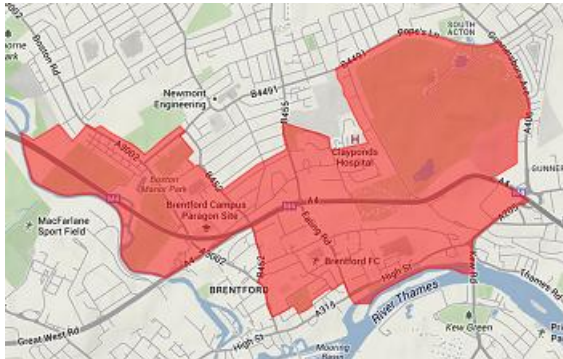


# Community First Plan for Brentford

Produced by the Community First Panel, August 2013



## Consulting the community

There are many [substantial strategy documents](#) (link to downloads) about Brentford or the borough as a whole. These include:

- Hounslow Draft Plan (2013)
- GP Access Project (2009)
- Brentford Area Action Plan (2009, to be replaced by Hounslow Plan)
- Brentford Area Health Assessment (2006)
- Brentford High Street Community Vision (2007)
- Brentford Waterways (2009)
- Brentford Mapping (2006)
- Brentford Play Plan (2008)
- Play Provision in Brentford (2006)
- Historic Assets Report (2013)

In 2010 a large survey of Brentford was done looking at the needs of residents, businesses, charities and other organisations. A substantial response was gained from the residents and charities in particular with over 150 responses.

## What do our residents want from the area?

- A new town centre, better shops and use of waterside/waterways
- Youth facilities
- Support groups
- Improved playground facilities and other open spaces
- Music/events venue in the town centre
- Community centre
- Improved sports facilities (for adults and young);
- More cleaning
- More information about local history
- Better communication about what's on and support/groups available

### What did they think needed to be done to help Brentford?

- Much of what needs to be done must be council led.
- Those who are already active in the community have their free time already committed.
- Some of those who aren't active are willing but need managing.
- An attempt at securing a building for a long term inter-generational community space failed due to resistance from residents that would have backed onto the proposed site.
- An easy means for people to find out what needs doing, how they can contribute and where to go.

As a result of these activities the local community has decided upon the following priorities as the focus for Community First.

### List of priorities

- Youth from 0-18 (widening access to existing programmes with practical and inclusive activities and clubs)
- Vulnerable people (physically or mentally disabled or isolated) removing barriers to access to local assets.
- Community cohesion (inter-generational and inter-ability relationship building and working through activities and clubs).

### Local Volunteers audit

Although people do volunteer their time, what is lacking is time and funding to manage these volunteers. If there was more funding available to pay some volunteers who had the skills to organise others then more projects can be carried out.

### In-kind resources

Within the community there are marquees, stall tables, PA systems available for free or at a discounted rate.

Halls are no longer available at very cheap for charities as the owners need greater funds for maintenance.

There is already good communication between the principal charity or voluntary organisations in terms of sharing information and resources.

### What Funding is available to community groups in our ward?

Council grants include Area Forums fund, Hounslow Innovation Fund, Hounslow Community Youth Fund and Hounslow Stabilisation Fund. Further information can be found at [Hounslow Council Grants](#)

External funding can be best be found through signing up for the monthly [eVolve newsletter](#) and also through the [Hounslow 4 Community](#) portal.

Other useful support can be found at [Hounslow Community Network](#) and [Hounslow Voluntary Sector Support Service](#)

## What projects are already taking place in our ward?

Brentford High Street Steering Group have a number of projects ongoing with the aim of supporting and improving the High Street.

Brentford Festival is an annual event that is run by volunteers and widely supported.

Smaller fairs no longer have suitable funding and have stopped.

Youth projects have stopped due to lack of funding.

Brentford Toy Library continues at a reduced level, and there are several other services that offer carers and under 5s activities but changes in funding is altering this.

BRAG (Brentford Recycling Action Group) and Transition Brentford carry out a number of local green projects including a community dig.

Hounslow Heritage Guides provide weekly walks in the summer months and BrentfordHistory.com provides local history online as does Chiswick and Brentford Local History Society.

AgeUK provides a number of essential services to Brentford elderly residents although they are having difficulty finding new premises.

Many other groups exist.