



Management Committee Report and Financial Statement for the year ended 31st December 2019

1 Structure, governance and management

The object of the Society is the conservation and enhancement of the civic and natural environments of the London Borough of Enfield and its immediate surrounding area, for the public benefit.

The governing body of the Society, known as the Management Committee, consists of not less than six or more than eighteen members. Both the Honorary Secretary and the Honorary Treasurer are ex officio members; the remainder of the Committee are elected by the annual general meeting of the Society. At every annual general meeting one third of Committee members retire and may be re-elected. Up to three members may be co-opted by the Management Committee itself, but must stand for election at the next annual general meeting.

1.1 Directors

Members of the Management Committee have legal responsibility as directors of the Society as a company and as trustees of the Society as a charity. During the year ended 31st December 2019, the following served as members of the Management Committee:-

Dave Cockle (Chair), Tony Dey, Robert Fowler, Stephen Gilbert, David James (Hon. Treasurer) Joyce James, Nigel King, Andrew Lack, Janet McQueen, Stuart Mills, Hilary Morris, Val Munday, Anne Osborne, Richard Stones (Hon. Secretary), John West, and William Wilson.

1.2 Financial Results

Overall there was a net decrease in our total funds amounting to £2,391. Our total funds at 31st December 2019 were £394,521, of which £274,720 formed our General Reserve, which can be used for the charitable purposes of the Society generally.

1.3 Reserves Policy

The policy of the Society is to maintain unrestricted funds, which are the free reserves of the Charity, at a level which would allow the Society to contest actively any threat to its aims. The members of the Management Committee consider that the balance of the reserves, after deduction of the designated and restricted funds, is reasonable in view of the high legal costs that could be incurred in defending such threats.

1.4 Public Benefit

The Society as a charity provides benefit to the public in a variety of ways – for example by monitoring the quality and suitability of planned developments; campaigning for the protection of the Green Belt and other open spaces; monitoring the maintenance of existing footpaths and promoting new ones; encouraging the protection and conservation of heritage buildings; and informing the public about all these issues through its Newsletter and through digital media.

2 Review of the year and future developments

Membership has continued at around the 1,900 mark. It is open to all and we hope the very low membership fee would not prevent anyone joining the Society. Our award winning newsletter continues to be sent to all our members four times a year. We encourage new members to join by advertising the Society on community notice boards, having a presence at local festivals as well as using our very active social programme of walks and talks which are free of charge to all members. However the walks and talks programme has been suspended during the Coronavirus lock down.

We have continued to work closely with the Council, meeting both the Leader of the Council and Council officers quarterly. We have worked alongside Southgate & District Civic Trust (now Southgate & District Civic Voice), Enfield RoadWatch, The Campaign For The Protection of Rural England (London) and Chase Side Primary School on various projects. We also held a liaison meeting with the Friends of Whitewebbs Park over concerns with the Council's plans to lease out the Park.

We were represented at periodic meetings of Enfield Climate Action Forum, The London Forum and The London Green Belt Council.

Interest visits were arranged to Whitewebbs Museum of Transport, London Energy Waste Management Plant and Theobalds Farmhouse Garden.

Other activities of the Society in 2019 are covered in the following reports.

2.1 Architecture and Planning Group

The Group provides benefit to the public by monitoring major planning developments. The Group will respond to proposals

considered unsound or where design is poor.

Major proposals announced included station car park developments at Cockfosters and Arnos Grove: together with Southgate Office Village, Colosseum Retail Park and Ross House. A recurring issue is the proposed development of very tall buildings and the Group has expressed its concern about high buildings in inappropriate locations.

Objections have been raised concerning permitted development rights that allow the conversion of offices to flats, with no control over the size, design or number of flats created. At Refuge House, River Front, 92 small flats were proposed. The only measure to prevent similar developments is the publication of an Article 4 Direction and the Group has been involved in pressing the Council for a Direction to be made.

2.2 Cleaner Neighbourhoods Group

As in previous years the Cleaner Neighbourhoods Group organised litter-picking events in various parts of the Borough during the course of the year. A total of seven events took us to Edmonton, Ponders End, Oakwood and Southgate.

We collected a total of 269 bags of litter plus other miscellaneous items including pieces of furniture, old car tyres and broken toys. On average each event was attended by 16 participants and in most cases we were able to get together for a coffee afterwards; this turns the event into an enjoyable social occasion.

Notable events included the Boundary Ditch footpath in Ponders End which we visited twice during the year resulting in 160 bags of litter collected, and Southgate which was a joint event with Southgate and District Civic Voice; on that occasion we were gratified to receive free refreshments provided by local restaurants including McDonalds and Nandos.

As always thanks are due to Enfield Council who clear away the bags of litter after each event and CleanUpUK a charity who help by providing support and equipment whenever needed.

2.3 Edmonton and Eastern Enfield Group

The Group have continued to meet on a quarterly basis, at All Saints Church Hall, and have had a guest speaker at every meeting. We have forged links with the Residents' Association covering the Angel Edmonton, and with The Bountagu Partnership which represents an area around Bounces and Montagu Road Edmonton. We have recently taken steps towards getting the Rose Bed at the junction of Church Street/Victoria Road restored by volunteers from Heron Hall Academy.

2.4 Footpaths and Open Spaces Group

The Society continues to keep a watching brief on potential threats to the Green Belt, parks and urban open spaces. These are vital amenities for Enfield and, where appropriate, we press Enfield Council to take enforcement action in the event of illegal land use, felling of protected trees and disregard of planning requirements.

2019 saw completion of improvement works on footpaths near Bulls Cross, installation of replacement signage for the extended Pymmes Brook Trail and continued discussion on establishing a northern exit from Rammey Marsh and a possible new path linking Botany Bay to the London Loop.

The Society is very grateful to those members who plan and lead TES walks and visits. There were 58 in 2019 (60 in 2018) with 1,210 attendees (1,214 in 2018).

2.5 Heritage at Risk Group

During 2019 the group has focused mainly on the buildings in Enfield which have been locally or nationally listed. A group of 16 volunteers has been set up to visit every building on these lists at least yearly and report back. Issues have then been raised with the Council who plan to review the list only very five years mostly due to financial restraints.

“Ghost signs” too have been nominated as a fascinating but disappearing feature of Enfield and these too are being recorded when spotted. An article about them was produced for the newsletter by Philip Whittemore.

Local war memorials which are much more numerous than you might suppose, with many being hidden away in schools, and other buildings and some in a poor state of repair and these are also being collated and uploaded to a central list by Val Munday.

We continue to feed regularly into the meeting with the Council Officers and Leader trying to maintain a dialogue about the state of Enfield's heritage, very much at risk in these days of increasing financial austerity.

2.6 Historic Buildings Group

In 2019 there were talks on Walking in London, Waterways Wonders, Sir Christopher Wren, Broomfield House, Brick-making in Enfield, the London Underground, the Mayan Trail and the Suburban Home Front in the Second World War.

Interesting visits were arranged to the 16th century Salisbury House, Piccotts End near Hemel Hempstead with its fine early 16th century religious wall paintings, and Whitewebbs Museum of Transport, which is housed in a former pumping station built in 1898.

There were articles in the Enfield Society News on Salisbury House, Edwardian Housing Estates in Palmers Green and Grange Park, Enfield Town 1870–1914, and on Piccotts End.

2.7 Web-site, e-mail and Facebook

During 2019 the web-site was used by 11,573 people, generating 15,553 sessions and reading 36,300 pages. Of these roughly 54% used a desktop computer, 33% a mobile phone and 13% a tablet. Use of the web-site increased throughout 2019, but as usage figures vary on a monthly basis we will wait until the 2020 Annual Report before reporting any trend. The photographic archive, which is a popular part of the site, is currently not measured by Google Analytics, so is not included in these figures.

In October 2019 the Society signed-up with a new company to provide bulk e-mail services for membership e-mails. This has simplified the process of sending all-member messages and the Society intends to make more use of e-mail in 2020.

The Society agreed to introduce a new single e-mail address for inward correspondence, info@enfieldsociety.org.uk. This, plus the web-site contact form, produced an estimated 200 enquiries in 2019.

By the end of 2019 the number of “likes” for our Facebook page had exceeded 1300, an increase of approximately 200 over the year. The three highest performing posts were on Edmonton Charity School Hall (September, read by 6,848 people); the announcement of the meeting of the Edmonton and Eastern Enfield Group at which the Council’s response to enviro-crime was featured (October, read by 4,243 people) and the part demolition of the Grade II listed North Lodge in Whitewebbs Park (July, read by 3,732 people).

2.8 Membership and Publicity Group

The chair of the group, Bob Fowler, stepped down during 2019 and was succeeded by Andrew Lack who joined the Society in 2018. As the group’s purpose is primarily focused on membership recruitment and retention, the group decided to re-name itself from the Press and Publicity Group at the end of 2019.

The group represented the Society at the following events in 2019: Enfield Market Charter Fayre (19th May); Jubilee Park (9th June); Winchmore Hill Fancy Fair (6th July) and the Palmers Green Festival (1st September). A total of 41 new members were signed-up during these events.

In addition to the regular programme of evening and morning meetings, the group organised three heritage walks in 2019; Edmonton (22nd June) lead by Monica Smith, Ponders End (28th July) lead by Joe Studman and Enfield Lock (7th September) lead by Ray Tuthill. A total of 42 people attended.

A reception evening for new members to meet the Enfield Society management committee and learn about its work and the several special interest groups was held on 3rd April with 35 members attending.

2.9 Publications

There were no new publications this year mainly because of the decline in outlets and sales---there are now only two bookshops in the borough and one of these (W.H.Smith) stopped stocking local books some years ago. The best seller in 2019 was Heritage Walk 1, Forty Hill and Bulls Cross, of which 208 copies were sold but the Footpath Map made the biggest profit of £266 from the sale of 186 copies. Sixty five state primary schools in the borough were offered, free of charge, a set of 30 copies of the Enfield Book which was designed to

help with the national curriculum and has been welcomed by many teachers. Twenty one schools accepted the offer but only fourteen collected their books from Jubilee Hall.

2.10 Records and Research

The Records and Research Group now consists of a team of five volunteers, whose work is much valued as we collate and organise the history of the TES. Over the past year the Group has continued to supply images for our newsletter articles and answer queries from TES members and other members of the public about Enfield’s history. The Group has received some new material to add to our collection of books. This past year we have concentrated on reviewing the records of the TES and organising the book collection; we have also commenced logging the contents of a map chest, revealing material used in some of our early campaigns.

The Photo Archive software on our website was upgraded and is now compatible with the improved website, so we have identified another collection of images that we will start to scan and add to the collection to share the heritage of Enfield with people where they can add their recollections and comments.

The work the Records and Research do is detailed and slow, but we are making strides in trying to utilise the collection for the benefit of members in the future.

2.11 Trees Group

The Trees Group seeks to support tree planting initiatives across the Borough and to protect trees by monitoring tree maintenance and taking up any concerns with the Council. We try to ensure that trees with Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs) and those in Conservation Areas are not removed without consent. We also work closely with Enfield Council to ensure the replacement of trees which need to be removed due to age or decay. Once trees are planted, we try to ensure that they are protected and will thereby benefit future generations.

The Group maintains the Society’s tree nursery at the Trentwood Side allotment. The main priority is to encourage the planting of native British species. This involves bringing on saplings and planting them out at sites that need new or replacement trees. The spring of 2019 was a busy time for the Group. With over 120 saplings at the beginning of the year, 85 were donated to Friends of Parks Groups and planted out and a further 10 were donated in the autumn. As a result of our appeal to TES Members for new saplings, we have now replaced all those trees with young saplings.

The Group has regular allotment working party meetings to maintain the tree nursery and plan new initiatives. We are grateful for the support that we receive from our helpers and those who have provided saplings.

The Enfield Society

Statement of Financial Activities for the year Ending 31st December 2019

	Un-Restricted	Restricted	Total Funds	Total Funds
	Funds	Funds	2019	2018
	£	£	£	£
<u>Incoming Resources</u>				
Subscriptions	7,976.00		7,976.00	10,037.00
Donations	2,941.00	6,200.00	9,141.00	12,168.00
Sales of Publications	1,188.00		1,188.00	3,276.00
Jubilee Hall Rental	8,530.00		8,530.00	6,914.00
Investments	1,155.00		1,155.00	660.00
Groups			0.00	1,744.00
Other			0.00	0.00
Totals	<u>£21,790.00</u>	<u>£6,200.00</u>	<u>£27,990.00</u>	<u>£34,799.00</u>
<u>Expended Resources</u>				
Cost of Publications	1,491.00		1,491.00	2,525.00
Charitable Activities	28,890.00		28,890.00	31,285.00
Totals	<u>£30,381.00</u>	<u>£0.00</u>	<u>£30,381.00</u>	<u>£33,810.00</u>
Net Movements	(8,591.00)	6,200.00	(2,391.00)	989.00
Total Funds Brought Forward	384,475.00	12,437.07	396,912.07	395,923.00
Total Funds Carried Forward	<u>£375,884.00</u>	<u>£18,637.07</u>	<u>£394,521.07</u>	<u>£396,912.00</u>

Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2019

	2019		2018	
	£	£	£	£
Fixed Assets				
Tangible assets		£108,917.58		£110,087.00
Current Assets				
Stocks	21,893.23		23,422.16	
Debtors & Prepayments	5,411.00		9,375.00	
Scottish Widows 7 Day Notice	94,085.43		94,085.00	
Hampshire Trust Account	60,000.00			
Barclays High Interest Step Saver	89,725.65		119,540.55	
Barclays Current Account	17,004.46		43,119.33	
E-Commerce Pay Pal Account	966.67		775.98	
Petty Cash	17.22		7.14	
Sub Total	<u>£289,103.66</u>		<u>£290,325.15</u>	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	3,500.00		3,500.00	
Net Current Assets		<u>£285,603.66</u>		<u>£286,825.15</u>
Total Assets less Current liabilities		<u>£394,521.24</u>		<u>£396,912.15</u>
Funds				
Unrestricted				
General Reserve	274,719.60		283,311.00	
Designated Reserve	12,035.40		12,035.40	
Property Valuation	89,129.00		89,129.00	
Sub Totals		<u>£375,884.00</u>		<u>£384,475.40</u>
Restricted		18,637.07		12,437.07
Total Funds		<u>£394,521.07</u>		<u>£396,912.47</u>

The full detailed set of accounts will be available at the AGM