

KNIGHTSBRIDGE NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM

VISION

Make Knightsbridge the best residential and cultural place in London in which to live, work, study and visit

VALUES

Clean, safe and quiet. Community. Conserving. Iconic. Inspirational. International

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN - PROPOSED OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES

CHARACTER

1. **Enhance the unique character of Knightsbridge including its architecture, low level buildings, trees and recognition internationally as a centre for retail and expertise and innovation in arts, science, technology and design**



Frontage not in keeping with character



White-terraced squares



High quality decoration

- i. Ensure that all buildings and development contributes to the Forum's vision and values for Knightsbridge
- ii. Ensure that all development applies the highest quality design and materials
- iii. Resist tall buildings inconsistent with local scale
- iv. Ensure business developments are in harmony with the local area e.g. commercial/shop frontages, signage, numbering, lighting and external furniture shall enhance the character of the building and street
- v. The Forum will define character areas and styles and give examples of good practice to be followed e.g. white-terraced squares, brick-terraced streets, mews and other terraced houses
- vi. The Forum will identify important but unlisted views and properties for greater protection e.g. Bonhams

2. **Improve the public realm and enhance and restore heritage features**



Poor appearance of electrical fittings



Poorly maintained street light furniture



Local green space, Rutland Gate

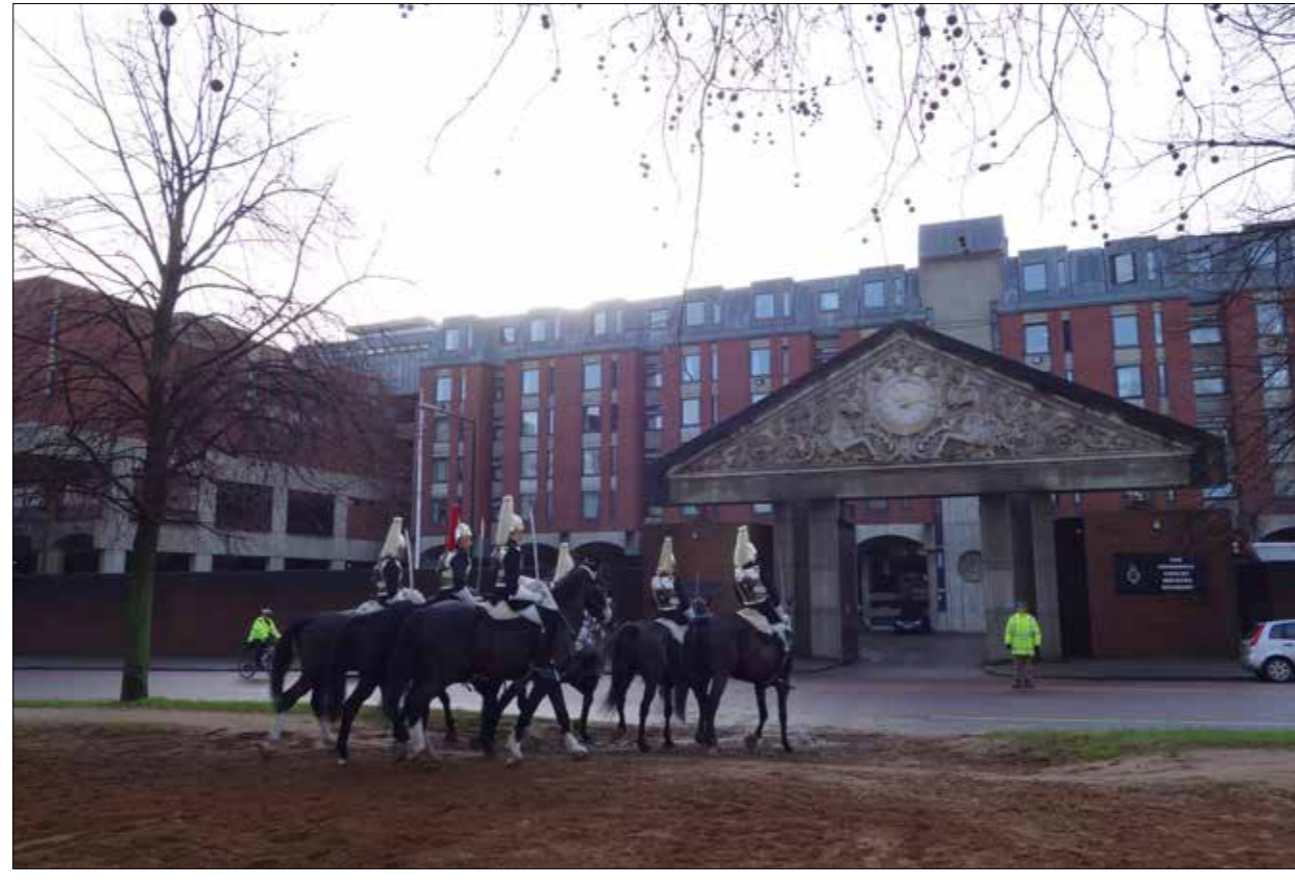
- i. Promote high quality public realm which meets the needs of local people while supporting the high volumes of workers, students and visitors e.g. no engine idling by coaches in Brompton Road and Prince Consort Road
- ii. Improve the street appearance e.g. providing more pavement space in Brompton Road, repairing roads, addressing any signs of 'tattiness', stopping littering, removing street clutter, upgrading poor signage, restoring period railings and consistently using 'York stone' paving
- iii. Require developers to contribute to the restoration of heritage features
- iv. Improve roofscapes e.g. restrict plant and equipment and remove redundant aerials and other equipment
- v. Require developers to increase permeability and accessibility to buildings and include green spaces and planting
- vi. Protect and enhance existing green spaces and create new ones e.g. address problems at north end of Rutland Gate

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3. *Protect and enhance Hyde Park and Kensington Gardens Metropolitan Open Land (MOL) (including the Hyde Park Barracks land)*



Hyde Park Quarter



Hyde Park Barracks

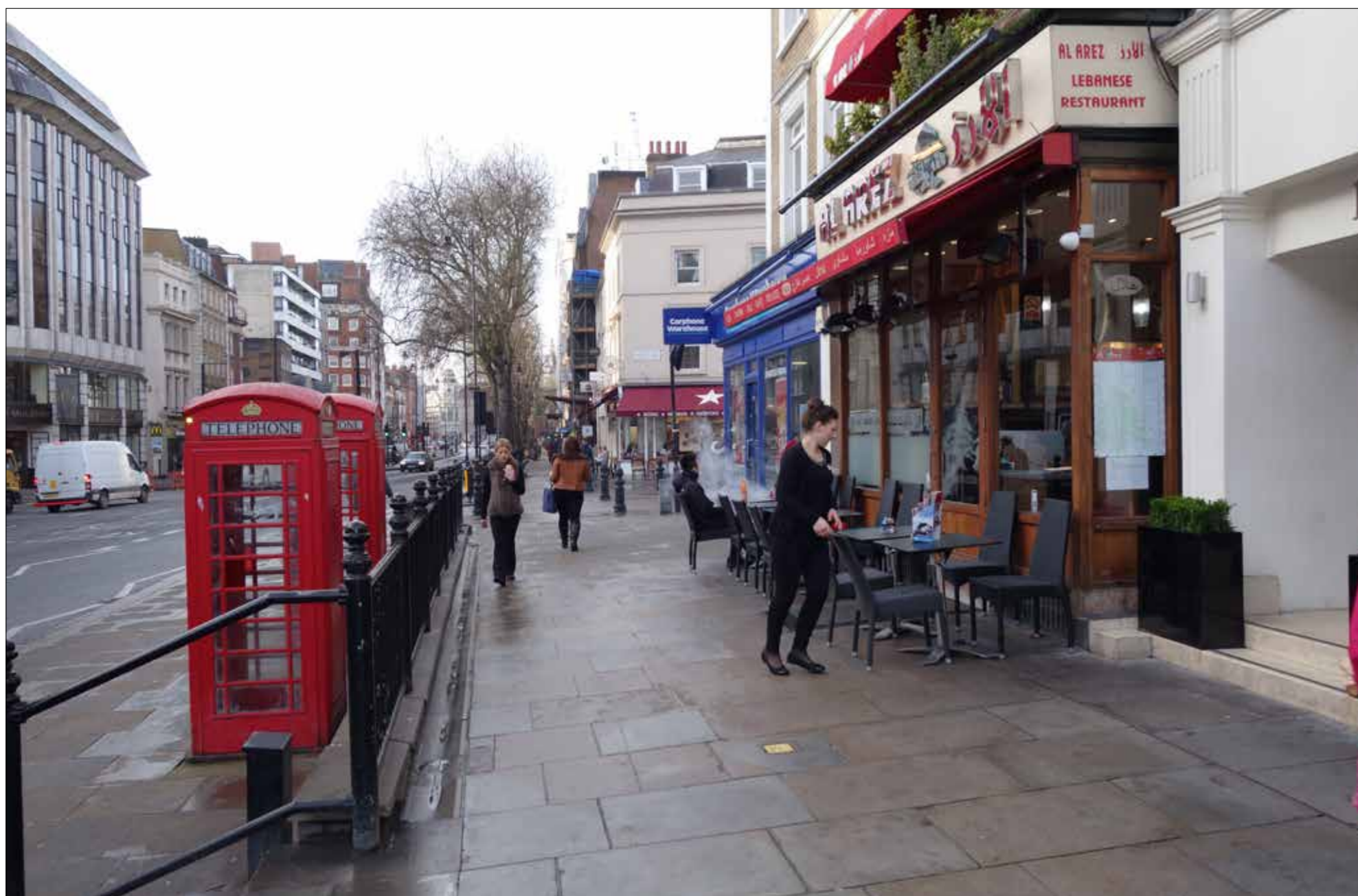


Peninsular Tower

- i. Prioritise returning the Hyde Park Barracks land to open parkland; then
- ii. Support refurbishment of the existing Hyde Park Barracks facility; then
- iii. Remove the Peninsular Tower and increase the permeability of the site consistent with expert evidence accepted by the Forum's Board; then
- iv. The least unacceptable other use would be residential with no increase in height, bulk or footprint; and
- v. Require affordable housing on-site with covenants for sale only to people employed full-time at named institutions in the Strategic Cultural Area

COMMUNITY

4. *Promote the sense of community*



Shisha bar



Scaffolding affecting amenity



Refuse collection

- i. Enhance the vitality of local businesses while keeping the impact of the day, evening and night-time economy away from residential areas e.g. restrict uses and mitigate impacts on residential areas
- ii. Hold property owners accountable for actions emanating from their properties e.g. rental
- iii. Resist the concentration of café/take-away uses and associated tables and chairs on pavements, particularly where associated with outdoor smoking (including shisha), near residential areas and all such activity in predominantly residential streets e.g. Montpelier Street
- iv. Enhance and promote non-retail community services and amenities within the area e.g. restaurants
- v. Ensure construction impacts are managed and repaired e.g. Construction Management Plans and Codes 'pre-application' that limit vehicle size and weight, restrict hoardings and specify no weekend work

5. *Protect and enhance existing residential amenity and mix*



Essentials convenience store



Well restored period buildings

- i. Maintain the mix of housing e.g. single occupancy areas, maximum unit size and number of two and three bed properties
- ii. Recognise the value of local amenity shops and protect and support their presence e.g. post office, supermarkets and banks
- iii. Resist the loss of residential units or the increase in unit size within Conservation Areas e.g. lateral conversions
- iv. Encourage the restoration of period buildings to their original size and configuration where this will increase the number of residential units
- v. Support some development of basements, uniform mansards and other property extensions

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CULTURE AND EDUCATION

6. *Create and maintain an environment that enables our world-class cultural and educational institutions to thrive as centres of learning and innovation within a flourishing community*



Imperial College



Re-imagining Albertopolis
Source: DSDHA

- i. Protect cultural and education uses within the Strategic Cultural Area i.e. support change of use to cultural and educational and oppose significant change of use to residential or retail
- ii. Enhance the suitability of the Knightsbridge area for cultural and educational institutions
- iii. Support educational and cultural institutions in progressing plans for facilities and ancillary services that will enable them to remain world-class in their respective fields within a flourishing community
- iv. Enhance the public realm to provide a clean, safe, attractive, welcoming and accessible place that meets the needs of residents, workers, students and visitors
- v. Create a sense of place that reflects cultural heritage and positions landmarks in an appropriate setting
- vi. Encourage development that enhances the sense of community and provides local amenities that meet the needs of residents, workers, students and visitors

PUBLIC SPACES AND UTILITIES

7. *Improve the workings of Exhibition Road*



Exhibition Road impassable to pedestrians



Exhibition Road shared space

- i. Promote public realm improvements to make a distinctive space that is safe, accessible and attractive for users
- ii. Support proposals to manage the balance between pedestrians and vehicles and promote accessibility e.g. by reducing substantially vehicle speeds and encouraging safe and responsible use by pedestrians, cyclists and drivers
- iii. Support features that contribute to the unique character of Exhibition Road and the Strategic Cultural Area as the setting for world-leading cultural and educational institutions while meeting the community's day to day needs
- iv. Urge Transport for London to require zero or ultra low emission public transport along Exhibition Road
- v. Support greater accessibility to cultural and educational buildings and improvements to wayfinding

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8. Prioritise sustainable transport



Lack of bike parking



Pedestrians on Exhibition Road



Congestion on Brompton Road

- i. Facilitate active travel by people walking or cycling to encourage healthier, less polluting and quieter modes of movement and promote accessibility while meeting the needs of local people e.g. enforce cycling standards and focus activity on arterial roads
- ii. Seek and support measures to halve deaths and injuries from road traffic incidents in the Knightsbridge Neighbourhood Area and along boundary roads by 2020 (Baseline 2015) and achieve 75% reductions by 2025 and 100% reductions by 2030
- iii. Pedestrian priority over cyclists and vehicles on local roads. Two-way cycling in one-way local streets. Bike racks
- iv. 20mph on all local roads and Prince Consort Road by 2018 and on Knightsbridge, Kensington Road, Kensington Gore and South Carriage Drive by 2020
- v. Electric vehicle charging for taxi stands, ResPark, car club and pay and display bays by 2020 with upgrades thereafter
- vi. Support bigger, stronger, smarter action on diesel vehicles e.g. inclusion in the Mayor's ultra low emission zone by 2018 and tighten thereafter

9. Encourage superb public transport and utility infrastructure



Buses on Brompton Road



Cycling

- i. Support infrastructure improvements necessary for the long-term viability and sustainability of the Knightsbridge Area e.g. Crossrail 2 and the upgrade of the Knightsbridge and South Kensington tube stations
- ii. Urge the Mayor to prioritise the use of zero and ultra low emission vehicles throughout the Knightsbridge area
- iii. Strict enforcement of no-engine idling for all vehicles throughout the Knightsbridge area
- iv. Require sustainable drainage plans for all new developments i.e. storm water and dirty water
- v. Require developers to include fibre broadband into developments and 'future proof' upgrades

HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTHY PEOPLE

10. Be an exemplar in sustainable city living by complying with international laws, standards, guidelines and best practice



Solar panels



Blocked drain



Charging point

- i. All new developments shall achieve exemplary sustainability standards e.g. BREEAM's 'Outstanding Rating' with all significant refurbishments requiring planning permission to achieve at least 'Excellent'
- ii. Address air emissions holistically by reducing all air pollutants below World Health Organisation (WHO) guidelines at all times and in all places within the Knightsbridge area and committing to 'science-based emissions reductions targets' for greenhouse gases and energy use
- iii. Only find acceptable new development which will avoid flooding risk and minimise waste e.g. by requiring the use of waste consolidation facilities
- iv. Ensure the highest protections for all existing and new green spaces and biodiversity and improve tranquillity e.g. by reducing nuisance noise
- v. Improve day-to-day and long-term quality of life for residents e.g. effective Construction Management Plans and Codes to minimise congestion, emissions, noise and vibration
- vi. Apply the Aarhus Convention to improve community engagement in development plans and proposals

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NEIGHBOURHOOD MANAGEMENT

1. Clean, safe and quiet to support the Forum's vision and other values
2. Visible policing and public CCTV to address anti-social behaviour and criminal activity
3. Highest standards of street cleanliness e.g. pavements, roads, rubbish, litter, dog poo, gum busters etc.
4. Promote municipal waste solutions that avoid and reduce vehicle movements and emissions
5. Maximise the amenity of Hyde Park for all users and minimise the impacts of events
6. Minimise or eliminate rat-running through local roads e.g. Princes Gardens and the Montpeliers and Trevors
7. Stop engine idling, anti-social behaviour and other parking problems e.g. loitering minicab drivers
8. Urge 'risk-based' use of emergency sirens to reduce noise particularly in the evening and at night
9. Reduce nuisance noise from all types of vehicles including motorbikes
10. Full enforcement of all laws and conditions

COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY SPENDING

Principles

1. Support objectives in the plan
2. Ensure robust utilities e.g. drainage and lighting
3. Strategic and long-term in public realm
4. Choose a portfolio of projects including transport and highways
5. Give preference close to the development
6. Community not individual benefit
7. Mitigate impacts of high volumes of visitors on local people
8. Improve quality of life for residents

Examples of specific projects

1. Audit utilities and report annually
2. Restore heritage assets including York stone paving
3. Periodic upgrades of public CCTV infrastructure
4. Albertopolis public realm improvements
5. Open-access electric charging in parking spaces
6. Reduce emissions from Grade 1 listed buildings
7. Enforce restrictions on litter, noise and anti-social behaviour
8. Annual survey of residents, workers, students and visitors

PROPOSED 20MPH ZONES BY 2018



DEFINITIONS

'Area of interest' – we may express views on matters immediately outside the Knightsbridge Neighbourhood Area where we consider that these directly affect our area e.g. boundary roads, Hyde Park and Kensington Gardens, the estate of the Royal Commission for the Exhibition of 1851, the raised section of Brompton Road between Brompton Square and Montpelier Street, Exhibition Road and in relation to the closest mass transit links such as the Knightsbridge and South Kensington underground stations. We would like to see our vision, values and objectives and views given weight in these places by the City of Westminster, Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, the Mayor, The Royal Parks, Transport for London and others.

'Local roads' – are roads or sections of roads that are entirely within the Knightsbridge Neighbourhood Area excluding Exhibition Road, Knightsbridge, Kensington Road, Kensington Gore, Prince Consort Road and South Carriage Drive (which may be named separately). Some boundary roads are already managed mainly by one council or another e.g. Cheval Place.