



HIGHBURY COMMUNITY NEWS

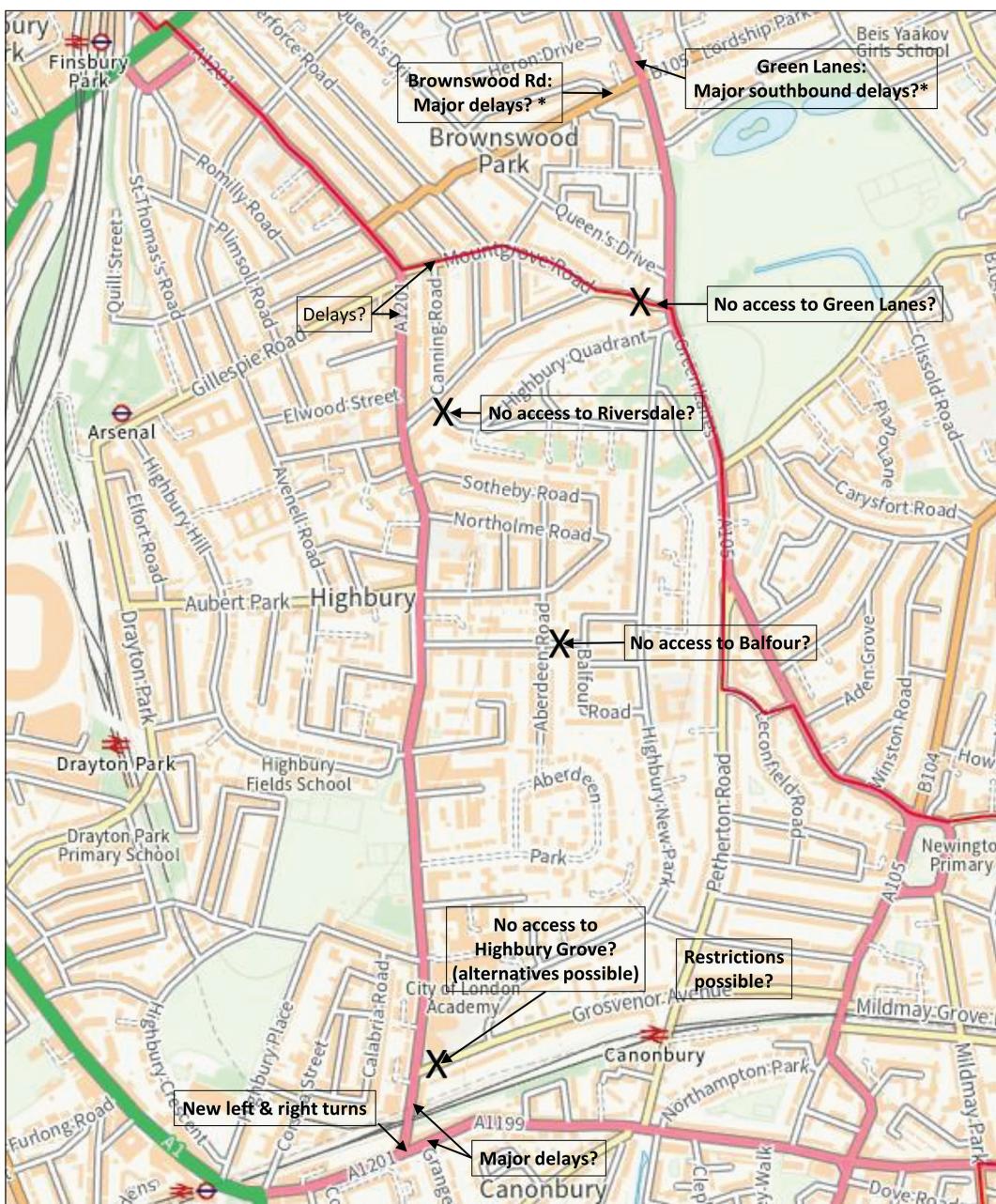
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The Proposed LTN in Highbury East – ‘solutions’ to a non-problem

Robert Tench

Islington Council are soon to start consultation on what they refer to as the **Highbury New Park Liveable Neighbourhood**. Although we do not know if this will start before the local election in May or before the start of the Thames Water works in Highbury Grove next summer, KHM (Keep Highbury Moving) plans to make this a major issue at the election. (Continued on page 2)



The Proposed LTN in Highbury East – ‘solutions’ to a non-problem

(Continued from Front Page)

The proposal will close all the east-west routes between St Pauls Road in the south and Brownswood Road in the north - blocking at some point Grosvenor, Highbury Grange, Highbury Quadrant, Riversdale and Mountgrove. The north-south boundaries are expected to be Petherton/Green Lanes in the east and Highbury Grove/Blackstock in the west. Current LTNs have already blocked far too many east-west routes in this part of the borough, and this proposal will massively add to that problem.

Central to this proposal, absolutely unbelievably, is the introduction of a left turn from Highbury Grove into St Pauls. This very awkward turn could only even be conceived of by non-car drivers and it risks being delivered with all the reluctance to listen to local people that gave us Highbury Corner and all its subsequent problems.

No vehicle will be able to turn east by any route from Brownswood southwards, except here – already a major pinch point at many times of day as Highbury Grove traffic

attempts to join St Paul's Road traffic. Imagine a 25 feet 7.5 ton truck attempting to turn left on this corner. Imagine too the traffic that will now have to turn right here to reach Highbury Grove/Blackstock Road, other routes having been blocked off. A few vehicles queueing on St Paul's Road to turn right at this junction will block everybody trying to get to Highbury Corner.

Finally imagine the even greater delays to the running of the 4 and 19 bus routes (already much held up at this junction in rush hours) caused by the huge additional volume of vehicles forced to use it.

At the northern end of the LN, much additional congestion will also occur, with extra traffic queueing to turn right from Brownswood on to Green Lanes, since alternative routes will have been withdrawn. This will impact the 109 bus. The same applies to southbound traffic on Green Lanes, where increased traffic turning into Brownswood will block all traffic unless the road can be widened, impacting 141 & 341 buses.

There are no clear benefits from any of this. Traffic levels and air pollution levels are currently low within the enclosed area, but will be considerably worsened on boundary roads by these proposals. Impacts on all the relevant bus routes will be acute, and congestion for the wide range of vehicles using these roads will be severe. Access to the Kelvin Road business estate, will become more difficult.

It is worth reminding ourselves that most traffic in Islington is through traffic from other boroughs, not local traffic. This is a borough where vehicle ownership is very low.

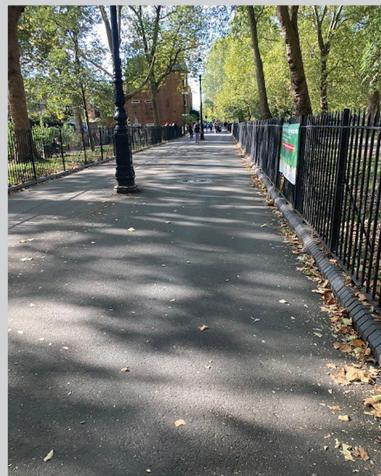
We hope that the Green Party councillors responsible for this potential LN area will support measurement of existing traffic flows, and proper modelling of change impacts, likely impacts on bus timetables and possible pollution increases at key junctions. It is our contention that a proper assessment of these factors would lead to the conclusion that there is zero need for this LN.

We are keen to have as wide support as possible, as we make this case.
Please contact: keephighburymoving@gmail.com if you are able to help.

Carol Concert

A candle-lit Carol Concert will be held at Christchurch Highbury from 6.30pm-7.30pm on 21st December 2025.

This well-loved event is always very well attended, so come early.



Church Path Update

We heard on 25th November that the Council's Internal Engineering Team are undertaking a review of risks and potential mitigations of risks on Church Path.

They should come back with a report on options in 2-3 weeks' time.

The Museum of Homelessness and its Winter Appeal

Matt Turtle



The Museum of Homelessness is building the national collection of accounts about homelessness, preserving, and sharing histories of homelessness, poverty, and social action. The Museum carries out independent investigations and campaigns for the changes needed to eliminate homelessness. The team influences policymakers and the homelessness field to make changes to policy and practice.

The Museum is housed inside Finsbury Park at Manor House Lodge, the old Victorian park-keeper's lodge, just inside the Manor House gates into the park, and very close to Manor House tube station.

Every year in winter the museum focusses on community action, supplying warm food, running an emergency shelter inside the museum, delivering a community programme on the premises but also giving out socks, sleeping bags, hand warmers and more out on the streets.

The Museum works closely with Haringey to help people out of homelessness by providing those able to move into rented accommodation with the deposit and the first month's rent.

The Winter Appeal aims to raise money to fund food, emergency shelter when a SWEP (Severe Weather Emergency Protocol) is called by government, respite accommodation, and supplies. Last winter the team delivered 3,327 hot meals and 101 warm beds for community members over the winter. It hosted 65 people on Christmas Day and a big boxing day brunch.

Rough sleeping has risen 91% since 2021, and continues to rise: more support is needed than ever. If you feel able to make a donation to the Museum of Homelessness – ideally within the next 2 weeks – the team would be enormously grateful. Copy the link below.

https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/mohwinter2025?utm_medium=CA&utm_source=CL

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Highbury Quadrant Estate

Hazel Wood



The Highbury Quadrant Estate lies at the northern end of tree-lined Highbury New Park. It is a big estate, stretching out on either side of Highbury New Park, a mixture of high- and low-rise buildings surrounded by broad areas of grass and many trees. Particularly on the west side it is very pleasant to walk through, intersected by a shady road that circles round a red brick church.

When the estate was built, between 1955 and 1956, it was considered the last word in urban planning. It was opened with enormous pride, the same optimistic feeling that produced the Festival of Britain, a promise that a rebuilt Britain would be a better and more equal country after the war. It was a showplace and people came from everywhere to see it, including a Russian delegation.

People from the badly bombed areas of East London where they had grown up in tiny crowded slum houses were thrilled to move into these new flats with all their outside space and their modern kitchens and bathrooms. On YouTube I found

some touching interviews done in 2014 with some of the older residents. 'I came from quite a slum area, though I didn't think of it that way because I was used to it,' one of them said. 'But when I moved here, I felt like the Queen. It was lovely'. As another said, 'They got lots of things wrong, but that generation of architects were really trying to make a better place for people to live in.' Care was taken to give sitting-rooms light from both sides and to see that the sun hit the balconies. There were shops, and plays and dances in the community hall, and everything was kept shipshape by a resident manager who oversaw a team of builders, plumbers and electricians based on the estate.

Things had obviously changed by 2014, but people who were interviewed, some of whom had grown up in the Quadrant, still had good things to say about it. By then it was much more culturally mixed, but people spoke of its greenness and openness, its sense of community, of neighbours who were kind and

generous though they might speak a different language.

The whole place does look less manicured and cared for than in the photographs of the Estate in its the proud early days, but it still boasts a rather remarkable statue. This grade II listed sculpture of two men sitting talking called 'The Neighbours,' was commissioned from a left-wing Austrian sculptor called Siegfried Charoux and was set up on a plinth there by the London County Council in 1957. It recalls, very poignantly, the idealism with which the original Estate was built.



SUMMER 2026 CONCERTS

Emirates Stadium will be hosting **Boyzone** in Concert on Friday 5th June and Saturday 6th June 2026



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Planning, Politics and the London Boroughs: prospects for the May elections

Sarah Potter

On 16th October, the London Forum, the umbrella organisation for local amenity societies such as the HCA, held its Annual General Meeting.

In addition to the formal business of the meeting, its patron, Professor Tony Travers, gave a talk on the politics of the council elections in London's boroughs to be held in May, which he thought would be the most interesting ever. Since the boroughs are the primary planning authorities, planning issues are likely to affect the political parties contesting the elections and their policies as well.

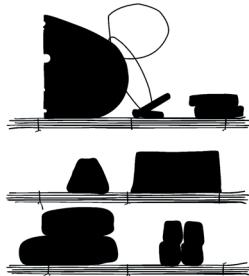
At present, of the 32 London boroughs, 21 have a Labour majority, 5 have a Conservative majority, 3 have a Liberal Democratic majority, and the remainder have no party in overall control.

Examining the results of recent polling, Professor Travers noted that support for Labour had declined by 15 or 20 per cent since the last borough elections in 2022, while Conservative support has risen 10 percent, resulting in a 5% swing to the Conservatives.

He did not expect Reform to do as well in London as elsewhere, though boroughs such as Bexley, Havering, Sutton and possibly other boroughs might return some Reform councillors. He suggested that the Greens and Corbyn's new party are likely to have an impact on Labour where it has dominated for a long time in boroughs such as Camden, Islington and Hackney. It could be that previously Labour boroughs move to no overall control.

The effect of these changes on local planning, he suggested, might be of interest. Labour is generally more in favour of development such as house building, while it is less popular among Conservatives, so it might be an issue in the party manifestos. There is of course a major piece of legislation going through Parliament at present which aims to streamline the planning system.

Professor Travers suggested that voters should vote tactically, and raise important issues such as conservation and the environment with local candidates.



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GETTING URBAN GREENING RIGHT

Gill Shepherd



A recent article sheds interesting light on what the priorities should be for urban greening. First and foremost, trees should be at the core of any planting undertaken since they provide longevity, and a core structure around which more ephemeral vegetation can come and go.

The authors argue that cities need to stop treating targets like “more trees,” “higher canopy cover,” or “greater species richness” as ends in themselves and instead to design urban vegetation around the specific ecological and social functions they are meant to perform. Overly simple counts obscure important questions about who benefits, which ecosystems are being supported, and how resilient planting will be under accelerating climate change.

Biodiversity and canopy are better seen as outcomes of good planning rather than as goals in themselves. The article recommends selecting species and spatial configurations for heat mitigation, stormwater management, habitat connectivity, and human health, rather than merely maximising counts or cover. It also emphasises “climate readiness”: the need to anticipate hotter, drier, and more variable conditions, and to build redundancy and diversity in, so that the urban forests of the future can withstand pests, diseases, and climatic extremes.

Based on the article by Salvo-Tierra, A E , Ruiz-Valero, A. 'Why urban greening requires more than just species diversity' Academia Environmental Sciences and Sustainability, 2025: 2

The authors stress the importance of justice and equity. Planting drives may concentrate on affluent districts where maintenance is easier, while low income areas with higher exposure to heat, pollution, or flooding receive fewer or less suitable trees.

They also point out that governance tends to shape implementation. Siloed departments and short term political cycles tend to favour visible, countable achievements. By contrast, function driven, just, and equitable urban forests require long term, cross sectoral coordination, securing funding for maintenance and monitoring, not just numbers planted.

The article encourages cities to integrate urban forests into wider green blue infrastructure planning and to adopt indicators linked to ecosystem services, social vulnerability reduction, and climate adaptation outcomes.

Overall, the article warns that too narrow a focus on ‘canopy’ or ‘biodiversity’ can produce ecologically superficial, socially regressive, and ultimately fragile urban forests. And it calls instead for a shift towards scientifically based, climate ready, and justice oriented planning in which resilient outcomes emerge from careful design and forethought.

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facebook.com/highburycommunity
where a lot of local businesses advertise

We also have a website
highburycommunity.org

Getting real about Immigration

Gill Shepherd

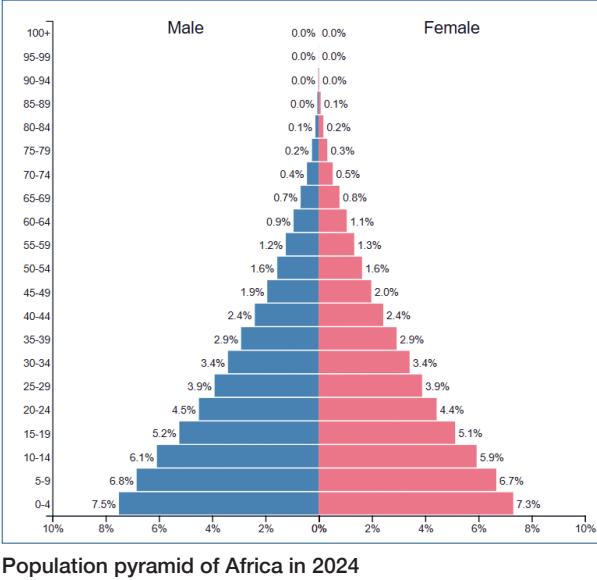
One of the infuriating things about the way in which just about all parties currently discuss immigration, is their apparent lack of understanding about just how much we need immigrants. British society is ageing, and the implications of that – not just for now, but even more for the coming decades – are stark, and we absolutely must address them.

A classical ‘population pyramid’ – a way of showing the population composition of a country by age cohorts – looks something like this one, of Africa in 2024.

The population overall is young, with large numbers (on a wide base) in the younger age categories, tapering off to far smaller numbers of older people over 60. Our own UK population pyramid has probably not looked like this for a hundred years.

Reproduced below, rather, is what our pyramid looked like in 1960 (on the left), and what it looks like now (on the right).

Although the spread of ages in 1960 was already very different from the African picture, there is still a roughly pyramidal form, with the bulk of the



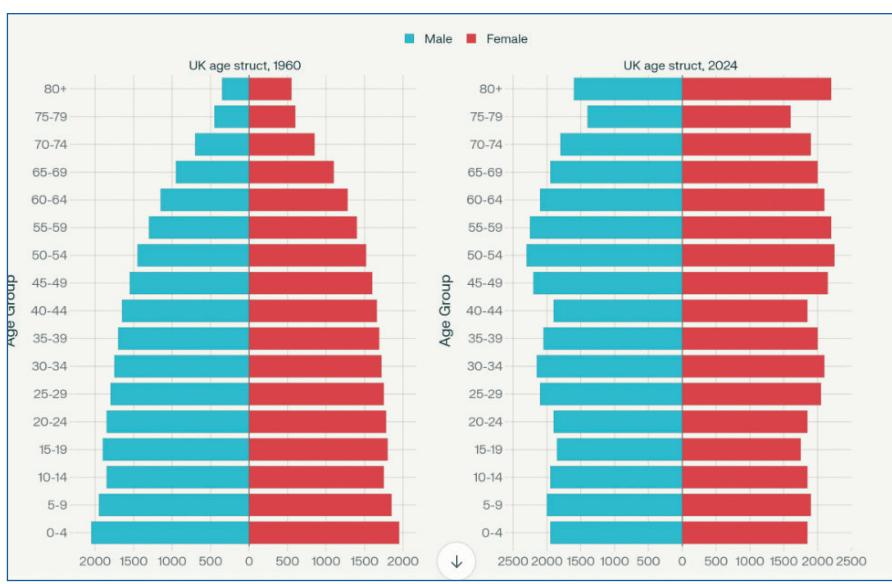
Population pyramid of Africa in 2024

We are not going to start producing babies again in sufficient numbers to widen out the base of the pyramid (women’s education is one main driver for fewer babies, and the overall cost of living the other) and even if we did, we would need to wait twenty years for them to become earners paying tax. So, we need to find immigrants already in their 20s 30s and 40s to make up those numbers, and to give our society a younger age profile again.

Right now, the average (median) age of a UK citizen is 41 and it is even older in many other European countries. By contrast, the median age of a South Asian is 27. The median age of a Middle Easterner is 22-27, The median age of an African is 20. So, it is evident that we need immigrants from those regions, and should be making far more effort to welcome them, offer them English classes and further training if they need it, and turn them into full members of our society in the way – in the past – America managed to do so well with many categories of its one-time foreigners. Any other approach is doomed.

Why is it so hard for the relevant parties to explain these facts to the British public and make it clear how much we need to welcome those immigrants if we are to have a properly functioning society? Current narratives not only encourage racism, but are based on a fantasy Britain which has not existed for many decades, and will never exist again.

(Sources: unstats.un.org; population.un.org; data.worldbank.org; worldometers.info)



Population pyramids of UK in 1960 and 2024



Celebrating Christmas in Highbury



Sarah Potter



The first step in celebrating Christmas in Highbury is to adorn your home with a Christmas tree. These will be available from **Lees News** at the Barn and **Seasons and Blossoms** on Highbury Park. Christmas lights and decorations will be in stock at **Woodland Hardware**, as well as a range of candles.

Then, make sure your Christmas lunch is special this year. Godfreys recommend their free range deboned half turkey with luxury cranberry stuffing, ham and pigs in blankets. Turkey tins are available from **Woodland Hardware**. The **Highbury Fishmongers** are stocking salmon and smoked salmon, as well as oysters, crabs, lobsters, turbot and sea bass. At **La Fromagerie**, Christmas puddings and mince pies will be available, as well as British and French cheeses. **Seasons and Blossoms** will have fresh vegetables, including fresh cranberries and chestnuts, and English apples, to pre-order for collection or delivery, as with their Christmas trees. One tip is that the panettones available from **Da Mario's** in the Barn make very good trifles – and make good presents as well.

Lees News will be stocking Christmas cards and wrapping paper. **Ink@84** on Highbury Park has a wide range of books for children and adults and accepts orders. **Clarissa Hulse** (29 Corsica Street) have a wonderful range of scarves, bags and pouches and bedding in glowing designs and colours.

Above all, we can all celebrate the quality and range of what is on offer in Highbury this Christmas, and the service we will receive.

USEFUL INFORMATION FOR RESIDENTS

FROM THE ARSENAL WARD PANEL WITH THE MET, 6TH November 2025

When to report to the Police

The police always stress that they are keen for you to report criminal incidents and behaviour, even if you feel what you are reporting is minor and/or you do not think the police will be able to do anything to help (e.g. if a phone or a bike is stolen). The more reports the police get, the more resources are made available for them to monitor and patrol.

The Ward Sergeant for Arsenal Ward's Neighbourhood Policing Team is called **Mike Lohan**

Criminal incidents: call 999 in an emergency and 101 in a non-emergency

Criminal behaviour: this covers abuse, intimidation, or harassment; drug-use/dealing; misuse of airguns; aggressive begging; vandalism; inappropriate use of fireworks www.met.police.uk/report

Crimestoppers: To report, or to pass on intelligence anonymously call 0800 555111 or report online via www.met.police.uk/report

When to report to the Council
Anti-social behaviour (ASB): report on ASB line 020 7527 7272 or www.islington.gov.uk/reportASB

To report concerns about a young person: contact Children's Services on 020-7527 7400 or email csctreferrals@islington.gov.uk

Adult social care, including safeguarding: call 020 7527-2299 (Monday to Friday 9.00am TO 5.00pm) or 020 7226 0992 out of hours

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