

Newham High Streets Programme Phase 1: Forest Gate Project Delivery Tracker

Summer 2022

The Newham High Street Programme launched in September 2020.

The Newham High Streets Phase 1 Report was published in June 2021 and included the [Forest Gate High Street Delivery Plan \(PDF\)](#).

The Delivery Plan was developed through a community co-design process and incorporates project ideas suggested by local residents and businesses.

The tables below provide an update on the progress made in progressing some of the project recommendations after one year since the publication of the Delivery Plan. The Council has focused on progressing the ideas that were most popular with local communities during community engagement.

Recommendation A - Improve Air Quality & Support Active Travel in and around Forest Gate

Project Idea(s)	Description of Project Idea(s) in Delivery Plan	Update on Progress (Summer 2022)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> >Manage Traffic & Enable Active Travel >Forest Gate Cycles 	Investigate feasible ways to prioritise pedestrians and cyclists along Woodgrange Road and Upton Lane. And support local trips to Forest Gate town centre by bicycle.	The 'Woodgrange and Capel' Low Traffic Neighbourhood is being prepared for installation. In addition, design work is underway on the upgrade of the experimental modal filters for the adjacent 'Atherton' Low Traffic Neighbourhood.
>Redesign the Woodgrange Rd - Upton Ln & Romford Rd Junction	Redesign the junction of Romford Road with Upton Lane and Woodgrange Road to become more pedestrian-friendly and accessible.	The Levelling Up Fund Programme will include creation of a Romford Road Active Travel Corridor by 2024. This will include a redesigned junction at Upton Lane and Woodgrange Road alongside other improvements.

Recommendation B. Make the town centre greener & improve people's mental & physical health through gardening

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>Urban Forest	Increase the levels of greenery and trees on and around the high street.	Five urban greening projects have been supported through the 2021/22 Community Assembly Programme: 1. Going Green - Green the high street: Woodgrange Road and Upton Lane, 2. Bio-diverse corridors, 3. Make the most of what we've got, 4. Creating an environmentally friendly open space and 5. Youth Led - Forest Gate Planting Project. Additionally, Levelling Up Fund Programme funding for further urban greening to be installed throughout 2022-2024.
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Recommendation C. Support young people's and children's safety, physical health and activity

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>Forest Play Network	Improve and maintain playgrounds such as the Forest Lane Park and Odessa Park playgrounds and create better signage from the high street.	Two projects have been supported through the 2021/22 Community Assembly Programme that are aligned to this project idea: 1. Odessa Park Improvements and 2. Signposts and Trails to Playgrounds
>Children-safe Routes to School	Help build a 'Healthy School Street Programme' with workshops, mapping routes and improving visibility.	The 'Odessa', 'Atherton' and 'Woodgrange and Capel' Low Traffic Neighbourhoods improve the environment for walking and cycling to school. In addition, all schools in the area will be invited to participate in the 'Healthy School Streets' programme.

Recommendation D. Improve the look and feel of the high street and support better experiences while walking down Upton Lane & Woodgrange Road

Project Idea(s)	Description of Project Idea(s) in Delivery Plan	Update on Progress (Summer 2022)
>Colours of Forest Gate	Develop a programme of murals highlighting	The Levelling Up Fund Programme will include installation

<p>>Brighter Alleyways</p>	<p>the history and identity of Forest Gate. Also brighten up alleys with better lighting and artwork.</p>	<p>of at least two new murals during 2023 as part of the 'Colours of Forest Gate' project. Murals and artwork will be co-designed with local residents and members of Newham's creative communities.</p> <p>The first new mural is intended to be located at the site of the former Upper Cut Club following suggestions by the community during previous engagement events.</p> <p>Projects will also explore opportunities to locate artwork in alleyways to improve the appearance and increase perceptions of safety.</p>
<p>>Colourful Crossings</p>	<p>Incorporate colourful crossings with reinstatement of the Forest Gate Pride crossing.</p>	<p>The Forest Gayte Pride Floor Mural was supported through the Community Assembly Programme and has now been installed.</p>
<p>>Welcome to Forest Gate</p>	<p>Secure access to the bridge by Network Rail and create a mural welcoming people that enter the Forest Gate town centre from the North.</p>	<p>The Levelling Up Fund Programme includes installation of the 'Welcome to Forest Gate' project in 2024. The project will be co-designed with the community and will also incorporate the proposal to 'Improve Public Realm in Front of Youth Zone'.</p>
<p>>Upgrade Upton Lane</p>	<p>Improve the look and feel of Upton Lane and create a better sense of place and connection to the town centre.</p>	<p>The Levelling Up Fund Programme includes upgrading the public realm along Upton Lane and will reduce air pollution and congestion while delivering a safe, vibrant and attractive public realm.</p>
<p>>Evening Lights</p>	<p>Improve lighting in darker corners of Woodgrange Road and Upton Lane to increase safety during the evening. Incorporate festive lights in / around the train stations and on trees.</p>	<p>The Shape Newham project, 'Guide Posts', will be installed in late 2022 on the corner of Upton Lane and Romford Road. This will include illumination of the trees.</p>

Recommendation E. Activate & support longevity of civic buildings

Project Idea(s)	Description of Project Idea(s) in Delivery Plan	Update on Progress (Summer 2022)
>Public Realm in front of Youth Zone	Improve the look and feel of the public realm outside Forest Gate Youth Zone to create a more welcoming entrance to Forest Gate town centre.	The idea will be incorporated into the 'Welcome to Forest Gate' project as part of the Levelling Up Fund Programme.

Recommendation F. Extend people's spending time in Forest Gate by supporting Evening Economy & Events

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>Evening Pop Ups	Organise pop-up events and activities that can extend the town centre's activity into the early evening.	Tracks, based in Forest Gate, were awarded a large Additional Restrictions Grant. This will support the local business to contribute to the evening economy by curating cultural events, hosting live music and running workshops.

Recommendation G. Support local businesses and local entrepreneurship in Forest Gate

Project Idea(s)	Description of Project Idea(s) in Delivery Plan	Update on Progress (Summer 2022)
>Business Shopfront Improvement Guide	Provide guidance to help organise the look and feel of shopfronts, improve business and the overall appearance of the street.	The refresh of the Local Plan will include a new policy on shopfronts and advertising setting out basic principles of good shop fronts. Additionally Council Officers continue to explore opportunities for external grant funding schemes that could provide funding to support businesses to improve the appearances of shopfronts.

Recommendation K. Improve the variety of uses on Woodgrange Rd & Upton Lane, provide better food options and service people with varying disposable income

Project Idea(s)	Description of Project Idea(s) in Delivery Plan	Update on Progress (Summer 2022)
>Uses control	Address residents' concerns with regards to the abundance of betting shops and takeaways in high streets.	<p>There have been no permissions for new betting shops or hot food takeaways. These types of business remain subject to planning control under Use Classes Legislation.</p> <p>The new Local Plan will seek to tighten and clarify criteria under which new betting shops, amusement arcades or hot food takeaways may be permitted, and will seek to introduce quality catering/management conditions to help mitigate the health and wellbeing impacts of these uses.</p>
>Diversify Forest Gate's Uses & Offer	Support the high street to diversify and respond to the evolving needs of residents, businesses and visitors.	<p>Our Business and Enterprise have carried out visits to businesses providing advice and have held free webinars about how to increase profits.</p> <p>Policies in the new Local Plan will continue to be supportive of diversification while seeking to guide quality of development.</p>