

Case study for Heritage Counts 2015

Theme demonstrated by case study:	Positive Local Management: Work done by an amenity society in a local area
Name of project/group:	The Enfield Society, London Borough of Enfield & Urban Vision Consultants
Location:	London Borough of Enfield
Duration (if applicable):	Ongoing

Short description of project:

Enfield Council is working with The Enfield Society (TES) to review the Local Heritage List for the Borough.

Buildings, structures and sites included in the Local Heritage List will be given special consideration in the planning process when decisions are made on development proposals which affect them.

Volunteers from The Enfield Society and the local community will be carrying out a survey of the Borough to identify candidates for inclusion in Enfield's Local Heritage List. The Enfield Society had been looking at the original Local List and approached Enfield Council about updating it. The Borough's Principal Heritage Officer agreed that using volunteers from the local community would be an excellent way to undertake the review which the council had been planning.

What would have happened without this project/group?

The review would certainly not be so effective without the use of volunteers from the local community. They have a good local knowledge of the area and, by carrying out the survey, are in a strong position to take ownership and to identify any inappropriate developments or potential demolitions.

How did the project achieve its objectives?

The project achieved its objectives through The Enfield Society working with the London Borough of Enfield (LBE) and the consultants, Urban Vision. The Enfield Society recruited volunteers from the local area and from a wide range of different amenity groups. The advertising campaign for recruiting the volunteers has succeeded in raising the profile of the local heritage. By working with local societies and each individual adopting an area within the LBE it gives volunteers a sense of ownership. By being familiar with their area it puts the volunteers in a strong position to identify any inappropriate alterations or potential demolition of listed buildings.

What difference has it made? Main outcomes and outputs.

It is anticipated that the survey will achieve a comprehensive review of the assets to be included on the local heritage list in the London Borough of Enfield.

What were the main lessons learnt or challenges? Would anything be done differently?

As the project is still in the inception phase, it is too early to draw any firm conclusions about lessons learnt or challenges as to how the project might be done differently.

Initially three training sessions were delivered by Urban Vision for the volunteers with the support of members of the Enfield Society and the Heritage Officers at LBE. The training sessions were arranged for 14th and 15th July and 17th September 2015 at The Enfield Societies base in Parsonage Lane, Enfield. Two follow up sessions have been arranged by TES, so that volunteers can bring any queries they may have about the work which arose during the survey work. Also, where permission was given by survey participants, volunteers details from the neighbouring survey areas were shared so that they could work together and give each other mutual support.

What is the future for the case study?

Once volunteers have submitted their suggestions for listing, a panel comprising members of TES, other local conservation bodies, LBE heritage officers and their professional advisors, will make a decision as to whether to include an asset in the local heritage list.

It is hoped that in the future, once the list has been finalised, volunteers continue to monitor their own areas.

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