AGM report 2019

As recent events show, after every election victory comes the harder part: trying to put your policies into effect

In the year since our success in the referendum /and the formal adoption of the Neighbourhood Plan by the Council as an integral part of the Ealing Local Plan,/ the emphasis of the Forum has switched to working for its effective implementation.

There has been little precedent for us to follow. Across London, even today there are only 13 adopted plans, and with our partners in west Ealing we are the only ones designated as ‘business areas’ and covering a metropolitan town centre. Our speaker, Graham Pycock, will look at some of the problems and choices facing those involved in developing localism across London.

As I reported last year, our renewed recognition by the Council means we can consider

* how the neighbourhood plan policies are being applied to planning applications
* Implementation of our 16 ‘recommended actions’ or projects
* modifications to the CENP in response to changes to the NPPF and London Plan.

The management committee decided not to look at any changes in the plan policies at this stage, and not to get involved in the detailed discussions about the London Plan. Instead we should concentrate on the other two activities and on the options for ways of developing localism, such as through a Town Council, which would be a different body with a wider remit and more powers.

This has necessitated a change in the way we operate. The management committee now meets every other month, and a working group on planning was set up that meets in the alternate months. A further ad hoc group has looked at issues surrounding future governance.

On **planning policy**, it has taken some time to establish clearly with the Council that officers and the Planning Committee should be giving full weight to the provisions of CENP. Its policies have not been clearly flagged in advice to applicants and in recommendations to committee. We have recently reminded the Council about this.

Following the preference expressed in the survey we conducted last year, we have set up a process for reviewing all new planning applications before they are approved. Comments have been submitted when thought appropriate, though they have not always been reported to committee. Plans on which we have commented range from the Town Hall (recently approved by the committee) to advertising on phone booths (application withdrawn). We are also trying to engage with Galliford Try on pre-planning for the Perceval House redevelopment, and with the Council/Network Rail/Crossrail on the Ealing Broadway station forecourt.

Some progress has been made on our **recommended actions**. As a body, the Forum receives no income to implement these. Ealing has not implemented its CIL policy, under which a proportion of levies on new development should be considered for spending according to community wishes. As there is no alternative funding, we rely on supporting others who may have similar objectives. It has therefore become clear that some items are unlikely ever to get finance, but others (as shown in the **attached chart** in the order of time scale for achievement) are already achieved or potentially coming closer.

Of our **top four priorities**, one is unlikely to be achieved, but the other three have a reasonable chance of success. The performance arts centre hangs on a decision by the Charity Commission about the future of the Trust which owns the Victoria Hall; the Design Review Panel has had some Green open space may emerge from the yet further plans for the station forecourt.

What of the future? The management committee has continued to research the possible ways forward, with the objective of giving more control over local spending decisions to a local body. Progress on this would depend on a Community Governance Review, conducted by Ealing Council. This can be triggered now that the CENF Plan has had its referendum, but it would need a clear set of objectives and substantial local support to overcome the obvious hurdles. This will continue to be a significant task for the period ahead.

Committee members for 2018/19 were as follows:

**Residents’ reps:**Ann Chapman
Charles Rich - Vice Chair
Mark Sanders
Lap Pan Chong (co-opted)
**Local organisations’ reps**
Robert Gurd (Ealing Civic Society)
Tony Miller (CEPAC) - Chair
Peter Treadgold (Ealing’s Forgotten Spaces)
(1 vacancy)
**Local business reps:**
Andrew Cazalet (Lido Tax Consulting) - Treasurer
Matt Snowden (UWL)
Charles Nelson (Ealing College – co-opted)
(1 vacancy)

All have indicated willingness to serve again except Charles Rich, who is moving house out of the centre. This will be put to a vote after presentation of the accounts. Volunteers to fill the vacancies will be very welcome, particularly someone to help with secretarial duties.