Queens Park Avenues

Healthy Homes

Healthy Homes Forum Workshop 1 Summary

What is the Healthy Homes Forum?

The Healthy Homes Forum is a group of 24 Avenues residents creating ways to make homes in Queens Park Avenues healthier for people and the environment.

Residents were selected by lottery to be reflective of the Avenues community as a whole – ensuring a mix of voices are heard and involved in shaping the future.

The Forum will meet four times between July and November 2025 to work with architects and council officers to find ways make it easier for everyone in the Avenues to get the home improvements they want.



Focus for Workshop 1

- Build a shared understanding of the co-design process and ways of working.
- Introduce key concepts around healthy homes and home upgrades.
- Build a shared understanding of what works/doesn't work in Avenues homes.
- Gather insights to inform development of technical home upgrade strategies.
- Understand differences in priorities and ability to act between households.



Overview of Workshop 1

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Why we're here	City Councillor Ryan Jude and Community Councillor Samantha Alleyne set out why the Healthy Homes Forum was created and residents' reasons for participating and hopes for the process were shared.
Ways of working	Participants agreed principles for how they will work together.
What's liked and disliked	Residents shared what they like & dislike about their homes.
Aspirations for the future	Residents shared the issues they have with their homes and their aspirations for their home in the future.
What's stopping change	Barriers to getting home upgrades people want were explored.
What's needed to enable change?	Residents shared ideas for making it easier to changes and upgrades to their homes.

Why we’re here

A healthy home is a foundation to a happy and healthy life. Yet too many people are living in poor quality housing, and getting improvements is complex, costly and often disruptive.

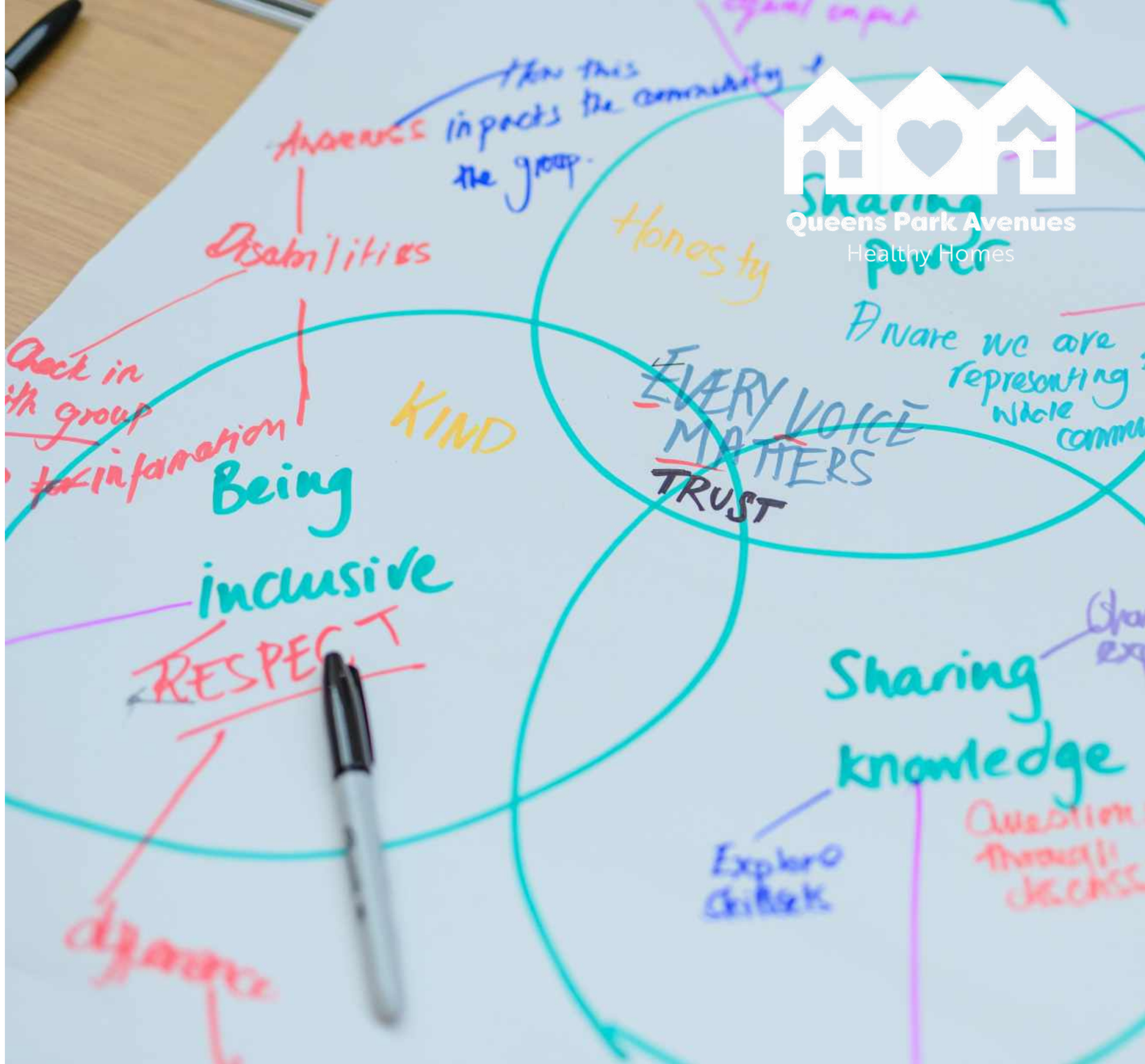
The Healthy Homes Forum has been created to support residents – the experts on their homes – to shape what improvements are needed and the support required to make it easier for everyone in the Avenues to get the home improvements they want.



Ways of working

Participants agreed to:

- **Be inclusive:** respect differences and ensure every perspective is heard and valued.
- **Share knowledge:** openly share experiences and ideas and use collective skills to make a real difference.
- **Share power:** Empower each other and work towards action that helps everyone across the Avenues community.
- **Be optimistic:** think big and outside the box!



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What’s liked about Avenues homes

Residents like a lot about their homes, with the most common things being:

- Character and heritage features, including bricks, sash windows, cornicing and street frontage
- Uniformity of the area and subtle differences between streets
- Gardens / private outdoor space
- Cosy, homely feel
- Quiet and peaceful location
- Strong community-feel of the area.



What’s disliked about Avenues homes

Common issues that residents would like to address include:

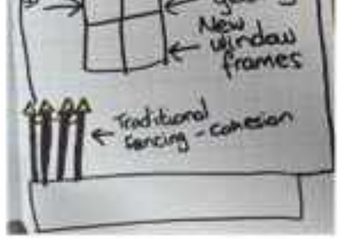
- Damp, mould and condensation
- Cold, draughty and expensive to heat
- Rattly, draughty windows
- Overheating in summer
- Small rooms and lack of storage space
- Noise
- Poor maintenance / workmanship
- Subsidence
- Steep stairs and narrow doorways
- Dis-used fireplaces taking up space
- Drainage issues
- Mental health impact of housing stress.



Aspirations for the future

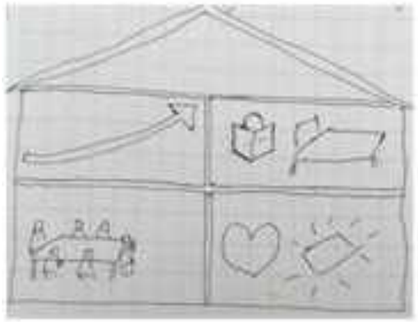
Common aspirations for Avenues homes include:

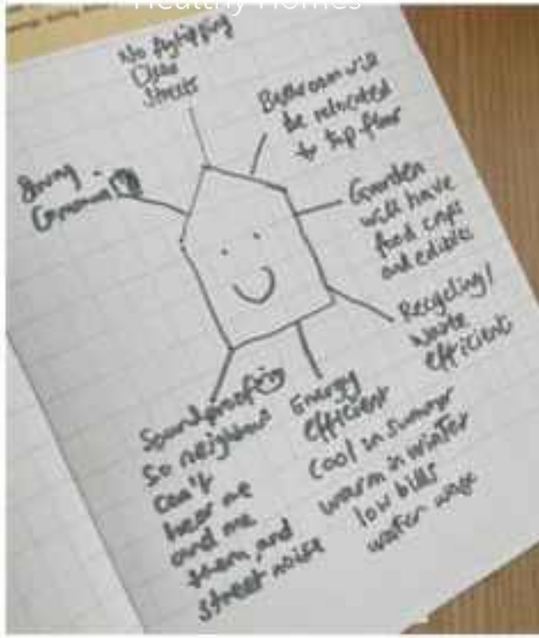
- Comfortable temperature without the worry of high energy bills.
- Not battling condensation and walls stay clear of damp & mould.
- Feeling safe & secure.
- Feeling connected to neighbours without worrying they can overhear private conversations.
- A refuge from the stress of life and the city – not a source of stress.
- Supporting healthy lives, rather than undermining wellbeing.
- Contributing to a sense of pride in the area and community.
- Retaining character and charm.



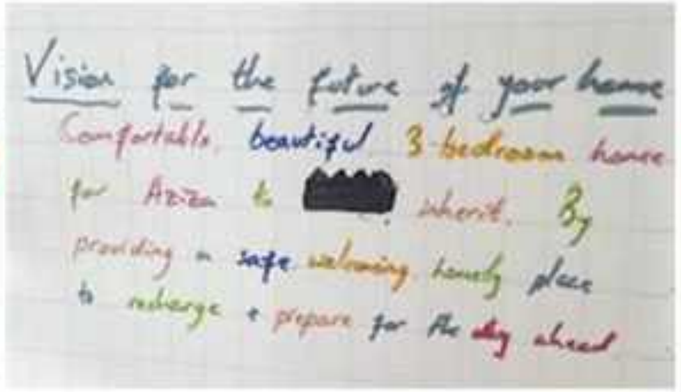


















What’s stopping change

While there are some common barriers, some challenges are specific to renters, and others to homeowners.

- Lack of knowledge
- Disruption while works take place
- Lack of trust between tenants, landlords and contractors.
- Lack of control and landlord refusals.
- History of poor maintenance, workmanship and service.
- Cost and lack of funds
- Permissions – unclear & bureaucratic
- Lack of time



What’s needed to enable change

Ideas to enable change include:

- **Clear, consistent guidance** – a definitive guide to what upgrades are possible and clear routes to delivery.
- **Knowledge & resource sharing** – opportunities to share knowledge and resources, such as a tool library, peer-to-peer assistance and sharing of basic skills.
- **A ‘healthy homes hub’** that can support residents of all tenures to navigate their home upgrade journey, providing support with permissions, funding and procurement.
- **Skills** – access to a workforce skilled in adapting heritage homes to be fit for the 21st century.



Next steps

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- Participants are collecting further thoughts from family, friends and neighbours.
- Likes, dislikes and future aspirations are informing upgrade options to be explored at Workshop 2.
- Barriers and ideas to make change happen will be explored at Workshop 3.



Workshop 1	Workshop 2	Workshop 3	Workshop 4
12th July	13th September	18th October	8th November
WHY are upgrades needed?	**WHAT** upgrades are appropriate?	**HOW** do we make upgrades happen?	Agreeing **ACTION**



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www.westminster.gov.uk/healthy-homes

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