



**SHAPING
WOOD
GREEN**

**The Heart of
North London**


Haringey
LONDON

Young musicians using the recording studio at the award-winning Rising Green Youth Hub, which was codesigned with local young people. There are said to be more music studios in Wood Green than any other part of London.



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Members of Wood Green Young Voices chose to photograph Anna Nicolo's colourful mural as a place to celebrate their neighbourhood. The artwork reflects the languages spoken locally and the cultural diversity of Wood Green.

Introduction

This is our vision for what Wood Green could become. We've come up with this together - through the Wood Green Voices workshops held with members of the public in November 2022. We will work hard to make things happen and continue to build on the collaboration that's begun.

We've listened to what you told us and have created six themes that reflect a shared idea of how to steer the changes that we can make.

We've organised our thinking about the place into five placemaking areas for focus.

This document celebrates who we are and what we have already, but is clear about the challenges we face. The changes we want to make are not unique to Wood Green, but our response will be. It will come from the distinct and diverse mix of people who make this place their home and build on the good things we can enjoy now.

“When you are in Wood Green, you feel alive... it's a place to go and meet people”

Community workshop

Three young people at the Wightman Road Mosque.



A vision for Wood Green

The full version of this vision will be part of the draft Local Plan when published. This vision has been written to reflect the main messages that we heard through the Wood Green Voices engagement programme:

“Wood Green will strengthen its position as the economic and cultural heart of North London. It will be a vibrant community hub, providing a wealth of services and experiences for locals and visitors. Residents, businesses, and local partners will be proud of their neighbourhood, having worked together to deliver and maintain shared aspirations.

We will enhance the things that are unique about Wood Green. Our town centre will be an enjoyable place to spend time, with more high-quality public spaces to rest and relax, and a great mix of diverse shops and places to eat, leisure and culture facilities, and better health and public services.

We will improve connections to the Cultural Quarter so its creative activities will be easier for everyone to access. And we will make sure our parks and green spaces meet the needs of our residents and provide respite from the effects of climate change. The council and its partners will work with our diverse communities to create a cleaner, safer and greener neighbourhood, where all feel welcome.”

The watch and clock repair shop in Wood Green Library Mall has been servicing time pieces for over three decades.



Six themes for change

Making Wood Green a welcoming place

Lots of things go into making a place welcoming, and it starts with being clean and safe. So many people across our community work hard to improve how their street, neighbourhood or local park feels, yet we know that too many people feel unsafe or unwelcome as they move around Wood Green – especially young people, and especially after dark. We also know that the litter and waste made by some makes it hard for everyone else to fully enjoy their surroundings or take pride in where they live.

We want a Wood Green where people of all ages can enjoy spending time in their

neighbourhood and where the public spaces people see around them are clean and well-maintained. We've heard clearly that people want to feel safe from the threat of violence and anti-social behaviour, and safe to walk or cycle along our streets.

The result should be a Wood Green that works for all its residents, that promotes more positive connections and cohesion between neighbours, and which lays the foundations for everything else we want to achieve.

“People value their area when they feel their area values them.”

Community workshop

Newly completed Café Roj on Ducketts Common.



Culture at the heart of Wood Green

We want Wood Green to be a place where culture and creativity are woven into its fabric, enriching our residents' lives and attracting visitors from other boroughs. Our residents say that they want to see more events and venues where they can enjoy music, performance and celebrate our diverse heritage and multicultural identity.

By protecting and promoting affordable workspace, we will help our creative industries grow, and make them a more visible part of

Wood Green life by drawing activity from the Cultural Quarter into the town centre.

In partnership with the area's creative organisations and community groups, we will deliver locally rooted cultural events and make Wood Green a great place to experience culture.

Open air performance, markets, and street food will breathe new life into our public spaces during the day and into the evening.

“We could have events that have street food, dancing and other things to do.”

Primary School workshop

International ceramicist Petr Weigl at work in his studio in Wood Green's Cultural Quarter.



Putting the green into Wood Green

Residents love our parks and green spaces but would like them to be improved – and for Wood Green's streets to be greener.

We will introduce more trees, biodiversity, and sustainable drainage features into the public realm to green our streets and improve air quality. This will also support wildlife and help us adapt

to the impacts of climate change such as flooding and overheating.

We will also get more out of our existing parks and green spaces for people and for the environment, making them into places that *all* residents can enjoy, to exercise and play sport, to relax and unwind, to meet friends or to enjoy nature.

"...If it was more colourful and with more greenery it would be a nicer place to live."

Youth workshop – Haringey Learning Partnership



Local residents from Noel Park took part in a GrowN22 workshop to plant drought tolerant planting at Gladstone Road Parklet. This road, which was plagued by fly-tipping, has now become a space where the local community can meet up, relax and engage with one another.

Living Well

Wood Green residents already have many services and facilities nearby. We want to improve the quality, mix and accessibility to give more of our residents the support they need for a good life, day-to-day, here on their doorstep.

That means joined-up, easy-to-use and well-managed council services, policing, health services and community facilities. It means buildings and public spaces that are accessible for everyone, including people with disabilities,

and ensuring our residents live in comfortable, habitable homes.

Wood Green will be a local hub that caters for more of our residents' needs and interests, building on the new NHS Diagnostics Hub and Rising Green Youth Hub. There is a clear need for further investment in the Council's directly delivered services in Wood Green and to be ambitious for the services we deliver, whether that's a new library, customer services centre, or potentially a new leisure centre.

“We need more intergenerational stuff, making this a place that works for young and old people. Better facilities can encourage this.”

Service providers

Young students attending a music workshop at the Alevi Cultural Centre in Wood Green.



North London's town centre for all

Wood Green is a popular, well-established place to shop and eat. Like other town centres, it will need to adapt to changing trends in how people are shopping and using their high streets.

We want to build on Wood Green's strengths. It can be a place that nurtures quality local businesses alongside big retailers, where independent food and drink businesses extend its appeal and make a more vibrant and safer town centre well into the evening.

Wood Green needs more diverse community, cultural and civic anchors – vital to its survival and revival – and this is happening already. A health hub, a leisure centre, a higher education institution and a cultural anchor could all be part of making Wood Green a richer destination to learn, socialise and to enjoy leisure and cultural activities.

Many residents would like to see more opportunities to inject further colour and character into our public realm, making buildings and public spaces attractive and enjoyable places to spend time - to play, watch performances or just eat a sandwich. It is also important that routes into and around Wood Green make walking and cycling as safe and pleasant as possible, so that more people can be confident moving around the area on foot or by bike.

Fundamentally, we want it to be a town centre that reflects and serves its community in a range of ways, whilst continuing to draw visitors from across North London. A place that gives more people opportunities to earn a living, to socialise, to enjoy leisure and cultural activities, as well as to shop, eat and drink..



Head chef at work in Oita Japanese Cuisine, which has expanded the range of global food that Wood Green has to offer.

An economy to benefit everyone

We want to make sure everything we do creates real benefits for local people by making the most of our Council buildings and resources.

To make this happen, together, we'll need energy, skills and investment from a range of partners. In many cases the Council's role will be to enable collaboration, convening, facilitating, and connecting with others. We will make sure this always involves local people.

We will bring the right people together at the right time to build momentum, secure investment, develop projects and take practical actions that progress our shared vision. That could be our statutory partners at local and regional level; our businesses; and our voluntary and community sector partners – including those small community groups who make such a big contribution to life in Wood Green.

"I'm imagining a place that's moving through time... that I feel part of that... it would be a place that feels more personalised, thought-through, designed for people."

Community workshop

Francesco working in his Fixlosophy bike shop and workshop in Blue House Yard.



Lucia café on Wood Green High Road is well loved, day and evening. Cafes and restaurants bring together communities and support the local evening economy.



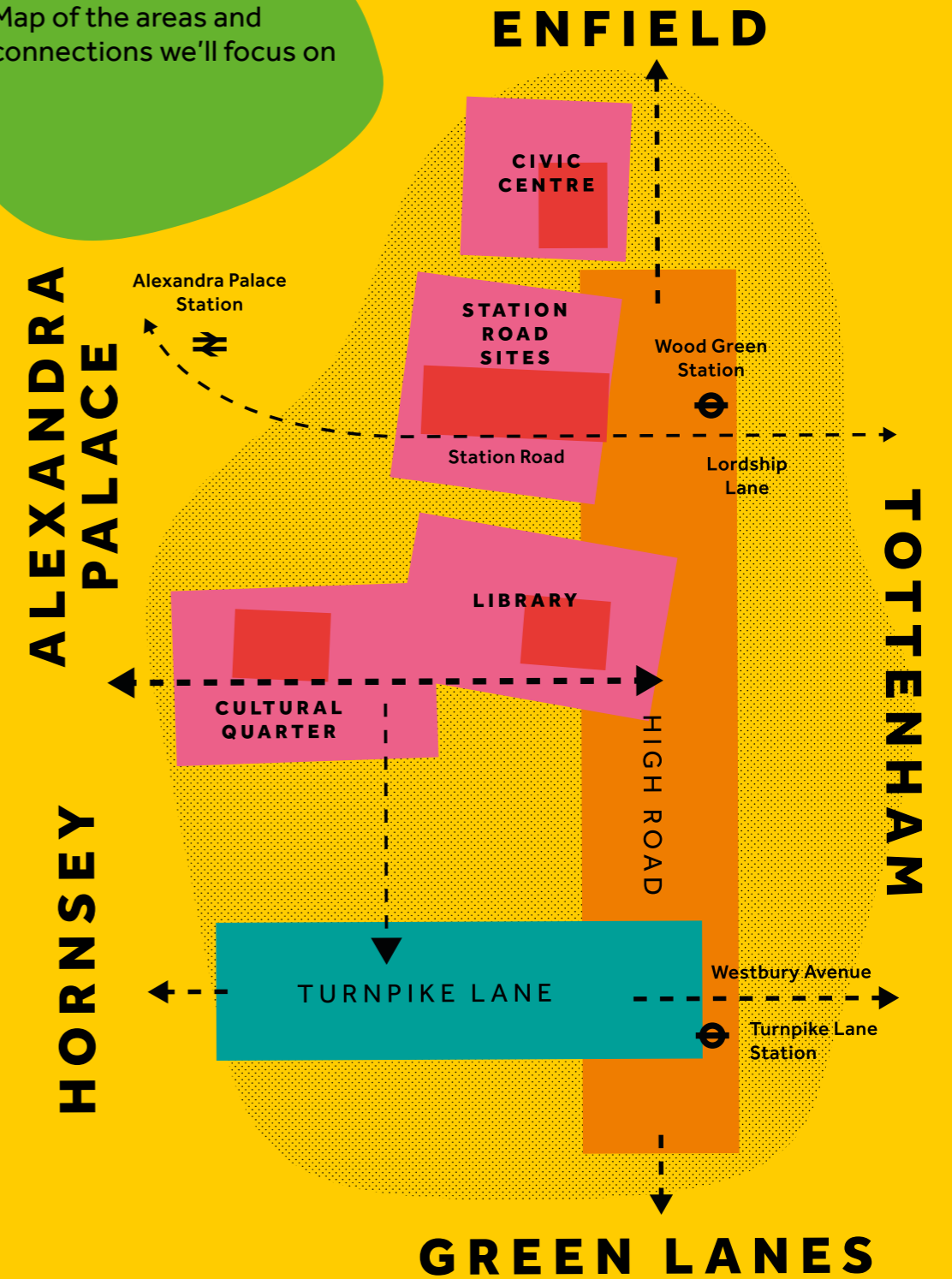
Five placemaking areas

An evening food market at Blue House Yard, one of the events in a lively calendar of year-round activities.



Alongside the six themes, we've identified five 'Placemaking Areas' where we think there is the greatest potential for providing new community and civic facilities and places to spend time that will help transform Wood Green.

Map of the areas and connections we'll focus on



CULTURAL QUARTER

Often hidden away from view, the Cultural Quarter is an ecosystem of creative businesses, some with a global reach.

We can boost the role all creative businesses play in Wood Green and make culture more accessible through activity on council owned sites, and more visible by making public spaces and active ground floors that reflect what happens behind closed doors.

We can help deliver more employment and studio space to support existing businesses and

encourage new ones to make Wood Green their home.

Council-owned sites, such as Mallard Place and Kingfisher Place, could be used to attract a Cultural Anchor to boost footfall and improve the profile of the area, creating a place for existing creative businesses to gather around, and a platform to reach out to the public.

By making an East-West link that connects the Cultural Quarter to the High Road we will help to increase visibility and accessibility to the area.

“We have 185 artists, a theatre, 38 recording studios. The Cultural Quarter is the biggest secret in the area.”

Creative sector workshop



Local young person, part of a youth photography project, chose this location in the Cultural Quarter as a place in Wood Green she is keen to explore.

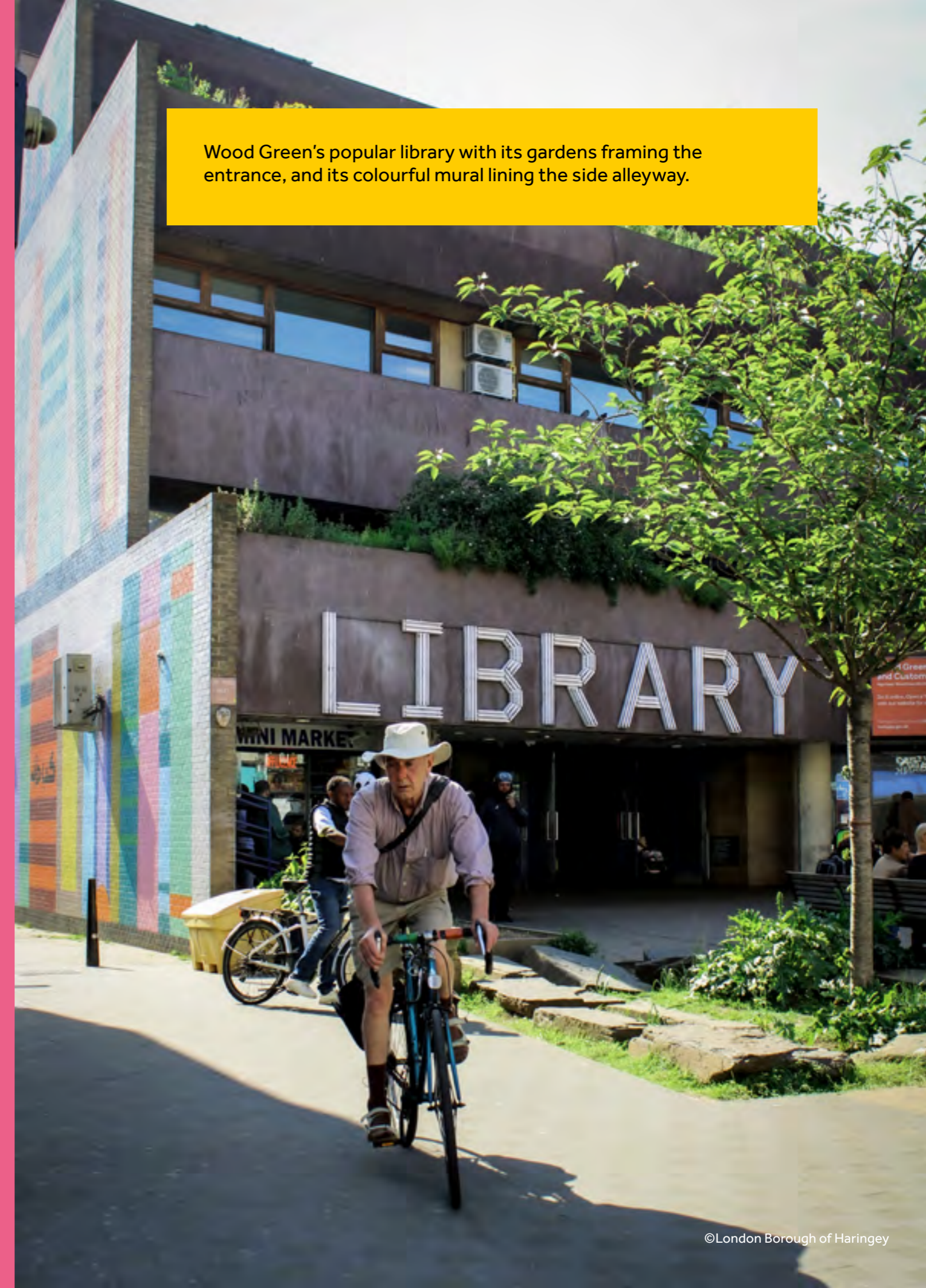
LIBRARY SITE

The Library site is the heart of the high road with the potential to make a new, critically important, attractive link to the Cultural Quarter. Its highly visible, central location means it could be the public services hub of the borough, making a town centre people feel is useful and welcoming. The library mall is a potential development

site for the council that could be used to house more public services (such as a new Customer Services Centre, or a leisure centre). There is an opportunity to make new public spaces and new links by working with close neighbours such as Capital & Regional's Wood Green Mall, and other council-owned sites in the area.

“We could pull services together in one space - a leisure centre with a GP, Library, adult learning”

Public survey response



Wood Green's popular library with its gardens framing the entrance, and its colourful mural lining the side alleyway.

STATION ROAD SITES

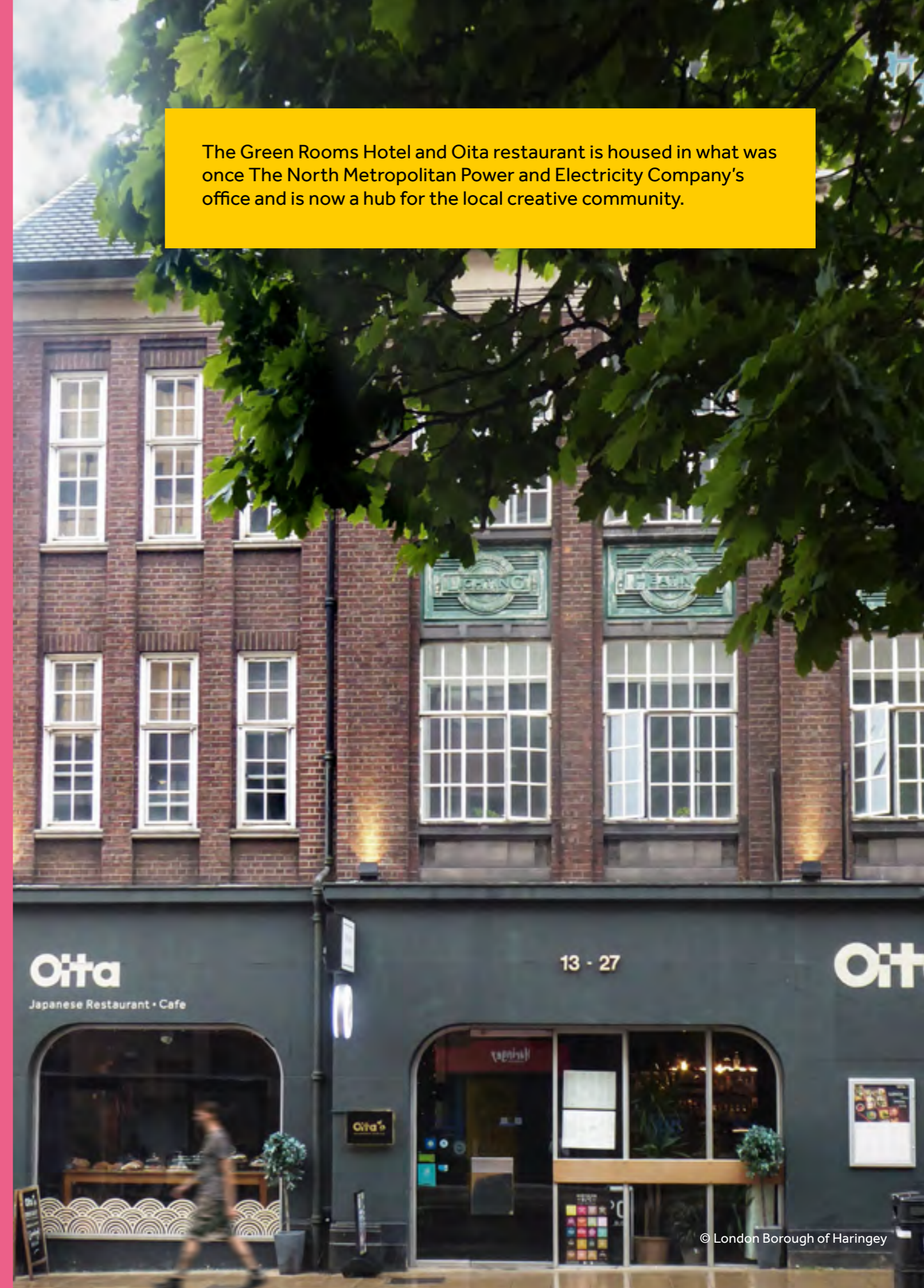
The Station Road sites, along with the adjacent Arriva bus garage and Green Ridings House, offer the greatest potential for Wood Green to be ambitious and attract new economic growth to the area. The site overlooks an important crossroads on routes to Alexandra Palace, Tottenham, the Civic Centre and Wood Green's town centre and could act as a gateway on the route

up to Alexandra Palace. There is the potential for several tall buildings for homes, business and other uses to support Wood Green's growth, and space for a major new anchor institution, such as a university. A new tree-lined area of public realm could offer respite from the summer sun and soften the character of the High Road and Station Road.

"There is so much opportunity to be had but it will take innovative and radical thinking... we need beautiful buildings and spaces that elevate the area - then the businesses will be attracted and more likely to survive."

Public survey response

The Green Rooms Hotel and Oita restaurant is housed in what was once The North Metropolitan Power and Electricity Company's office and is now a hub for the local creative community.



CIVIC CENTRE

The Civic Centre, along with George Meehan House, will be the heart of democratic and civic life in Haringey, and will embody a sense of civic pride. It will be a place for convening, public accountability, ceremony, and celebration, where residents and visitors will feel

welcome. The Civic Centre will house the majority of the council's staff and will extend the footfall and economic activity of the High Road northwards. The greenery of the grounds will offer a haven from the more urban nature of the Town Centre

“This truly iconic building holds a special place in the hearts of many people ... I am proud we will be re-establishing the Civic Centre as the focal point for public life in the very centre of our borough.”

Cllr Peray Ahmet, Leader of the Council

An artist's impression of the refurbished Civic Centre, due for completion in 2026.



HIGH ROAD & TURNPIKE LANE

We will make the High Road and Turnpike Lane more welcoming by creating a network of high-quality public realm improvements for people to spend time in and relax.

This will involve creating new spaces as well as thinking how our existing public realm, such as the Library Forecourt, Lymington Avenue and Spouters Corner, could work better for our residents.

We want our shared spaces to be cleaner and safer, and animated through a wider range of activities, with more trees, places to sit and rest, and watch performance. They will host a variety of events and

public artworks, to reflect the many communities of Wood Green, and welcome all generations including our young people. For Turnpike Lane and Ducketts Common this will mean celebrating its cultural heritage, international restaurants and food outlets.


We will support and improve our street markets and encourage a more diverse economy on the High Road so it can continue to thrive. We will make safer and more pleasant links to the wider borough, including Wood Green's residential areas and Hornsey, so that walking and cycling is as convenient and pleasant as possible.

“Wood Green needs to promote a more ‘local ecology’ that makes it work for local people – not just for the big retailers.”

Community workshop

The owner of Puraan Indian vegetarian restaurant on Turnpike Lane showcases some of his renowned menu. Turnpike Lane has a growing reputation for its international food and restaurant offer.





Matt Dosa's landmark community co-designed artwork 'Under Many Flags' on the spiral ramp of the Mall's car park.

"I would like to see more community events so people feel better connected to one another, such as markets that bring together different cultures."

Community workshop

Shaping Wood Green is not just this document – it is a continuing conversation. If you would like to be part of the journey and get involved in future discussions about the themes and placemaking areas, please email woodgreenregeneration@haringey.gov.uk and we will add you to the Shaping Wood Green contact list.

