

**Appendix 1: Our Tottenham Community Charter and subsequent modifications/action points**

# OUR TOTTENHAM A COMMUNITY CHARTER

**Planning & Regeneration by and for the Community**

*Adopted at the Our Tottenham conference, April 6<sup>th</sup> 2013. Amended at the conference, Oct 11<sup>th</sup> 2014*



**OUR voices, OUR communities, OUR neighbourhoods**

**Tottenham is a great place** with a rich social and architectural history, made up of vibrant, diverse and talented communities. We want to ensure this continues!

**The Council are promoting their 'Plan for Tottenham'**, backed by property developers, big business, and the Mayor of London. The Council is gifting public money and assets to the profit-driven developers, and have so far largely refused to listen to the views of residents. The plans include a range of measures, some of which will seriously impact on our lives and our communities. The plans promote corporate-led and large scale urban development; increased rents and unaffordable housing; and the loss of some independent local shops, homes, community facilities and small businesses.

**Coupled with the Government's planning policies and attacks on vital public services and people's welfare**, the major effect of all this will be to over-develop Tottenham, to threaten its positive community-scale character in many areas, to promote profiteering at the community's expense, and the forced displacement of thousands of local people who can no longer find or keep any affordable place to live.

**This is unacceptable.** It doesn't have to be like this. Together we are very powerful.

**We pay tribute** to all those thousands of Tottenham residents and community groups who have campaigned and worked so hard to improve their local areas and facilities.

**We pledge to fight for OUR common interests**, OUR neighbourhoods, OUR community facilities and for the needs of OUR communities throughout Tottenham.

**We call on the people of Tottenham** to oppose all inappropriate planning and developments and campaign to defend facilities and proposals which are led by local residents, for our benefit, and which improve neighbourhoods for our communities - not just for the benefit of big business.

**We will show support for and help initiate** new resident and community-led development plans that support the interests of local people. We support the Our Tottenham community planning and regeneration action network set up to spread co-operation and solidarity throughout Tottenham's neighbourhoods.

**Together with local people we will take action to....**

- Defend community facilities \* Stand up for decent and affordable housing for all**
- Support the local economy \* Promote quality design and respect for heritage**
- Improve the street environment \* Support youth voices, services and facilities**
- Defend and expand good public services \* Work towards environmental sustainability**
- Empower our communities \* Develop local community plans**

## **OUR TOTTENHAM – A COMMUNITY CHARTER: Objectives**

**Together with local people we will take action to....**

**DEFEND COMMUNITY FACILITIES:** protect and expand the 'social infrastructure' our communities value and rely on, including community centres, local pubs, corner shops, playgrounds & parks, GP surgeries, post offices etc

**STAND UP FOR DECENT AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING FOR ALL:** ensure that new developments provide the secure, affordable housing that people need, and that 'gentrification' doesn't force thousands of local residents out of our borough

**SUPPORT THE LOCAL ECONOMY:** Starting with the strengths and needs of Tottenham's residents, small businesses, social enterprises, cooperatives and community assets, putting sustainability, equality, local needs and community service at the heart of the local economy

**PROMOTE QUALITY DESIGN AND RESPECT FOR HERITAGE:** protect Tottenham's listed buildings, conservation areas and general positive architectural characteristics, and ensure any new development is of good quality

**IMPROVE THE STREET ENVIRONMENT:** ensure safer, friendlier, traffic-calmed, 'living' streets with less clutter and more greenery

**SUPPORT YOUTH VOICES, SERVICES AND FACILITIES:** encourage and support our local youth speaking out for the services, centres and facilities they need

**DEFEND AND EXPAND THE PROVISION OF GOOD, FREELY-ACCESSIBLE TO ALL, PUBLIC SERVICES** They should be responsive to the everyday needs of our communities eg Health, Education, Welfare, Social Services and Social Care, Public Transport etc

**WORK TOWARDS LONG-TERM ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY:** promote and encourage low/zero carbon energy, reduced consumption and waste, sustainable travel, biodiversity and

natural habitats, and local production of food and other necessary goods and services. Our lives, our communities and our society should be sustainable for generations to come.

**EMPOWER OUR COMMUNITIES:** ensure real respect, engagement and empowerment for our communities and community groups so that they are driving the decision-making

**DEVELOP LOCAL COMMUNITY PLANS:** develop our own ideas and visions for our local sites & neighbourhoods

*The Our Tottenham Charter was drafted by a series of open meetings of Tottenham community groups from January to April 2013. The Charter's Action Points were developed, discussed, amended and adopted, along with the Charter as a whole, by the Our Tottenham open conference on 6<sup>th</sup> April 2013, attended by 110 people from over 30 local community organisations. They were collectively formulated by those attending workshops at the conference, and those that have been adopted are the ones ratified by the conference as a whole (through an overwhelming show of hands in support). There were further clauses discussed and agreed at the Oct 11<sup>th</sup> 2014 conference. It is intended that the Charter - especially its Action Points - is able to be further reviewed and developed in the future, as needed. This may be done at a recall conference or via some other appropriate inclusive process.*

**The Our Tottenham network includes:** Bull Lane Playing Fields Campaign / Weir Hall Action Group, Chestnuts Community Centre, Clyde Area Residents Association, Day-Mer, Defend Haringey Health Services, Dissident Sound Industry Studios, Efiba Arts, Find Your Voice, Friends of Downhills Park, Friends of Lordship Rec, Growing-In-Haringey network, Haringey Alliance for Public Services, Haringey Defend Council Housing, Haringey Federation of Residents Associations, Haringey Friends of Parks Forum, Haringey Green Party, Haringey Housing Action Group, Haringey Independent Cinema, Haringey Justice for Palestinians, Haringey Left Unity, Haringey Living Streets, Haringey Needs St Ann's Hospital, Haringey Private Tenants Action Group, Haringey Solidarity Group, Haringey Trades Union Council, Living Under One Sun, Lord Morrison Hall / Afro International, Lordship Rec Eco-Hub Co-op, N. London Community House, Peoples World Carnival Band, Selby Centre, The Banc, Tottenham and Wood Green Friends of the Earth, Tottenham Chances, Tottenham Civic Society, Tottenham Community Choir, Tottenham Community Sports Centre, Tottenham Concerned Residents Cttee, Tottenham Constitutional Club, Tottenham Rights, Tottenham Theatre, Tottenham Traders Partnership, Tower Gardens Residents Group, Tynemouth Area Residents Association, Ubele, University and College Union at CONEL, Urban Tattoo, Wards Corner Community Coalition, 1000 Mothers' March Organising Group, 20's Plenty for Haringey

# OUR TOTTENHAM – A COMMUNITY CHARTER

## Action Points

(As agreed April 2013, and amended Oct 2014)

**Together with local people we will take action to....**

**DEFEND COMMUNITY FACILITIES: protect and expand the ‘social infrastructure’ our communities value and rely on, including community centres, local pubs, corner shops, playgrounds & parks, GP surgeries, post offices etc**

- Encourage and produce case studies from users to protect existing facilities, conduct needs assessments for what local people need, and compile a dossier to present to the relevant authorities
- Hold the Council accountable for funding choices and patterns around the borough and in comparison with other boroughs so that Tottenham gets the best facilities to serve our communities
- Support threatened community-run community centres in any lobbies or protests they organise
- Encourage community groups and centres to share resources and experiences

**STAND UP FOR DECENT AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING FOR ALL: ensure that new developments provide the secure, affordable housing that people need, and that 'gentrification' doesn't force thousands of local residents out of our borough**

- Support residents associations and residents action groups that raise, or can raise these issues
- Challenge Council policies on housing in new developments. Set our own agenda for, and definition of, genuine ‘affordability’ and ‘security of tenure’, in contrast to Council definitions.
- Raise public awareness regarding the need for genuinely affordable housing, long-term security of tenure and people’s housing needs generally, and the need to speak up for this.
- Support the residents of Love Lane Estate, and any other residents, threatened with possible relocation and demolition

**SUPPORT THE LOCAL ECONOMY: Starting with the strengths and needs of Tottenham’s residents, small businesses, social enterprises, cooperatives and community assets, putting sustainability, equality, local needs and community service at the heart of the local economy**

- Support local businesses at risk of displacement through development schemes.
- Support good pay, conditions and rights for local workers.
- Campaign for sustainable, quality jobs and training for local people through any new development, with training delivered by local organisations
- Develop our knowledge of the local economy and build relationships between residents and traders.
- Promote and celebrate the strengths and assets of the existing Tottenham economy

**PROMOTE QUALITY DESIGN AND RESPECT FOR HERITAGE: protect Tottenham's listed buildings, conservation areas and general positive architectural characteristics, and ensure any new development is of good quality**

- Safeguard and value heritage buildings, including those outside Conservation Areas
- Campaign for at least 50% of all new homes to be genuinely affordable social rented housing
- Ensure that heritage-led regeneration benefits Tottenham residents in the short, medium and long term, and doesn't lead to the kind of gentrification which forces people out of Tottenham
- Identify and improve quality of design, amenity and sustainability standards for all new development

**IMPROVE THE STREET ENVIRONMENT: ensure safer, friendlier, traffic-calmed, 'living' streets with less clutter and more greenery**

- Council to ensure that Tottenham's air quality is as good as in the West of Haringey
- Maximise the spread of 20mph zones, car-sharing schemes, on-street cycle lock-ups, and pedestrian and cycling connections/networks across the borough
- Encourage Residents Associations (RAs) & the Haringey Federation of RAs to set up a street scene sub-group/network
- Publicise and promote options for street improvements, including Streets In Bloom, DIY Streets, Home Zones, Play Streets, improvements to front gardens, more benches and community-run notice-boards
- Campaign for High Streets to be re-designed more for people and less for cars

**SUPPORT YOUTH VOICES, SERVICES AND FACILITIES: encourage and support our local youth speaking out for the services, centres and facilities they need**

- Support young people to take make the key decisions about their needs, to demand the best possible opportunities and funding due to them (equal to the best practice elsewhere), and to take charge of their future
- Support organisations who work with young people - in a way they are happy with - to deliver future services, and publicise successful youth activities and projects as an example to emulate
- Support ex-youth workers to get together to form their own network and to conduct local outreach
- Re-establish and open additional dedicated venues for young people to meet and socialise, that are adequately supported and resourced.
- Ensure young people can access the information and skills they need

**DEFEND AND EXPAND THE PROVISION OF GOOD, FREELY-ACCESSIBLE TO ALL, PUBLIC SERVICES They should be responsive to the everyday needs of our communities eg Health, Education, Welfare, Social Services and Social Care, Public Transport etc**

- free healthcare to be preserved and extended, and accessible to all
- improved and expanded healthcare to be an integral part of any new Plans

**WORK TOWARDS LONG-TERM ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY: promote and encourage low/zero carbon energy, reduced consumption and waste, sustainable travel, biodiversity and natural habitats, and local production of food and other necessary goods and services. Our lives, our communities and our society should be sustainable for generations to come.**

We will promote and encourage:

- sustainable energy policies in all areas of society - eg reduced general usage, and maximum use of renewable, non-fossil fuels and self-generated sources
- reduced consumption & waste, and maximum re-usage & recycling
- sustainable travel - including more walking & cycling, better public transport & less motorised traffic
- local production of food and other necessary goods and services, and appropriate allocation and sharing of limited resources
- protection and improvements to green spaces and natural habitats

**EMPOWER OUR COMMUNITIES: ensure real respect, engagement and empowerment for our communities and community groups so that they are driving the decision-making**

- Defend and create new spaces and hubs where people can meet and organise themselves, share skills and expertise. – and form a working group to achieve this \*
- Develop our own outreach to involve and link in with wider groups and all sections of our communities
- Encourage and promote a range of communications among local people, including face-to-face, blogs and a newspaper.

**DEVELOP LOCAL COMMUNITY PLANS: develop our own ideas and visions for our local sites & neighbourhoods**

- Promote community planning and community plans of all scales and at all levels – for sites, streets/estates, neighbourhood and Tottenham-wide - and form a working group to achieve this. \*\*
- Organise workshops to empower people to develop community plans, especially ones that are enforceable.
- List and publicise all the positive examples of community plans

# COMMUNITY PLANNING POLICIES

## AS AGREED AT CONFERENCE, Feb 1st 2014

### Key guidance and action points

#### Develop community visions and turn them into Plans

- Map out existing community assets to help in the development of community planning
- Create physical and virtual space to collect together information about everything that local community / campaign groups are doing in Tottenham, in order to make such information widely accessible
- Present plans in a financially and socially viable way

#### Access and press for the funding/resources needed to implement Plans

- Our Tottenham members are encouraged to map, register and where possible run community assets
- We should consider forming appropriate planning and development bodies (eg Neighbourhood Forums & Trusts)
- To research and consider the range of potential resources and how to access them

#### Relations with Council and other official and commercial bodies to achieve Plans

- Keep building up the Our Tottenham network to increase legitimacy, co-operation and cohesion, so that groups in Tottenham are strong and working together
- Develop our research and evidence base, sharing knowledge, experience and information about the area and what is important to us in Tottenham
- Be prepared to negotiate in various ways and times with the authorities generally and around specific schemes - and be aware of how the authorities work so that we can participate in official discussions and planning

#### Understand, use and negotiate legal/planning processes

- As individuals, groups and where possible as a network we should formally respond to relevant council consultations, especially the Tottenham Area Action Plans and the Sites Allocations.
- We need to insist that consultation processes are accessible, transparent and genuine
- We must publicly hold councillors to account for their policy decisions
- We need to have multiple lines of engagement over planning issues, and must continue to develop our own community vision and policies, alongside our critique of existing official proposals, plans and policies.

#### Mobilise public support and exercise our power to achieve Plans

- When developing Plans we need to engage young people and all sections of our local communities
- Find a common simple message to unite and rally people around
- Be well organised through developing action plans, and local community and solidarity networks.

### The agreed next steps

1. We pledge to support Community Planning throughout Tottenham. We will encourage local people to develop their own plans for the improvements to local sites, facilities and neighbourhoods, and for Tottenham as a whole.
2. We insist that all those with wealth, resources or decision-making power affecting any or all of our neighbourhoods work in genuine partnership with those who live or work here, support our community organisations, and help implement local community plans and community-led regeneration.
3. We will continue to encourage and support local people to challenge any and all inappropriate or inadequate development proposals which do not address the real needs of our communities, or which displace local people. Our Tottenham pledges to continue to support all groups that are developing their own plans or defending community assets that are under threat. Our Tottenham will respond to official Council consultations regarding Tottenham.
4. We will set up a Community Planning Working Group promoting and supporting community planning, local planning workshops and residents' own consultations. The group will also co-ordinate the efforts to

develop a Community Plan for Tottenham. The Community Planning group will be guided by the Community Charter, and by the agreed action points coming out of the conference workshops.

5. We will support the development of other Our Tottenham Working Groups, eg on the Local Economy, Housing, Planning Policy, Community Facilities, Youth, Community Planning, Communications etc,...
6. We agree there should be an Our Tottenham Recall Conference in summer/autumn 2014 to strengthen the work and increase the size of the network and its Working Groups, evaluate the Community Charter, and to discuss how best to mobilise our communities to speak out for their interests.

# **A Community Plan for Tottenham: 'Road Map'**

[Agreed at Conference 11.10.2014]

**We have agreed as a network to create a Community Plan for Tottenham as a whole.**

This is so that the real collective needs and desires of the people who live or work in Tottenham can be put centre stage in the debate and battles over the decision-making over the future of our own communities and neighbourhoods. Below we set out a process for achieving much of this over the next 12 months.

**A good foundation has already been made!**

What we want to achieve is guided by our Community Charter, the experiences of successful local community planning efforts and community visions for various sites, various genuine consultations already done, and the preliminary work of the Our Tottenham Community Planning Working Group.

**Some of the key questions we will have to address are:**

- How do we create an **over-arching Plan**, whilst including the **existing community visions and Plans for various sites**, and maybe developing **several mini-Plans for different geographical areas** on the map (eg N/S/E/W/Central Tottenham?).
- How do we integrate the **various key 'sectors'** e.g. community buildings; shops and workplaces; green spaces; housing; public facilities, etc?
- How can **everyone contribute to the process**, including involvement and support from community groups and the wider public? How do we make sure this is an inclusive process? Workshops, Questionnaires etc?
- At the same time how can we **forestall adverse moves by Council/developers** in time to prevent things we don't want from becoming irreversible?

**What we've already achieved so far - as a foundation for the next steps:**

- 1. Produced a summary of a wide range of successful & inspiring community-led Tottenham projects**
- 2. Adopted a Community Charter** (April 2013) with positive policies on what we want
- 3. 46 community organisations have so far signed up to the Charter.**
- 4. Held a Conference on Community Planning** (Feb 2014), which adopted a series of further recommendations for moving forward
- 5. Agreed a set of Guiding Principles** for the evaluation of proposed urban development plans/sites etc
- 6. Set up a Community Planning Working Group**
- 7. Started compiling a range of Reports and Consultation documents already produced**

(eg Tottenham Futures, Atkins Open Space Assessment etc) which contain quite a lot of detail about what people want and deficiencies that need addressing etc

**8. Started Information Mapping (online and on paper)** collating a large amount of data about Tottenham, its facilities, services, buildings, open spaces, population, community groups etc

**9. Started developing Working Groups on a number of key themes** (Economy, Housing, Planning Policies etc) which will help focus and guide activity

**Some next steps up to the spring 2015:**

**10. Have a more detailed look at successful Community Plans in Tottenham and elsewhere**, eg the process, visioning, community involvement, funding etc. How did they do it? What could we learn from them?

**11. Identify special qualities, strengths and uniqueness of Tottenham**, and our local communities / neighbourhoods / facilities / services / peoples etc

**12. Make some comparisons between Tottenham and other parts of London** to show how we are integrated into the wider city

**13. Start to involve more of Tottenham's community groups and our wider communities** in this process, including specialist groups which can advise the network regarding key themes.

**14. Update and launch the Information Mapping about Tottenham**, including an audit of black and minority ethnic Centres and spaces. Find a technical coordinator.

**15. Clarify the planning policy basis for a Community Plan** ie Local, London and National official policies supporting Community Planning

**16. Do fundraising** to support development of an initial draft Plan

**17. Assemble a team of volunteers** to kick off the creation of the draft Plan – outreach / community workshops / volunteers (eg network members, Team London etc), with a strategy for involving students.

**Steps up to the Summer 2015:**

**18. Create a Visioning Document** (Skeleton) to be adopted at the next OT conference