

Green Street E7

Newham high streets

Overview of Engagement in Green Street

Over the last two years, there have been a series of engagement workshops with residents and businesses to discuss about issues and opportunities for change within their Green Street neighbourhood. Specifically, engagement has been realised as part of three programmes: a. Citizens' Assemblies, b. Shape Newham and c. Good Growth Programme for Green Street. In this document, we provide a quick overview of what you have shared with us during these engagements and the projects they have helped shape.

Citizens' assemblies are large meetings, open to everyone from the neighbourhood to collectively decide how to improve the area. The process began in September 2018, and there have been five assemblies. The Green Street Community Neighbourhood team has worked with residents to come up with small-scale projects to help tackle issues that have been discussed at these assemblies. Those that attended set priorities for the Community Plan, worked together on solutions to local problems, and advised how funding available should be spend. A series of working group meetings involving local residents that were selected to represent the interests of the local community and work with the Council to develop the Community Plan and to advise on the priority projects. The Council and the working group would then present updates to residents who attended the assemblies during 2019 and 2020.

Shape Newham is a project commissioned by Newham Council to involve the Green Street community in shaping of some of the public spaces. There were three Shape Newham assemblies from October to December 2019, followed by a series of design committees made up of local residents from January to March 2020, whose role was to advise the design teams on the development of the agreed concept for each projects selected by the local community

Shape Newham was specifically designed so that local residents and businesses were the decision makers on what the projects should be, where they should be located, and the design team who should be delivering them.

In Green Street, residents felt the area needed major improvements in the look and feel of the high street and that it should be greener.

Green Street Community Engagement: In May and June 2019, the council ran an engagement exercise with the local community and asked them to respond to three questions:

How would you like Green Street to look in the future?

How can we improve the high street?

How can we make the Market better?

The council distributed over 21,000 free-post cards to residential premises, businesses and market traders and the findings revealed the local communities the top 10 priorities for the high street and Queens Market

what engagement programmes have taken place in Green Street recently?

Green Street's priorities are:



green & clean environment



public realm & street improvements



affordable workspace



safety / dealing with crime & ASB



community spaces



improved air quality

Good Growth Programme:

The findings from the Community Engagement Exercise were used, in part, to inform the bid to the Mayor of London's Good Growth Fund. In January 2020, the council ran seven facilitated workshops where the local community help to shape the final bid by prioritising a series of ideas cards to identify their top six priorities. The top three priorities were included in the final bid that was awarded £2 million grant funding. The council has also secured a further £2.1m to support the development and delivery of four projects, including:

- a) improvements to Queens Market to upgrade the look, feel and function of the building;
- b) improvements to Queens Square to help better activate the public space and encourage greater use by residents and shoppers;
- c) a new cultural and wellbeing space utilising the vacant units underneath the Hamara Ghar; and,
- d) a new affordable workspace to support the Council's community wealth building objectives by repurposing some of the under occupied car park on the podium level of the Queens Market building.

What matters most to Green Street?

Through these engagement programmes, people of Green Street have highlighted what's most important to them. The key themes included a **cleaner environment for all**, better **public realm and street improvements** providing spaces where people can sit, relax and enjoy. Well-managed streets and spaces was also identified as a way to **deal with ASB**, and better options for **parking** but also the **amount of traffic** travelling along Green Street was also seen as two key issues. The community were also keen to make Green Street greener by introducing more **trees and planting** to help soften the appearance of the high street.

What have been the outcomes of these engagements?

As an outcome of working together has meant specific small and large projects have been identified. Through the **Citizens' Assemblies**, five projects have been developed and implemented:

The **Community Civic Pride Project**, bringing over 55 residents together to volunteer for three community litter picks.

what have been some tangible outcomes, projects developed and plans for the near future that have come out of these engagements?

The **Cleaner and Greener Project** developed collaborations with schools to raise awareness on cleaner and greener environments, including helping to deter littering in Green Street through a set of creative posters.

The **Community Road Show** organised safety events to provide opportunities for residents to get information, advice and help on any services.

The **Community Ambassadors** is a project where residents work with local enforcement and police to build a partnership, keeping residents and businesses safe.

The **Performance Play** is dedicated to raising awareness on knife crime in collaboration with AppleCart Arts, with workshops and a drama exploring the issues of knife crime.

Through the **Shape Newham** programme, the designs for four public realm interventions were co-designed. Due to the social distancing restrictions, these projects will now be delivered in 2021. They include:

The **Sweet Bollards**, near Upton Park Station, are bespoke bollards that celebrate the unique identity of Green Street. The shape, form and colour of the bollards have been inspired by the confectionery found in the area's cake shops.

The **Stations Welcome** is a new access gate and floor surface, which will provide an enhanced welcome for those walking along Green Street.

The **Festival Square**, is divided into 2 parts; an uplift to the pedestrian link between Green Street and Crescent Road and improvements to the public realm behind the high street adjacent to the on-street car park. Residents and shop owners have supported the idea to enhance and open up this space, encouraging more positive community activity.

The **Welcome to Green Street**, at the junction with Barking Road, will create a gateway location that promotes and celebrates the variety of cultures, heritage and produce on offer in the area.

Finally, the council is seeking feedback from the local community, Queens Market Traders and Green Street businesses on the draft design briefs for the **Good Growth Programme**. The design briefs are finalised in September and the co-design process with the community will commence later this year, with the implementation of final project commencing in late 2021.

for more information about Citizens Assemblies:

www.newham.gov.uk/council/citizens-assemblies/4?documentId=223&categoryId=20013

for more information about Shape Newham:

<https://shapenewham.co.uk/>

for more information about the Good Growth Fund:

<https://www.newham.gov.uk/regeneration-1/regeneration-project-green-street/2?documentId=382&categoryId=20140>