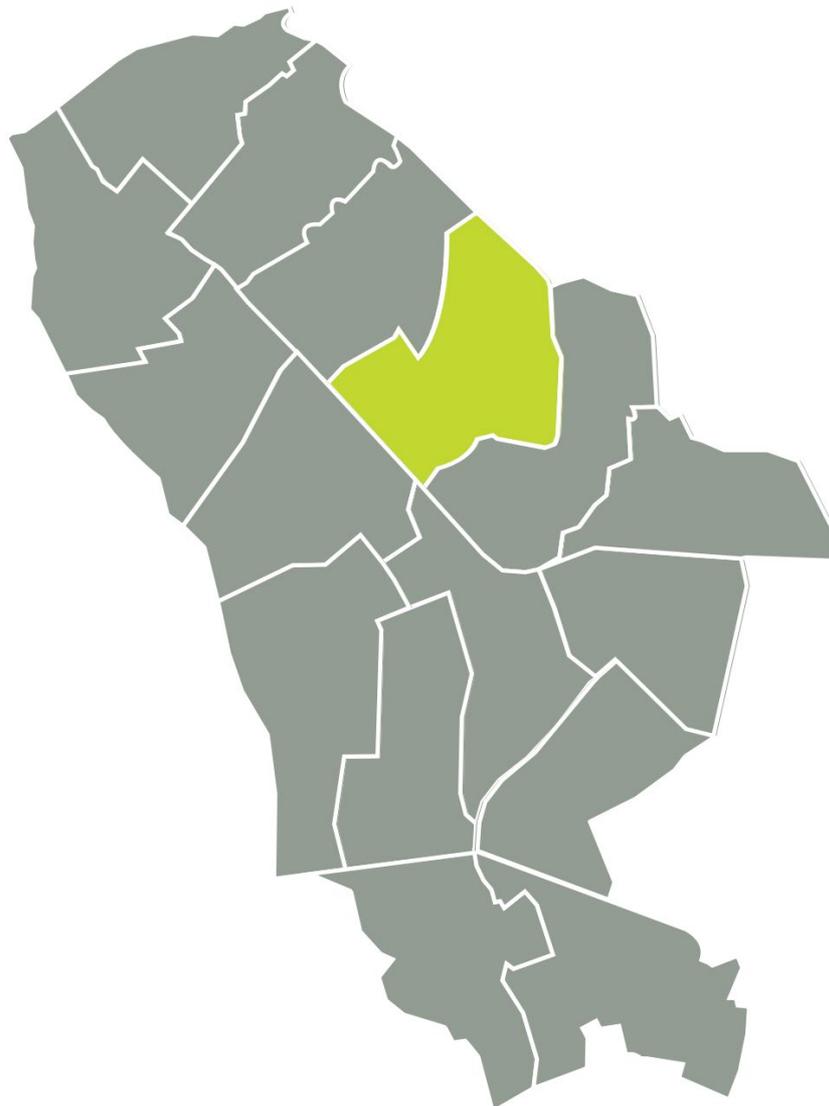


# Highbury West

Community Plan - October 2021



# Introduction

Thank you for taking the time to look at our Community Plan for Highbury West.

The Community Plan gives details of different schemes that, as your local councillors, we want to prioritise because we believe they will improve our area and enhance the lives of the people who live here.

Some of these improvement schemes have recently been completed, others are in the process of being implemented and some relate to projects we hope to see carried out in the future subject to funding becoming available.

As you can see, the projects in this Community Plan are wide-ranging. They include improvements to our leisure and other community facilities, initiatives that make our parks, streets and green spaces safer and more welcoming and schemes that make travel easier and more pleasant.

We work with local groups like tenants and residents' associations, schools, neighbourhood watch groups, gardening clubs, community centres and local special interest organisations of all kinds to come up with the improvement priorities that are set out in this Community Plan. If you have ideas for projects you would like to see here, then get in touch with us by sending us an email or by coming along to one of our regular ward partnership meetings.

The money to pay for the projects described in this Community Plan comes for the most part from financial contributions that developers are required to make when they build in our area.

## Contents

The projects are split into three sections:

- Awaiting funding – projects that councillors are minded to support depending on availability of funds but have not yet made any allocations towards.
- Being Implemented – projects that have been funded and are ongoing.
- Completed – projects that were previously funded and now completed.

Details of potential, current and past projects are also available to view on our [interactive map](#).

## Funding Allocations

Once projects have received funds they are listed as being implemented and then completed. Projects are primarily funded through contributions received from two different mechanisms secured when planning permissions are granted – Section 106 contributions or from the Community Infrastructure Levy. Please contact [S106@islington.gov.uk](mailto:S106@islington.gov.uk) for further information on the specific developments the funds originated from, if required.

## How To Get Involved

Contact your councillor to propose a new project or attend a ward partnership meeting.

For more information about this community plan please contact us on either [CIL@Islington.gov.uk](mailto:CIL@Islington.gov.uk) or [S106@Islington.gov.uk](mailto:S106@Islington.gov.uk)

# Awaiting Funding

## Estate Improvements

### Secure Estate Cycle Storage

Approximate Cost: £11,500

This scheme will deliver more secure cycle facilities on estates. New hangars, shelters and covered stands will help residents to store cycles safely, rather than taking up space inside properties or being left in communal areas of buildings, where they can undermine fire safety requirements. The availability of secure cycle storage will also encourage more cycle use, with personal, environmental, health and economic benefits. In particular, a need for cycle storage has been identified at Jack Walker Court, Woodstock House and Courtney Court. Bike hangars will be installed at each of these locations.

# Being Implemented

## Carbon Offsetting

### Extension of Energy Network to Highbury West (including Harvist Estate)

Allocations made:

- S106 (£540,000)

This scheme will involve the extension of energy network to Highbury West, including Harvist Estate. The investment will improve energy efficiency for users including residents, businesses and facilities and improve value for money/ lower heat price for users.

## Community Facilities

### Highbury West Contribution to the Expansion of Counselling Services at the Stress Project

Allocations made:

- S106 (£10,000)

The Stress Project is a project, run by the Holloway Neighbourhood Group, which provides a range of low cost therapies and wellbeing activities for people experiencing stress related illnesses or mental health problems. Funding will help the Stress Project to expand their counselling programme to meet the needs of more residents who are experiencing mental health issues as a result of the pandemic. This includes offering fast-track access to low cost (or free) counselling for people with low to moderate (or more severe) mental health issues.

## School Facilities

### Conewood Street Children's Centre

Allocations made:

- S106 (£41,000)

This project will provide improvements to the Conewood Street Children's Centre to increase the number of childcare and early education places for children under five. By reconfiguring the toddler room, the project will increase the centre's capacity for 2-3 year olds from 16 to 24. The project will also renovate the centre's garden.

## **Ambler Primary School Sensory Garden and Improvements to Outside Learning Areas**

Allocations made:

- Local CIL (£25,867)
- S106 (£24,133)

This project will provide new sensory areas for children with special educational needs and disabilities at Ambler Primary School. The scheme will provide a Sensory Pod which will provide opportunities for 1:1 and small group focused learning, as well as structured sensory activities to engage and motivate the children. A Sensory Garden will also be developed. This will be an outdoor space which will include features, surfaces, objects and plants that stimulate the senses through touch, sight, scent, taste and hearing. The garden will be used to support self-regulation, as a calming environment with scented plants and restful seating, as well as a learning zone full of exciting things to touch and smell.

## **Transport and Public Realm**

### **Designing Out Crime on Blackstock Road**

Allocations made:

- S106 (£50,000)

This project aims to reduce anti-social behaviour (ASB) on Blackstock Road and the surrounding areas. It aims to work with members of the local community to: help to identify perpetrators of ASB; empower local businesses to report crime and ASB; offer support and assistance to marginalised groups; and to make the area more attractive to deter crime and ASB.

The scheme is divided into 4 areas:

- 1) Outreach programme led by the Muslim Welfare House to engage with the Somalian, Algerian and Muslim businesses on Blackstock/Seven Sisters Road;
- 2) Installation of a new CCTV camera on Blackstock Road;
- 3) Supporting development of a robust Business Watch Scheme for local businesses;
- 4) Cleaning up and refreshing Blackstock Road i.e. tackling litter and fly tipping.

# Completed

## Community Facilities

### Finsbury Park Mosque - Roof Repairs

Allocations made:

- Local CIL (£5,000)

This project funded electrical repairs associated with the leaky roof at Finsbury Park mosque. Project completed in 2021.

### Intercom Gate and Railings for St Thomas Church Playgroup

Allocations made:

- S106 (£9,860)

This project installed a gate which better secures the entrance to St Thomas's Church playgroup garden and an alternative entrance to the playgroup. This gate has an intercom and associated CCTV and tradespeople's entrance function, so that all church and hall users/ refuse collectors, postmen etc. can also have access. It also restored a piece of railing that was removed several decades ago. This will safeguard the main entrance used by the children who attend the playgroup by closing off a piece of the churchyard where various drug-related paraphernalia have been found. Project completed in March 2020.

### Coding Courses at Elizabeth House

Allocations made:

- S106 (£18,000)

This funding provided access to coding skills for for local secondary school students in the interim period before similar courses were included within the school curriculum. Coding is a valuable skill for future employment opportunities, and helps young people to make the most of their creativity and innovation. Coding courses were delivered by Mer-IT.

### N4 Library - Highbury West

Allocations made:

- S106 (£68,000)

The scheme created a digital hub to help residents obtain skills to go-online. The improvements delivered included: the removal of a reception table to create more creative spaces; the creation of a reading area; and, the creation of a space to go online.

## **Ambler Primary School and Children's Centre**

Allocations made:

- S106 (£80,000)

This scheme delivered the following improvements to the School and children's centre: playground resurfacing; the erection of a multipurpose structure which can be used as an outdoor classroom/imaginative play; the creation of a climbing wall; the installation of whiteboards/blackboards for outdoor learning; and ball netting.

## **Gillespie Primary School 'Lab 13'**

Allocations made:

- S106 (£141,180)

This scheme created a multi-purpose laboratory in which to explore science, design and technology, going far beyond the level that is typical in a primary school. This project was delivered in April 2020.

## **Harvist Estate**

Allocations made:

- S106 (£30,000)

The scheme delivered improvements to Harvist Estate including provision of community gardening space and security improvements.

## **Gillespie Primary School Playground**

Allocations made:

- S106 (£16,500)

scheme upgraded the Victorian playground facilities at Gillespie Primary School. The outdated play equipment was replaced with a new adventure playground, offering more exciting and engaging play opportunities. Use of the playground has also been offered to Highbury Vale Blackstock Trust (HVBT) After School and Holiday Club. The club is immediately next door to the playground and previously lacked access to outdoor space. In this way, the play area can be enjoyed by school pupils and the wider local community.

## **Improvements at Elizabeth House**

Allocations made:

- S106 (£58,500)

This scheme provided improvements to Elizabeth House, including: external repairs and redecoration of the building; redecoration of community rooms; improvements to the acoustics of the community hall with acoustic panels; repair of flooring in two community rooms; and changing of electrical fittings and lighting fixtures.

## **Finsbury Park Mosque - Improving Access for Disabled People & CCTV**

Allocations made:

- S106 (£6,000)

Finsbury Park Mosque is a community centre which opens to the local community in Finsbury Park area. It serves up to 2,000 people and acts as a venue for conferences, lectures, weddings, local government surgeries and other community gatherings. This project provided better access to the Mosque for disabled people and improved security through the installation of CCTV cameras.

## **Highbury West IT Equipment for Schools**

Allocations made:

- Local CIL (£4,000)

The scheme delivered IT equipment for primary school children, during the COVID-19 lockdown, to enable them to continue their learning remotely. Project completed in June 2020.

## **Estate Improvements**

### **Stephens Ink Gate**

Allocations made:

- S106 (£4,873)

The scheme improved security of Stephens Ink community centre and residential units especially on Arsenal match days by installing a vehicle gate/pedestrian gate across the front width of the entrance of Tannington Terrace to prevent anti-social behaviour.

### **Hind House - Ball Court Soundproofing & Community Room Improvements**

Allocations made:

- S106 (£29,115)

This project delivered improvements to the ball court and refurbished the community room at Hind House. The ball court improvements included: installation of additional soundproofing to reduce the noise travelling to neighbouring properties; installation of pitch net; and, upgraded pitch lights.

## **Tawney Court - Cycle Storage and Lighting**

Allocations made:

- S106 (£10,000)

This scheme installed a locked cycle shelter at the estate to prevent the potential theft of cycles or parts. It also delivered lighting improvements to help with security of rear pram sheds/cycle racks. Project completed in April 2019.

## **Herbert Chapman Court - Thermal Insulation**

Allocations made:

- S106 (£20,000)

This project renewed the main roof of each block and existing single glazed steel crittall windows at Herbert Chapman Court, to provide improved thermal efficiency and performance. The scheme aimed to reduce carbon emissions and address fuel poverty within the estate.

## **Aubert Court Cycle Parking**

Allocations made:

- S106 (£30,000)

This project installed cycle storage facility to be accessible both by estate residents and community centre visitors and staff. The storage facility is placed on the grassed area opposite the main entrance to the community centre. The project will help residents to store cycles safely, rather than taking up space inside properties or being left in communal areas of buildings, where they can undermine fire safety requirements. The availability of secure cycle storage will also encourage more cycle use, with personal, environmental, health and economic benefits.

## **Public Realm Improvements at Quill Street**

Allocations made:

- S106 (£9,740)

This project delivered public realm improvements at the Quill Street estate. The scheme improved the playspace; provided security improvements; and re-designed the estate's waste collection facilities. The aim of the project was to address anti-social behaviour (ASB) on the estate and to improve residential amenity.

## Open Space

### **Gillespie Park Local Nature Reserve - Ecology Centre**

Allocations made:

- S106 (£51,000)

The scheme delivered improvements to the Ecology Centre building. The centre is used by school children, community groups and for exercise classes (e.g. yoga and tai chi).

Improvements included: updating and refurbishing the interior of the Ecology Centre; refurbishing the kitchen; installing a new fire escape door; replacing of floor coverings; and, installing baby-change facilities in the toilets.

### **Vaudeville Court**

Allocations made:

- S106 (£20,500)

The scheme delivered improvements to the frontage at Vaudeville Court and landscaping works.

### **Public Realm Improvements at Rollit House and Branston House**

Allocations made:

- S106 (£165,000)

This project improved the public realm at Rollit House and Branston House. The scheme aimed to increase residential amenity and to reduce instances of anti-social behaviour (ASB), which were facilitated by poorly designed and/or redundant public spaces. Improvements included the delivery of a play area, a community garden, more lighting and seating, and a secure entry system.

### **Highbury West Ward Tree Planting**

Allocations made:

- S106 (£31,000)

This scheme delivered tree planting across Highbury West, in line with the Council's tree policy. It aimed to: increase the number of street trees in the area; improve the look and feel of the area; provide shade for pedestrians; increase biodiversity; reduce pollution levels; and, provide seasonal changes to the street environment. The project delivered 63 street trees across the ward.

### **Gillespie Park Local Nature Reserve - Accessible Path**

The scheme provided an accessible path through Gillespie Park linking Finsbury Park through to Arsenal. The new surfaced path has improved access to nature and had provide a walking and cycling route from Finsbury Park, this has also improved access to the Ecology Centre.

## **Gillespie Park Local Nature Reserve - Pond Boardwalk**

The project has replaced the pond Boardwalk at Gillespie Park to ensure continued education facilities and safe access to the rest of the site for all local park users and Ecology Centre visitors.

## **Transport and Public Realm**

### **Islington Connect2 Route: Walking & Cycling Improvements**

This scheme helped to improve cycling and walking access along a route stretching from Finsbury Park, through Highbury, to Holloway Road, as part of the Connect2 project. Connect2 is a five-year project run by Sustrans. It involves the creation of new cycle and walking routes, bridges and other facilities in 79 locations around the UK. The project encourages people to travel in ways that benefit their health and the environment, and creates a sense of community pride.

### **Highbury Traffic Management**

Allocations made:

- S106 (£43,070)

The scheme contributed to accident reduction, road safety and environmental improvements for vulnerable road users. Part of the funding was used for measures including signage and cameras to implement School Street proposals in the ward.

### **Gillespie Road Pavement and Carriageway Works**

Allocations made:

- S106 (£100,000)

This project involved improvements to the pavement and carriageway on Gillespie Road. Works included: the renewal of all foot-way paving between Plimsoll Road and Blackstock Road on both sides of the street; patching works on the carriageway between Plimsoll Road and Blackstock Road; and, the replacement of gully pots and chambers outside 38 and 70 Gillespie Road.

## **Highbury Hill/ Martineau Road Junction Safety Measures**

Allocations made:

- S106 (£20,000)

The scheme built a traffic island at the corner of Martineau Road and Highbury Hill to improve road safety.

## **Bryantwood Road Footway**

Allocations made:

- S106 (£204,000)

The project repaired the damaged parts of the footway on Bryantwood Road.