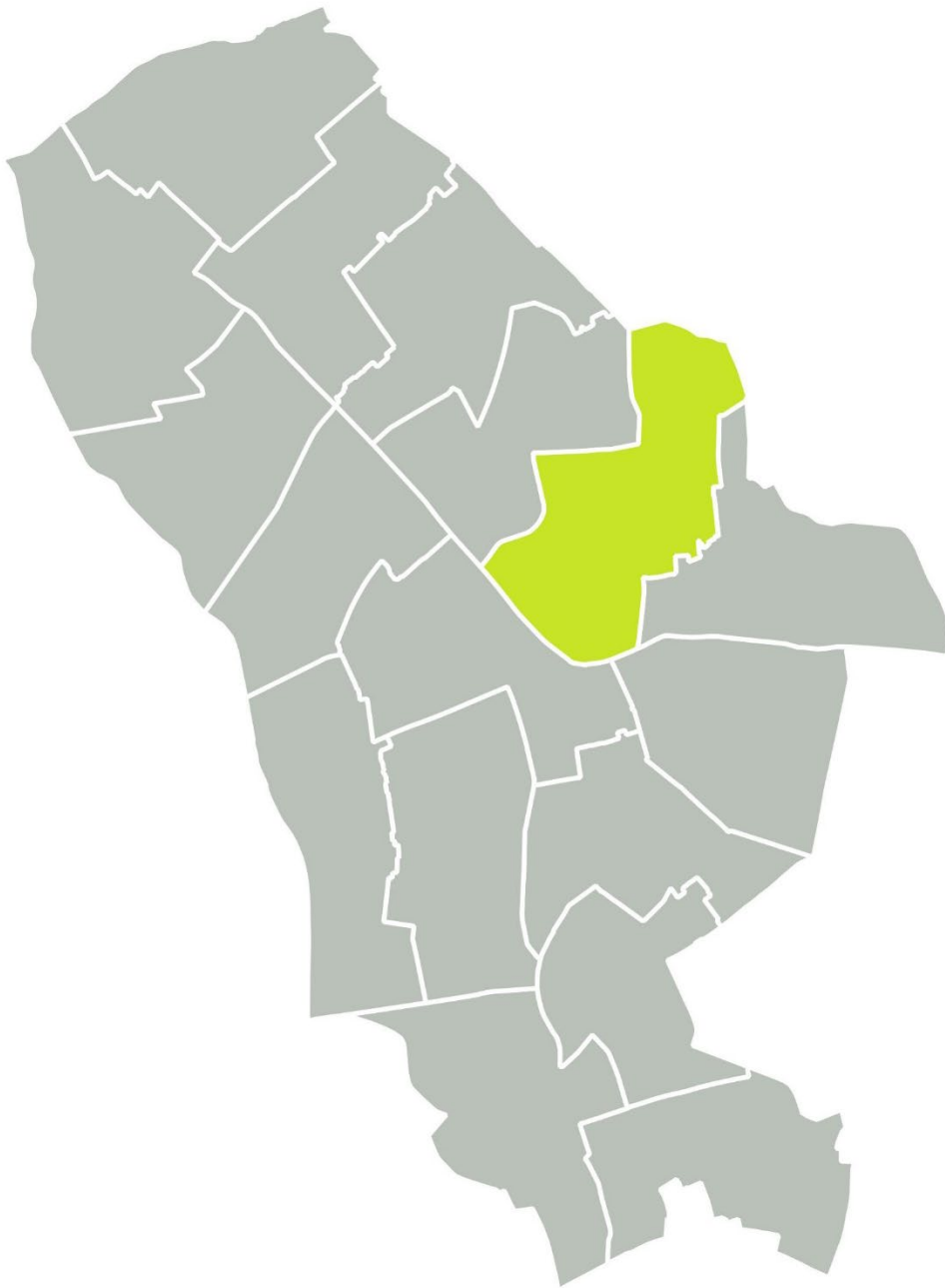




Highbury

Community Plan – February 2023



Introduction

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

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 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 or S106@Islington.gov.uk

Vision Statement from Highbury Ward Councillors

Highbury Councillors want our ward to be inclusive, healthy, safe and green.

We will support projects to reduce inequality, clean up our air, and make our ward a fair, safe and friendly place to live for everyone.

Councillors Caroline Russell, Benali Hamdache and Ernestas Jegorovas-Armstrong

Awaiting Funding

Carbon Offsetting

Delivery of a Local Heat Network in Highbury

Approximate Cost: £8 million

This project would deliver an extension to the local energy network in the Highbury ward, which would be based around the Central Library. The extension of the network would have the potential to connect residential buildings, businesses and other facilities to a potentially cheaper and greener heat supply, improving both energy efficiency and value for money. This is in line with the Council's wider Net Zero Carbon strategy which aims to make Islington a net zero carbon borough by 2030, and sets out a vision of a fair and green future for local people.

Open Space

Transport and Public Realm

Highbury Transport and Public Realm Improvements

Approximate Cost: TBC

The Highbury Fields Low Traffic Neighbourhood (LTN) has now been implemented as a trial. LTNs are groups of residential streets where through traffic is discouraged. Traffic filters have been introduced to prevent vehicles (apart from emergency services) from driving straight through from one main road to another. Residents, deliveries and essential services can access any house from one main road. Highbury ward councillors, and many local residents, are supportive of LTN measures although consultation is ongoing, and the council is listening to a range of residents' views. The measures have reduced the amount of through traffic making the area safer for people walking and cycling, improving air quality, and increasing the uptake of cycling.

Alongside the LTNs, Highbury councillors are committed to improving accessibility across the ward. An audit to examine the accessibility of all streets in Highbury was recently commissioned, and focused on the quality of street crossings, obstructions, signage, need for dropped kerbs, tactile paving and environmental considerations e.g. overgrown foliage. The aim of the report is to improve the public realm for all users, including people with disabilities, older people, young children, and people with prams and push chairs.

The Council is currently reviewing the report's recommendations and will seek to implement a number of measures in due course. In doing so, we hope to encourage more active use of the streets, maximising opportunities for active travel and play, and ensuring that spaces are as safe as possible.

Highbury Fields Drainage Improvements

Approximate Cost: TBC

This project would re-landscape the lower part of Highbury Fields to protect against surface water runoff and flooding from extreme rainfall through a Sustainable Urban Drainage System (SuDS). SuDS systems capture surface water to reduce the risk of surface water flooding. Such measures are particularly pertinent in the context of the ongoing climate emergency, especially as instances of extreme rainfall and drought are set to increase.

Highbury Fields Improvements

Approximate Cost: TBC

Highbury councillors are keen to hear from local residents for their suggestions to improve Highbury Fields. In particular, they would like to consider ideas for delivering increased resilience and improved biodiversity in the context of the climate emergency. This project would provide funding to undertake formal consultation with local residents and park users, to identify and deliver improvements to enhance the area and deliver increased amenity for all users.

Being Implemented

Open Space

Highbury Fields Park Buildings

Allocations made:

- Local CIL (£12,233)
- S106 (£589,746)

This scheme will provide a new integrated café, toilet and park keeper building within Highbury Fields on the site of the existing Oasis Cafe. The project is currently at the pre-application stage of the planning process and has recently been through public consultation. It will involve demolishing all of the existing park buildings, including the Highbury Fields bandstand. The new integrated café will be a single story building and will include a terraced area with outdoor seating. The building will sit on the site of the existing café. The bandstand area will also be re-landscaped to create a new sheltered teaching space with an outdoor learning garden, where young children from local schools can actively engage with nature and attend outdoor learning sessions.

Transport and Public Realm

Highbury Accessibility Street Audit

Allocations made:

- S106 (£25,000)

This project has delivered an audit of all of the streets within Highbury. The project aims to improve accessibility throughout the ward, making streets more inclusive and accessible for all. The scope of the audit includes people friendly streets in Low Traffic Neighbourhoods (LTNs), as well as non-LTN streets. It has examined both physical and non-physical barriers to access. Alongside the audit, funding has been allocated for the implementation of recommendations made.

Estate Improvements

Highbury Estate Improvement Fund

Allocations made:

- Local CIL (£111,461)

Local councillors are seeking proposals from residents, tenants and residents' associations (TRAs) and other stakeholders for potential improvement projects on estates in the Highbury ward, such as food growing areas, seating improvements, play areas, arts projects and so on. This scheme provides a budget to fund these projects as they come forward.

Greening Highbury Quadrant Estate - Food Growing and Community Gardening

Allocations made:

- Local CIL (£20,636)

This project will provide funding to continue an established food growing and gardening project, run by the Octopus Network, on the Highbury Quadrant Estate. The project was established in February 2020 and was funded by the Greener City Fund until June 2021. It brought several areas of unused, unloved and inaccessible green spaces on the estate back into use, by developing them as shared community gardens with a mixture of food growing, composting and nature gardening opportunities. The project works with local community groups such as the local children's centre run by Bright Start Central, Goodgym Islington, Elizabeth House Children's Services and has interest from a local school (Samuel Rhodes) as a work experience placement opportunity for young people with SEND in the 'green sector'.



Completed

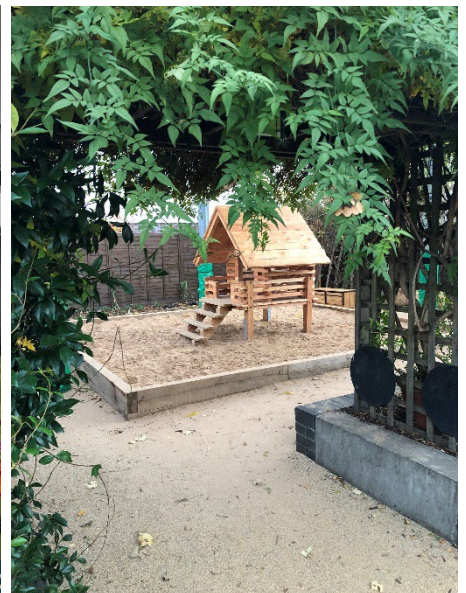
School Facilities

Highbury Contribution to Conewood Street Children's Centre

Allocations made:

- Local CIL (£20,000)

This project provided 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 increased the centre's capacity for 2-3 year olds from 16 to 24. The centre's garden was also renovated. The project was completed in November 2021.



Playspace

Renewal of Highbury Fields Water Play Feature

This project replaced the old water play feature which was installed at Highbury Fields in the spring of 2004. It was expected that the facility would have a lifespan of 8 to 10 years, however it was never upgraded and fell into a state of disrepair. The project was completed in 2019.

Highbury Fields - Refurbishment of Playground Building

Allocations made:

- S106 (£102,643)

This scheme refurbished the playground building in Highbury Fields, which contains public toilets and the park attendant's hut. The project was completed in 2018.

Community Facilities

Highbury Roundhouse Community Centre Improvements

Allocations made:

- Local CIL (£798,017)
- S106 (£290,000)

This scheme contributed to the improvements of the Highbury Roundhouse Community Centre Building. The project was completed in 2020.

Central Library - Window Replacement

Allocations made:

- S106 (£167,705)

This scheme replaced the windows on the listed front of the Central Library building, improving the appearance and energy efficiency of the library. The project was completed in October 2019.

Olden Community Gardens

Allocations made:

- S106 (£6,240)

This scheme provided improvements to Olden Community Gardens, restoring the damaged areas of the site and making it more accessible to the public. The project was completed in 2018.

Drayton Park School Art and Community Building

Allocations made:

- S106 (£29,436)

This scheme delivered a new-build block which has provided Drayton Park School with two large spaces - one for school art projects and the other for both community and school use. The project was completed in 2018.

Estate Improvements

Highbury Quadrant - Renewal of Ball Court

Allocations made:

- S106 (£63,962)

This project replaced the walls and surface of the existing ball court on Highbury Quadrant. It also funded the implementation of the play builder scheme. The project was completed in 2018.

Highbury Quadrant - Green Lanes Frontage

This scheme provided improvements to Highbury Quadrant Green Lanes frontage. The project involved: planting manageable shrubs and trees; installing community planters for residents to be involved in planting; and improving the associated pathways and lighting to create accommodating environment. The project was completed in 2017.

Sports and Recreation

Highbury Fields Parkrun Storage Unit

Allocations made:

- Local CIL (£2,600)

This project funded the purchase and installation of a new unit in Highbury Fields for the storage of equipment for the popular parkrun event. The storage unit has provided organisers with easier access to equipment for setting up the event. It will also enable the purchase and storage of more equipment for different weather conditions such as a large gazebo for heavy rain and weighted, rubber-based stakes for the pavement areas when the fields are water-logged. This will provide resilience, enabling the event to continue, even in poor weather conditions. The project was completed in November 2021.



Open Space

Highbury Fields Tennis Courts

Allocations made:

- S106 (£35,020)

This scheme delivered improvements to the tennis and netball courts at Highbury Fields, including the replacement of fencing and floodlighting. The courts are located north of the park opposite Highbury Fields School. The project was completed in 2015.



Highbury Ward Tree Planting

Allocations made:

- Local CIL (£10,000)

This scheme delivered additional street tree planting in the ward in line with the Council's tree strategy. The project was completed in 2021.