



Westminster's Neighbourhood Forums

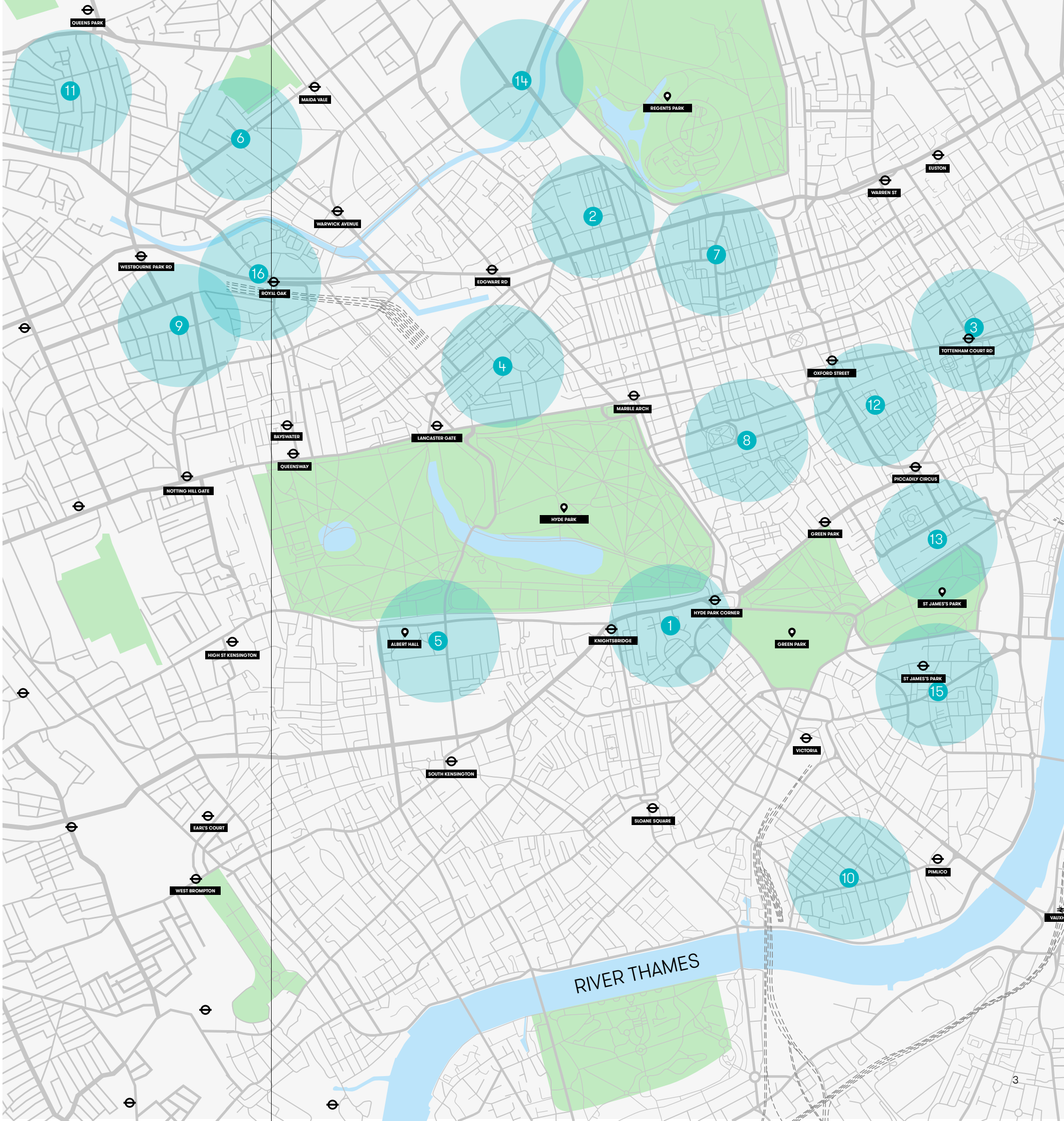
June 2021

Neighbourhood Forums

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Note: Indicative neighbourhood area - for official boundaries please visit each forum’s website.



Introduction

The Localism Act 2011 heralded a step-change in how resident and business communities organised themselves with the introduction of designated Neighbourhood Areas, Forums and Neighbourhood Planning.

The changes introduced by the Coalition Government were described at the time as offering communities the opportunity to “define, together where new homes and businesses should go, and what they should look like” (Greg Clark, 2011).

Over the past decade in Westminster City Council, many communities have chosen to come together to establish a Forum and develop their own Neighbourhood Plan to shape the future of their area.

The 15 designated Forums, two adopted Plans and two Plans awaiting their referendum included in this guide reflect the diversity of the communities found within the City of Westminster’s eight square miles, and vary in their ambitions from helping to shape the future direction of Church Street’s regeneration; to enshrining the principles of environment and sustainability, residential and commercial needs and local heritage in Mayfair.

Knightsbridge was the first Forum to adopt a ‘made’ or finalised plan and remains committed to bringing this plan to life and applying for the use of Neighbourhood Community Infrastructure Levy funds. Since then, Mayfair has also progressed to a ‘made’ plan with the plans for Fitzrovia West and Soho awaiting their referendums.

As well as proactively empowering and bringing businesses, residents, councillors and other local stakeholders together across the borough, over the past decade Forums have become a significant consultee, helping to shape the future of individual developments in the areas they represent. This growing importance in the development process is reflected in the City Council’s emerging Early Community Engagement Guidance and in their role as a Statutory Consultee.

This guide should be read as a handbook of the Neighbourhood Forums in Westminster, providing contact details, websites and a summary of the ambitions of the Forums for the areas they represent.

Glossary

Neighbourhood Forum

An organisation or group empowered to lead the neighbourhood planning process

Neighbourhood Plan

A plan which directs development within a specified neighbourhood area.

Neighbourhood Area

An area designated by the Neighbourhood Forum and Local Planning Authority in which a neighbourhood plan could be adopted.

The Belgravia Neighborhood Forum aims to preserve the unique character, architecture, and heritage of Belgravia, alongside improving the environment and mitigating the impacts of construction work.

Run by volunteers, it is guided by a Steering Group of elected representatives of the local community. The Plan is currently in the drafting phase.

Neighbourhood plan
Under consultation

Key contacts
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 thebelgraviaforum.org





Church Street Ward Neighbourhood Forum was founded with the intention of representing the interests and views of the diverse communities that live and work in Church Street.

The forum aims to maintain the vibrancy of the community within a clean, safe environment and to promote the commercial viability of the area (particularly the shops and stalls of Church Street Market). The forum wants to promote employment, the arts, and inclusivity, and ensure affordable housing for all residents.

Key contacts
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Sadia Moh (Forum Project Worker)
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The forum is currently consulting on its Neighbourhood Plan prior to submitting it to the Council.





The Fitzrovia West Neighbourhood Forum has been designated by Westminster City Council as a business neighbourhood with representation from residents and local businesses. An executive committee meets regularly and uses a wide variety of media to regularly engage and consult their membership.

The Forum's Neighbourhood Plan has been reviewed by an independent Examiner and a referendum on the Plan for both residents and business is due to take place in Autumn 2021. The Plan aims to promote the preservation of the historic fabric of the area and to integrate sustainable development. The provision of a mix of housing types and tenures, as well as business units, are also priorities. Improvements in air quality, traffic management, green infrastructure and co-ordination of traffic movements and deliveries are strongly advocated.




Key contacts

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 www.fitzwest.org
 [@FitzWestForum](https://twitter.com/FitzWestForum)



The Hyde Park and Paddington Neighbourhood Forum was formed in 2017. The Forum's emerging planning policy approach focuses on the retail centres of Praed Street, Edgware Road and Connaught Village.

A partnership of the Hyde Park Estate Association, the Paddington Partnership, PaddingtonNow and Marble Arch BIDs and the Church Commissioners – alongside local residents, businesses and organisations – the Forum has successfully pursued a range of Neighbourhood Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) applications, including gateway schemes, the introduction of green infrastructure, public realm projects and measures to improve connections between 'old' and 'new' Paddington.

Key contacts

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Knightsbridge Neighbourhood Forum was the first of 15 Neighbourhood Forums in Westminster to produce a ‘made’ (i.e. adopted) Neighbourhood Plan.

Knightsbridge Neighbourhood Plan has a strong emphasis on sustainable development including biodiversity, climate change, construction, energy, healthy air, transport and utilities. It also includes two policies about the Hyde Park Barracks land.

Ongoing priorities for the forum include ‘bringing its plan to life’, applying for the use of Neighbourhood Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funds and commenting on significant planning applications.

Key contacts

Simon Birkett, Chair and Treasurer
Emily Candler, Vice Chair
<https://www.knightsbridgeforum.org/contact>

 www.knightsbridgeforum.org
 @KnightsbridgeNF



Maida Hill Neighbourhood Forum aims to bring together local businesses and residents in the Harrow Road ward of North Westminster to advocate on issues and developments which affect the area.



They aim to create a Neighbourhood Plan involving the entire community, proposing how the land should be utilised, taking into account concerns of those living and working in Maida Hill.

While the ward boundaries are under review and will change in 2021, the Forum intends to continue using the current boundaries.

Key contacts

Vonley Joseph (Chair)
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 www.maidahillforum.org.uk
 @maidahillforum



Marylebone



The largest designated Neighbourhood Forum in Westminster in terms of size, council tax dwellings, and registered businesses, Marylebone Neighbourhood Forum covers the area of two amenity societies—the Marylebone Association and the St Marylebone Society. Open to all residents, workers, and students, they maintain links with Business Improvement Districts (BIDs) and landed estates, such as Howard de Walden and Portman. Operating in a highly developed area, the forum aims to develop a Plan which finds gaps within existing planning policy in order to propose positive changes.

Key contacts

Yael Saunders, Chair
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 www.maryleboneforum.org



Mayfair



The Mayfair Neighbourhood Forum made its Neighbourhood Plan in December 2019, incorporating consultation from community stakeholders and residents over the previous five years. The Plan aims to shape development and planning in Mayfair until 2038.



Outlining a commitment to the environment and sustainability, residential and commercial needs and local heritage, the Plan builds upon city-wide planning policies to ensure the continued improvement of the area.

The Forum actively encourages early engagement with the development community through its Planning & Public Realm Committee.

Key contacts

Gordon Morrison, Chairman
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Planning & Public Realm Committee
planning@mayfairforum.org

 www.mayfairforum.org
 @mayfairforum



Awaiting referendum
on Neighbourhood Plan
(September 2021)

Notting Hill East



The Notting Hill East Neighbourhood Forum was established by the Westbourne Neighbourhood Association amenity society and acts as a hybrid amenity society and Neighbourhood Forum.

Their stated purpose is to protect and improve the existing environment, encourage better design and energy conservation, produce the statutory plan for the area, promote a sense of community, and liaise with the local authority for the benefit of residents and businesses.

Key contacts

Richard Perkins, Chairman
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@NHENF



Pimlico



The main activity of the Forum to date has been to develop a Neighbourhood Plan as well as represent the views of the whole membership to the Council and help support business to recover from the recent Covid-19 lockdowns. The Pimlico Neighbourhood Forum's Vision for the area, agreed in 2017, is:

- Maintain the quiet village atmosphere and its largely residential nature
- Improve the quality of life of current and future residents
- Development that respects and enhances the form and setting of the conservation areas;
- Protecting the squares and green spaces
- Improve the quality local environmental

The Plan has been through its pre-submission consultation and the Forum has now submitted its draft Plan to the Council aiming for a referendum towards the end of 2021/early 2022.

Key contacts

Peter Ruback, Chairman; Andrew McCarthy, Secretary
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pimlicoforum.org



Queens Park



Queen's Park Community Council (QPCC) is the first community (or parish) council in London, and has a long history of championing community involvement in the development of local services. In 2013, the Community Council began developing a Neighbourhood Plan to include policies on a range of matters including amenities, environment and open space, design and commercial development.

The draft Queen's Park Neighbourhood Plan has been submitted by the Queen's Park Community Council to Westminster City Council for consultation, which ran from 26 November 2020 to 21 January 2021.

Key contacts
info@queensparkcommunitycouncil.gov.uk





Soho



Originally created by the Soho Society, the Soho Neighbourhood Forum was designated as a business and resident forum. It has produced a draft Neighbourhood Plan based on extensive public consultation which enables development to protect the Conservation Area and reinforce the character of Soho as a diverse, creative, and tolerant area. With a wide variety of businesses, diverse cultural and entertainment offer and strong residential communities, the Plan aims to sustainably enhance this complexly developed area, whilst seeking to address many of the issues raised by local stakeholders in the area.

Key contacts
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 planforsoho.org
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St James

ST JAMES
NEIGHBOURHOOD
FORUM

St. James’s Neighbourhood Forum was initially set up by the St. James’s Conservation Trust, and now operates as a space for those living or working in St. James’s to find and share information on planning and development. A draft Neighbourhood Plan has been prepared and is currently being revised prior to the statutory public consultation process. The Forum works with The Crown Estate, The Conservation Trust and other key stakeholders to preserve the heritage and vitality of the area.

Key contacts

Roger Sharpley
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 @stjamesneighbourhood



St John’s Wood

The St. John’s Wood Neighbourhood Forum is an independent and non-affiliated organisation founded to uphold and influence planning and development decisions which affect its community. With the intention of creating a Neighbourhood Plan, the forum is in the process of re-applying to Westminster City Council for re-designation.

Key contacts

Christine Cowdray
planning@stjohnswoodsociety.org.uk

Dick Schumacher
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 @SJWForum



The Victoria Neighbourhood Forum exists to improve and maintain the social, economic, and environmental well-being of the Victoria area. Businesses and residents have come together and have been working on a Neighbourhood Plan to influence the planning policies for the area, focusing on air quality, green infrastructure, transport connectivity and sustainable development within and beyond the Victoria Opportunity Area.

Key contacts

Kevin McGinley (Chair)
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Graeme Cottam (Vice Chair)
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 www.yourvictoria.co.uk/index.html



Westbourne Neighbourhood Forum was established in 2004 and designated in 2014 to foster an inclusive and positive community and specifically to develop a Neighbourhood Plan in line with the needs of local people and organisations. The Forum ensures the availability of robust information about the community, identifies local needs, and gives voice to local people, bringing them together to act. Primary drivers of the Forum include Paddington Development Trust and Westbourne Park Baptist Church.

Key contacts

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 westbourneforum.org.uk



This guide has been produced by Westminster Property Association, New West End Company and Kanda.



The Westminster Property Association (WPA) is a not-for-profit membership body and advocacy group. It brings together the leading property owners, developers, investors and professional advisors in Central London into a collective voice, in order to inform policy and drive the economic prosperity of Westminster: the economic and cultural heart of the capital.



New West End Company (NWECC) is a business partnership of 600 UK & international retailers, restaurateurs, hoteliers and property owners in the world's top shopping and leisure destination, anchored by Bond Street, Oxford Street and Regent Street. NWECC works across 80 streets, representing 150,000 employees. NWECC works in partnership delivering transformational projects, sustainable place management, destination marketing, advocacy, inward investment and commercial insights.



Kanda is a multi-disciplinary communications agency that is passionate about regeneration and place-making. We work with communities, local authorities and developers to shape the very best places to live, work and visit in London and the South East. Our forty plus consultants work on over 125 projects at any one time and count British Land, Grosvenor Britain and Ireland, Marks and Spencer, The Crown Estate and The Portman Estate amongst our clients.

Our consultancy team is complimented by Kanda Create, our team of six in-house creatives who provide digital and graphic content to drive community participation, explore social benefits and engage as widely and deeply as possible. This is supported by a fully integrated Digital Engagement Division who deliver innovative consultation through our flagship digital platform - Kanda Shape.

