



Annual report

2018-2019



Word from the Chair

In May 2018, 11 residents were appointed as councillors, with a twelfth being co-opted in the following month. Six of the current council had served in our first 4-year term from 2014 (one of these being co-opted in 2017); the remaining six are new to the role.

We have strived to build on the work of that first term. Under our first Chair, Angela Singhate, our Grants Programme was established and since then we have given grants to various local organisations. Our second Chair, Susanna Rustin, drove the appointment of two valued members of staff, Kevin Harris and Lindsey Brown, who have now been with us for two years. When the Avenues Youth Project lost its funding and was under threat of closure we allocated a special annual grant of £20,000 for three years and have now renewed this for a further three years. We are pleased to be in a position to support the remarkable work that is carried out at The Avenues and to help sustain the centre as a resource for local people.

We have exciting plans for the next four years. We plan to move to a new office at 21 Dart Street. This will mean that the council is more accessible and identifiable. After frustrating delays, our plans to renovate the hut in Queen's Park Gardens, so that it can be used by community groups, should at last soon be realised. We have also made progress in a complete overhaul of our website, and this year will be investing time and effort in involving more people in volunteering for local community initiatives.

The Council operates through a number of working groups. Some of these have been working for many months, while a few are new and still finding their feet. Each has a range of experience and expertise to draw on, with aspirations and objectives that are overseen by the Council. We are proud to be in a position to address issues of social exclusion and engagement, the needs of children and young people, air quality and so on. I find it inspiring that a democratically elected group of independent local people – none of them representing a political party - can be the focus for identifying concerns and addressing the quality of life for all residents in Queen's Park.

Queen's Park Community Council is still the only parish council in London, and it's a rare honour to be part of this unique initiative.

Cllr Gill Fitzhugh

Chair of Queen's Park Community Council



Queen's Park Community Councillors: 2018-2022



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Summary of activities

Grants

The Community Council runs two funding schemes: the Community Grants Programme and the Pop-Up Fund. In 2018-2019 a total of £17,850 was disbursed through these channels. In addition, the council provided a special grant of £20,000 to The Avenues Youth Project.



The Community Grants Scheme

The QPCC Community Grants programme accepts applications ranging from £200 - £3,500 for projects, activities and one-off events that deliver demonstrable benefits to the residents of Queen's Park ward.

The primary interest is in locally-driven initiatives that empower the local groups which carry them out while also bringing benefits to residents.

The support of officers and councillors is available to help ensure that applications of sufficient quality are received.

Community Grants recipients 2018-2019

- All Stars Boxing Gym
- Open Age
- Wilberforce School
- Westminster Children's University
- Working With Men
- Zodiac Arts

The Pop-Up Fund was introduced in 2018-2019 and was designed as a comparatively low-administration process enabling us to support residents with small-scale project ideas such as street parties. The Fund provides up to £200 and can be accessed throughout the year.

Pop Up funding in 2018-2019 was provided for:

- Materials for an arts project
- Black History Month
- Kilravock Street party
- Resources for Friends of Queen's Park Gardens
- A workshop on knife crime for school children

Events

Our three annual events, which take place in Queen's Park Gardens, were once again hugely popular. The summer festival took place on 12th August, featuring lots of local performance talent across two stages. Elsewhere residents had the chance to participate in activities such as drama workshops, a tie-dye station, family multi-sports and massage, as well as the annual dog-show. The Over 50s party in St Jude's Hall attracted its largest ever crowd.

The fireworks returned with a bang on the 5th November to considerable acclaim. As the event continues to attract large numbers, the Community Council responds by taking on increased responsibility for security, including temporary closures of the surrounding roads. We are grateful to Douglas and Gordon Homes and Property for sponsoring this event for a second year, and to the Police and Westminster City Council for their continued support.

We are also grateful to Open Age and City West Homes who helped organise and run the ever-popular Christmas Party for older residents on 5th December. Residents enjoyed a number of activities including a 'selfie-station'.

Then on 12th December, The Rose Garden was transformed into a winter wonderland complete with festive donkey rides and an animal farm, Shetland ponies, goats, sheep and guinea pigs and a range of stalls. Eleanor Doherty and Rhumel John-Baptiste, the Queen's Park Choir and St Luke's Choir entertained us with some familiar tunes. On the same day, three residents organised the first *Express Yourself* event to celebrate art and music in Queen's Park. *Express Yourself* will be working with the Public and Community Arts working group to bring life and colour to our streets.

This year the council is recruiting an Events Co-ordinator on a contract basis to organise the events.

Queen's Park Voice

Three issues of *The Voice* have been produced over the past 12 months – in July 2018, October 2018 and January 2019. Printing costs have been reduced by switching to a different printer and the production process has been simplified by the addition to the team of a freelance designer, with delivery greatly helped by volunteers from the Good Gym. The working group now has six members. There are a number of new contributors, and we're always keen to hear from any residents who are interested in contributing or have any comments or suggestions – please contact Lindsey Brown. The next issue will be delivered in June 2019.

Website

The Council's new website is now available at www.queensparkcommunitycouncil.gov.uk

Environment and open spaces

Our park management contract with Hammersmith Community Gardens Association has continued to bring benefits including completion and maintenance of the Community Orchard in Queen's Park Gardens. Final permission for the development of the hut in Queen's Park Gardens is expected soon. Permanent planning for the cycle shelter on Ilbert Street has been confirmed and another is to be added. The importance of our dog strategy and the continuing valued work of Canine Culture was accentuated by a near-tragic incident involving a dog off-lead in Queen's Park Gardens in summer 2018. The Community Council responded quickly in several ways, calling a public meeting, increasing the number of dog patrols, and displaying drawings by school children emphasising the importance of their play space.

Air quality

Air quality in Queen's Park is a major concern for the Council. In December 2018 we carried out our second study measuring pollution levels at various points around the ward. Levels of NO2 concentration were markedly lower than in our previous study (June 2017). However, this could be attributed in large part to the time of year, and the weather was damp during the study month.

The Council will continue to monitor and campaign on this important issue. We will carry out another summer study in June 2019. We are also developing our anti-idling campaign in collaboration with Westminster City Council and will be organising events on the Harrow Road with the Air Quality marshals continuing Westminster's *#DontBeldle* campaign.

Planning

The Council's Planning Working Group considers planning applications within the ward and recommends responses for the Community Council to submit to Westminster City Council. Two experienced residents volunteer in this ongoing effort, together with two councillors. Between April 2018 and March 2019, responses were submitted to some 59 applications. Where the Community Council has raised objections, these may often have been of critical importance in halting unacceptable development, especially where no other responses have been submitted. During the past year the group also drafted the Community Council's response to WCC's City Plan.

Neighbourhood plan

Westminster City Council is currently finalising their new City Plan and the Queen's Park Neighbourhood Plan cannot be submitted until that process is complete. The Neighbourhood Plan will then face an examination: if it passes the examination it will be the subject of a referendum for residents of Queen's Park. The Council will keep residents informed through the usual channels.

Other working groups

The **Public and Community Arts** working group collaborates closely with the *Express Yourself* arts group. A public meeting and a walkabout was held in Spring 2019 to identify local spaces that could be improved through arts. The next meeting will explore ways to take the ideas forward.

A new working group has been established to develop work with **children and young people**. The group will maintain open channels of communication with all organisations working with children and young people in Queen's Park; monitor the provision of activities and training opportunities in the area; identify gaps; and seek to have them filled.

Two other new groups, on **social inclusion** and **community engagement**, will be starting work in the summer of 2019. The Social Inclusion group will identify and seek to address any gaps in support for older people, people on low incomes, people with disabilities, people with mental health difficulties, and other groups at risk of exclusion. The Community Engagement group will establish and maintain various open channels of communication with residents to encourage comments and contributions, and as a platform for consultation. It will be proactive in seeking information through various methods such as surveys and coffee mornings.

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 usually 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. There are committees for Human Resources and for Appeals. At present the working groups are as follows: Air Quality; Children and Young People; Community Engagement; Environment & Open Spaces; Events; Forward Planning; Grants; Planning; Public and Community Arts; Social Inclusion; 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. We also employ part-time workers for admin and finance support work.

In the coming year...

Volunteering, partnership and collaboration – the council has strong partnership relations with numerous relevant agencies including community groups, schools, police, Westminster City Council, ward councillors, the ward panel, and housing providers. We have begun developing our involvement with volunteers who contribute to the council's priorities and projects, and are developing a programme to support and reward them as appropriate.

Grants and fundraising – the council will maintain the existing Community Grants scheme and Pop Up Fund. We have committed a total of £25,000 to The Avenues Youth Project for 2019-2020. 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. We are recruiting an Events Co-ordinator to manage the organisation of all three events.

Communications – the council's website will be developed and maintained 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.

Office re-location – we will work to ensure that the transition to new premises is as smooth and inexpensive as possible, and that an appropriate environment is provided for staff, councillors and visiting residents.

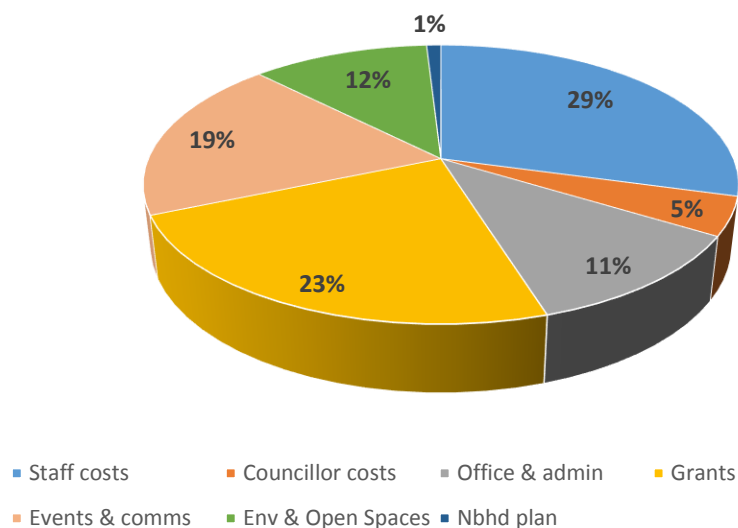
Queens Park Community Council

Summary Receipts and Payments for Year Ended 11 April 2019

Last Year Ended 31st March 2018		Current Year Ended 11 April 2019
Operating Income		
155,184.32	Income	159,899.42
18,503.56	Communications and Events	16,100.86
4,600.00	Neighbourhood planning	0.00
5,435.83	VAT data	4,545.17
181,723.71	Total Receipts	180,545.45
Running Costs		
39,746.39	Staff costs	47,261.54
48,702.64	Administration	63,568.95
32,232.57	Communications and Events	30,571.83
17,880.00	Environment and open spaces	18,608.20
5,719.72	Neighbourhood planning	1,480.00
4,179.44	VAT data	4,510.21
148,460.76	Total Payments	166,000.73
Receipts and Payments Summary		
93,519.59	Opening Balance	126,782.54
181,723.71	Add Total Receipts(As Above)	180,545.45
275,243.30		307,327.99
148,460.76	Less Total Payments(As Above)	166,000.73
126,782.54	Closing Balance	141,327.26

Council expenditure 2018-2019

£161.6k
(VAT data not included)



Councillor attendance at council meetings 2018-2019

Eleven full council meetings were held between May 2018 and April 2019.

<i>Councillor</i>	<i>Present</i>	<i>Apologies</i>
Alfrena Barbé (from June 2018 – 9 meetings)	3	1
Leslie Barson	5	5
Ryan Dalton	8	2
Gill Fitzhugh	10	1
Ray Lancashire	11	-
Orrel Lawrence	11	-
John McArdle	9	2
Brian Nicholas	9	0
Eartha Pond	8	1
Susanna Rustin	10	0
Emma Sweeney	9	1
Stella Wilson	8	1

A note on the value of councillors' time



Councillors give their time freely, and this includes correspondence and reading associated with their role. The table above shows that there were in total 101 individual attendances at full council meetings, which usually last two hours. Allowing a notional hour on average for preparing for the meeting and taking actions (*e.g.* email correspondence) as a consequence of the meeting, this indicates that in 2018-2019 councillors contributed approximately 303 hours of voluntary time directly associated with council meetings. Ascribing a value of, say £15 per hour for that time produces a total value of £4,545. In addition, councillors typically serve on two or more working groups or committees and contribute to the successful running of our events and other activities, so a realistic figure for the value of their time would be considerably higher.

About Queen's Park Community Council

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



Our Chief Officer Kevin Harris can be contacted on 020 8960 5644 or by email to 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 can be contacted on the same telephone number, on 07776 683760 or by email to lindsey@queensparkcommunitycouncil.gov.uk.

Our meetings are held on Wednesday evenings and will take place at the Beethoven Centre until further notice. Council meetings start at 6pm. The agendas for meetings can be found on 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 where in addition you will find the minutes of meetings and 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

Queen's Park Community Council has five core values:

- Q Equality, fairness and social justice
- Q Community collaboration and co-operation
- Q Environmental sustainability
- Q Civic, social, and economic empowerment
- Q Council transparency and inclusion.