

## Supporting evidence

### 1 Enfield Heritage Strategy 2019–2024

Launched in 2019 the Strategy provides *a high-level statement of intent [...] It is expected to underpin bids to attract external funding and support increasing engagement across the Borough.*

The first part of the Strategy ‘Shaping Enfield’ is split into four themes (memory, vulnerability and loss; landscape, architecture and design; local studies and archives, museum collections and archaeology; promotion and external funding).

The document states that: *All four themes affect heritage planning functions, museums and local archives...cultural heritage practices can be integrated into the Council’s priority of reducing inequality and how heritage can be used to contribute to the wellbeing of the Borough’s residents and visitors alike* [page 23].

Of the first theme **Memory, vulnerability and loss**, objective 1 is to ‘improve heritage engagement by continuing to add to the Local Studies collection of oral histories’... and the task is to: ‘put extracts from interviews on council website; continue to add to the local studies collection of Oral History recordings’.

Objective 6 is to ‘improve wellbeing for those with memory loss through reminiscence projects’ and the task is to ‘use reminiscence boxes to improve wellbeing through engagement with the museum collection’.

Under the second theme **Landscape, architecture and design**, strategic objective 9 (Continue to manage the borough’s heritage) the task is to ‘encourage sustainable and creative decision making to conserve and enhance historic assets’. With the output being ‘ensure that substantial weight is given to heritage assets and their setting’

The museum and local studies collections are historic assets which also have the potential to help deliver aim 3 ‘to recognise the industrial heritage of much of the east of the borough’ with the output being ‘heritage projects aligned to development schemes to develop an understanding of the Borough’s industrial heritage’.

This could be achieved through exhibitions and projects with schools and community groups in the east of the borough with the prioritised funding from the National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF). In fact, one of The Enfield Society’s, proposed projects, submitted to the Heritage and Design team of LBE under the National Lottery Heritage Fund call for projects, focused on Enfield’s Industrial Heritage particularly in Ponders End but at other sites in the borough. The Society would collaborate with the museum and local studies and other groups under this proposal.

The Museum and Archive Service are also able to help deliver aim 8 ‘improve understanding of the heritage value of the borough’s waterways’. In 2013-2014 the museum held an exhibition on the New River Water, water, everywhere, 400 years of the New River. This exhibition could be built upon with community groups and schools in the east of the borough and by collaboration with the Royal Small Arms Interpretation Centre and Whitewebbs Museum. This is also something which is close to The Enfield Society’s heart as it received funding jointly with the council, from the NLHF, to restore the New River Loop which runs through Enfield.

The third theme **Local studies and archives, museum collections and archaeology** clearly contains many objectives and aims which can contribute to the local population which if the services were to move would be difficult to achieve:

- objective 20 ‘improve access to the archives through the task of online cataloguing’ and aim 15 ‘complete digitisation of photo and image collection’;
- objectives 21 and 22 both relate to holding open days and workshops in local studies to reach targeted/hard to reach groups and support well being;
- aims 16 and 17 ‘continue to support volunteering ...’ and ‘develop the educational potential of local studies’;

- objective 23 ‘continue to develop the museum collection and programme of exhibitions and maintain its accreditation by the Arts Council, England and objective 31 to ‘maintain... accreditation for local history and archive service’;
- objective 24 ‘continue to improve and broaden engagement with the Museum collections’;
- objective 25 ‘Better reflect all of Enfield’s present-day communities through the museum collections, exhibitions and events’;
- objectives 26 to 30 all relate to the museum and working in partnership with Forty Hall;
- aims 21 and 22 relate to ‘care & conservation of the objects in the museum collections’ and ‘improve wellbeing through reminiscence projects... with the Museum collection’.

The fourth theme, **Promotion and external funding**, includes objective 34 ‘build the Museum of Enfield brand and enhance the online provision and social media strategy for the sharing of heritage projects and initiatives across the Council. Aim 33 specifically relates to the museum by ‘establishing a new Museum of Enfield Friends Group’.

Whilst aims A24 to A32 don’t specifically mention the museum and local studies archive, these are all aims with which they would be involved:

A24	Support and recognise the work of local heritage groups	Set up an annual networking event	Place Resources	Hold an ongoing annual event for heritage groups
A25	Diversify funding for built and landscape heritage projects	Collaborate with local funding bodies including The Enfield Society and Old Enfield Charitable Trust to investigate targeted partnership opportunities	Place The Enfield Society (TES) Old Enfield Charitable Trust (OECT)	Meet TES and the OECT to identify current and emergent heritage concerns and opportunities
A26	Use Section 106 (S106) and the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) neighbourhood proportion to support heritage initiatives	Identify priority project areas and secure agreement to direct CIL/ S106 funding	Place	Agree project areas for S106/ CIL
A27	Develop heritage as a resource for well-being	Work with community groups to create new and/or consolidate heritage cycle and walking trails	Place Resources	Create smart and traditional interpretive heritage routes for pedestrians and cyclists
	Develop the volunteer capacity of heritage	Work with the Third Sector Development Team to identify projects and explore opportunities for training for participants	Place Resources	Identify suitable projects and develop the volunteer cohort. Identify the potential for training opportunities through heritage across Council services

## 2 Enfield New Local Plan (until 2036)

Chapter 3, 3.1.10: ‘Positive management of the borough’s heritage relies upon an understanding of its significance as well as high quality new design. The Local Studies Library and Archive and Greater London Historic Environment Record can be used to further understanding of historic development patterns and heritage significance, including above and below ground archaeology’. [page 61]

And point 3.1.11. ‘The role of memory and storytelling in place making and heritage is expressed through oral history and reminiscence projects, faith practices, trails, festivals and events. This work is supported by the Council’s Museum and Local Studies Library and Archives services. The Council will continue to explore how diverse communities engage with local heritage and create a sense of place as the borough grows’. [page 61]

Point 3.2.2: (Design quality and local character, Historic built and natural environment assets): ‘Extensive collections in the Council’s Museum and Local Studies Library and Archives services’ as ‘part of the borough’s heritage assets’.

We therefore suggest that the Museum and Archive Service contribute to HE1 (Draft policy approach design quality and local character), HE2 (Designated heritage assets, their setting and archaeology); HE3 (Locally listed and undesignated heritage assets and cultural practices) and HE4 (Views).

## 3 Enfield Town Consultative Group Report

The third relevant document is the recently published ‘Let’s Talk Enfield Town’ which was produced from last year’s engagement of the Enfield Town Consultative Group. This document identified five key design principles to shape future investment in Enfield Town the fifth of which is ‘Celebrates its heritage, The market square forms the heart of the town centre we respect and promote our history’.

The report says [page 41] ‘The heritage and history of Enfield Town is of significance to many who participated in Phase 1 of the engagement process. This was a key theme to emerge from the workshops, in meetings with the Enfield Town Consultative Group and in meetings with stakeholders, including local business groups and St Andrew’s Church. Participants suggested that improvements made in Enfield Town should seek to make best use of the heritage of the area to encourage more visitors to the area and persuade people to spend more time there. Many participants would like to see more and better signage of landmarks and information on Enfield Town’s heritage and history. They would also like the heritage of buildings maintained and showcased.’

In the community workshop participants expressed that they felt the heritage of the Town Centre and its history as a market town could be revitalised [page 32].

Top ideas from the community workshop held on 10th October included ‘Protect, revitalise and maintain the heritage of the Town Centre’ [table 5 page 33].

Top ideas from the community school workshop held at Enfield Grammar School was for ‘More events in Enfield Town’ [table 7 page 34].

In the Word cloud activity (pop ups, launch event and workshops) ‘Leisure, events and culture’ was one of the key themes that emerged. [page 34].

The heritage and history of Enfield Town was also a key theme raised throughout the meetings. Some felt that this was or had been lost in recent years, and would like to see the heritage of Enfield Town enhanced and shared. Suggestions included a programme of heritage-related community events [page 38].

The second point of ‘Celebrates History’ which emerged from discussions was ‘We respect and promote our history’.