraising** – the council will maintain and refine the existing Community Grants scheme and has recently initiated a mini-grants scheme. We will seek sponsorship and raise funds through bids to external funding sources, for specific projects as appropriate.

**Events** – the council will continue to organise and run the Queen's Park Summer Festival, Fireworks Night, and Winter Festival, and seek additional funding for them.

**Communications** – the council will complete the renewal of the council's website, and maintain it as an essential means of informing people about our work and activities. We will continue to communicate with residents and other agencies through *The Voice* newsletter, as well as through the website, social media, e-newsletter and press releases.

**Queens Park Community Council**  
**Summary Receipts and Payments for Year Ended 31st March 2018**

Last Year Ended 31st March 2017		Current Year Ended 31st March 2018
	<b>Receipts</b>	
145,151.15	Precept	155,184.00
<b>145,151.15</b>	Sub Total	<b>155,184.00</b>
	<b>Operating Income</b>	
0.00	Income	0.32
12,832.79	Communications and Events	16,503.56
29,882.06	Neighbourhood Planning	4,600.00
3,323.78	VAT DATA	5,435.83
<b>191,189.78</b>	Total Receipts	<b>181,723.71</b>
	<b>Payments</b>	
29,458.22	Grants	15,482.00
20,000.00	Donation - Avenues	20,000.00
<b>49,458.22</b>	Sub Total	<b>35,482.00</b>
	<b>Running Costs</b>	
42,840.91	Staff Costs	39,746.39
19,066.59	Administration	13,220.64
32,328.14	Communications and Events	32,232.57
16,321.67	Environment and Opens Spaces	17,880.00
11,462.18	Neighbourhood Planning	5,719.72
4,864.20	VAT DATA	4,179.44
<b>176,341.91</b>	Total Payments	<b>148,460.76</b>
	<b>Receipts and Payments Summary</b>	
78,671.72	Opening Balance	93,519.59
191,189.78	Add Total Receipts(As Above)	181,723.71
269,861.50		275,243.30
176,341.91	Less Total Payments(As Above)	148,460.76
<b>93,519.59</b>	Closing Balance	<b>126,782.54</b>



## Councillor attendance at council meetings 2017-2018

10 full council meetings were held between May 2017 and April 2018

<i>Councillor</i>	<i>Present</i>	<i>Apologies</i>
Philip Andokou	1	4
Leslie Barson (from Nov 2017 – 5 meetings)	5	-
Katie Cowan	10	-
Ryan Dalton	8	2
Joe Fernandes (until Sept 2017 – 4 meetings)	0	0
Gill Fitzhugh	10	-
Julius Hogben	1	2
Nasima Khanom (from Sep 2017 – 7 meetings)	5	0
Emma Morgan	2	7
Eartha Pond	5	2
Susanna Rustin	9	1
Angela Singhate	8	2
Emma Sweeney	7	3

### A note on changes to council

Two councillors were disqualified from QPCC during the period, for non-attendance. If a councillor neither attends a meeting of council for a period of six months, nor sends apologies which are accepted, they become disqualified for office. When vacancies arise, council has the power to co-opt someone else to take up the role. In September 2017, Cllr Nasima Khanom was co-opted to the council and in November 2017 Cllr Leslie Barson was co-opted.

### Message from the incoming Chair, Cllr Gill Fitzhugh

I am delighted to be Chair of QPCC at this the start of our second term in office.

We have a range of talents and specialisms amongst our councillors with experience of

- Q working with children, older people and people with disabilities
- Q employment and enterprise
- Q the environment and air pollution
- Q planning and parking
- Q events and communications.

They will be ably supported by Kevin Harris, our Chief Officer, and Lindsey Brown, our Community Development worker.

Please let us know what ideas you have, and please let us know if you would like to volunteer.

## About Queen's Park Community Council

QPCC is based at the Beethoven Centre, Third Avenue, London, W10 4JL.



**Our Chief Officer** Kevin Harris is usually in the office Tuesday-Thursday and can be contacted on 020 8960 5644 or by email to [chiefofficer@queensparkcommunitycouncil.gov.uk](mailto:chiefofficer@queensparkcommunitycouncil.gov.uk). The Chief Officer provides advice and administrative support, and takes action to implement council decisions. He is the Proper Officer of the council and the Responsible Finance Officer in law.

**Our Community Development Officer** Lindsey Brown is also usually in the office Tuesday to Thursday and can be contacted on the same telephone number or by email to [lindsey@queensparkcommunitycouncil.gov.uk](mailto:lindsey@queensparkcommunitycouncil.gov.uk).

**Our meetings** are held on Wednesday evenings at the Beethoven Centre. Council meetings start at 6pm. The agendas for meetings can be found in the notice board outside the Beethoven Centre usually from the Thursday before a meeting. They can also be found online at [www.queensparkcommunitycouncil.gov.uk](http://www.queensparkcommunitycouncil.gov.uk) where in addition you will find the minutes of meetings and lots of other useful information.

**Public Participation** is welcome at all meetings of the Council although certain exempt items may be held in private session. If you wish to attend a meeting, just turn up. There is always a 'public session' at council meetings and members of the public are welcome to give their views or comments. If you would like to raise an issue but are unsure how to go about it, do get in touch with the Chief Officer who will advise. The public are entitled by law to record meetings so long as it does not disturb the process of the meeting.

**Volunteers** are a key part of our team in Queen's Park, without them *The Voice* newsletter would not be produced and distributed; and our various events and festivals could not run. **THANK YOU** to all of you! All residents are invited to get involved and help make the council's work and activities successful – please contact our Community Development Officer in the first instance.

## Our Values ....

The Queen's Park Community Council has five core values:

- q Equality, fairness and social justice
- q Community collaboration and cooperation
- q Environmental sustainability
- q Civic, social, and economic empowerment
- q Council transparency and inclusion.