



# **The state of neighbourhood planning in London 2022**

[www.neighbourhoodplanners.london](http://www.neighbourhoodplanners.london)



# Overview

- Our second report – covers first 10 years and story since 2019
- Charts both progress and challenges
- New information on the mismatch in financial support provided to Borough and Forums
- A reminder of the lack of progress with the Mayor
- Looks forward to wider planning reforms
- Flags some priorities for action



# Numbers

26

Number of made neighbourhood plans

+14

Change since 2019

67

Number of neighbourhood forums

-2

Change since 2019

***“Neighbourhood plans are now firmly established as part of the day to day decision making on new development across London”***

***“Volunteer neighbourhood planners continue to face significant challenges and there are worrying trends”***



# Not renewed/blocked

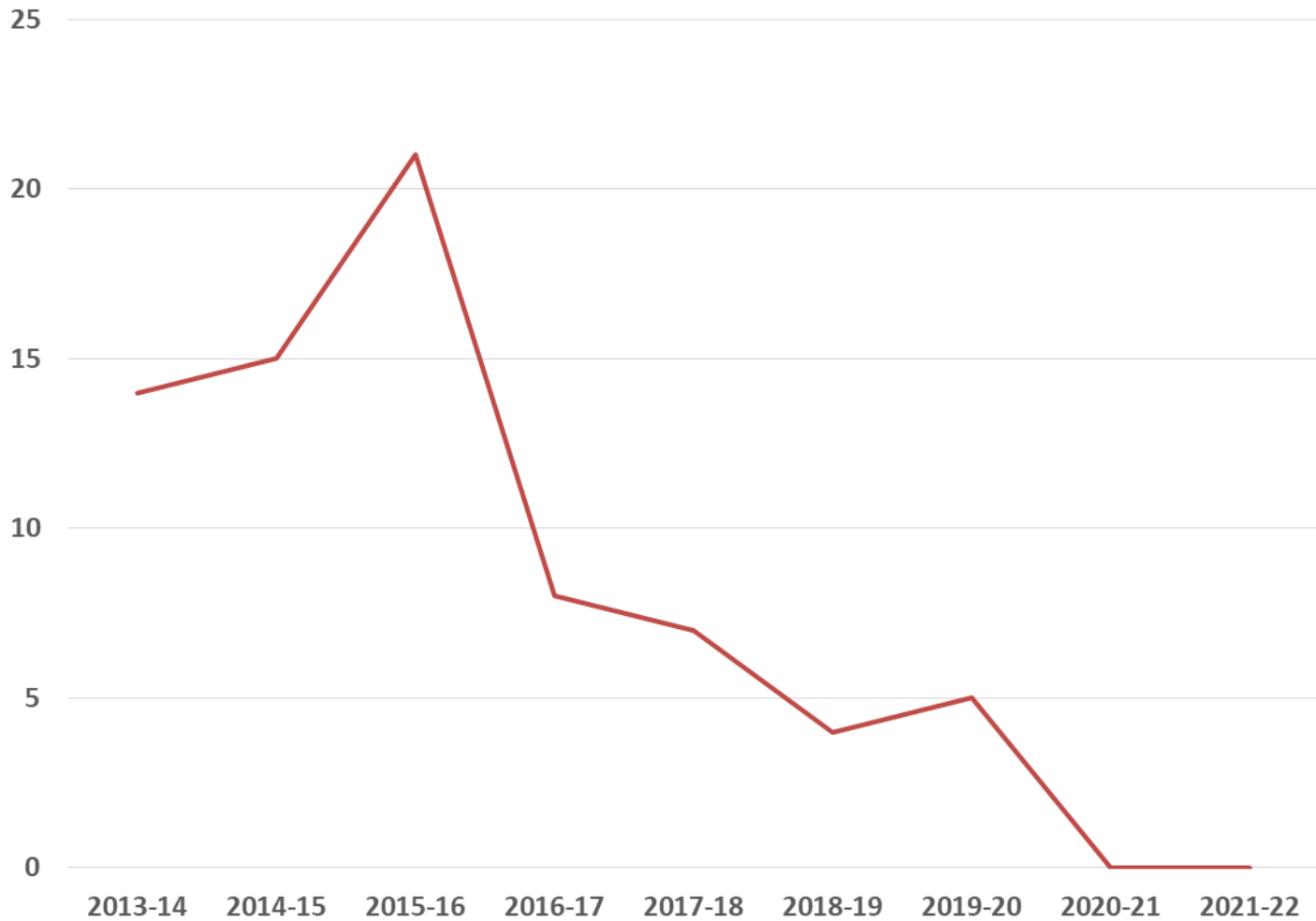
Mill Hill (Barnet)  
Hill View (Bexley)  
Church Row and Perrins  
Walk (Brent)  
Somers Town (Camden)  
West Ealing Centre (Ealing)  
Chatsworth Road (Hackney)  
Butts Farm (Hounslow)  
Corbett Estate (Lewisham)  
Bankside (Southwark)

Deptford (Lewisham)  
Elephant and Walworth  
(Southwark)  
East Shoreditch  
(Hackney/Tower Hamlets)  
Limehouse (Tower Hamlets)  
Tooting Bec and Broadway  
(Wandsworth)  
Churchill Gardens Estate  
(Westminster)

*“Wimbledon’s application to establish a forum and area was refused despite 1,100 representations in support. No new forums have been designated since February 2020”*

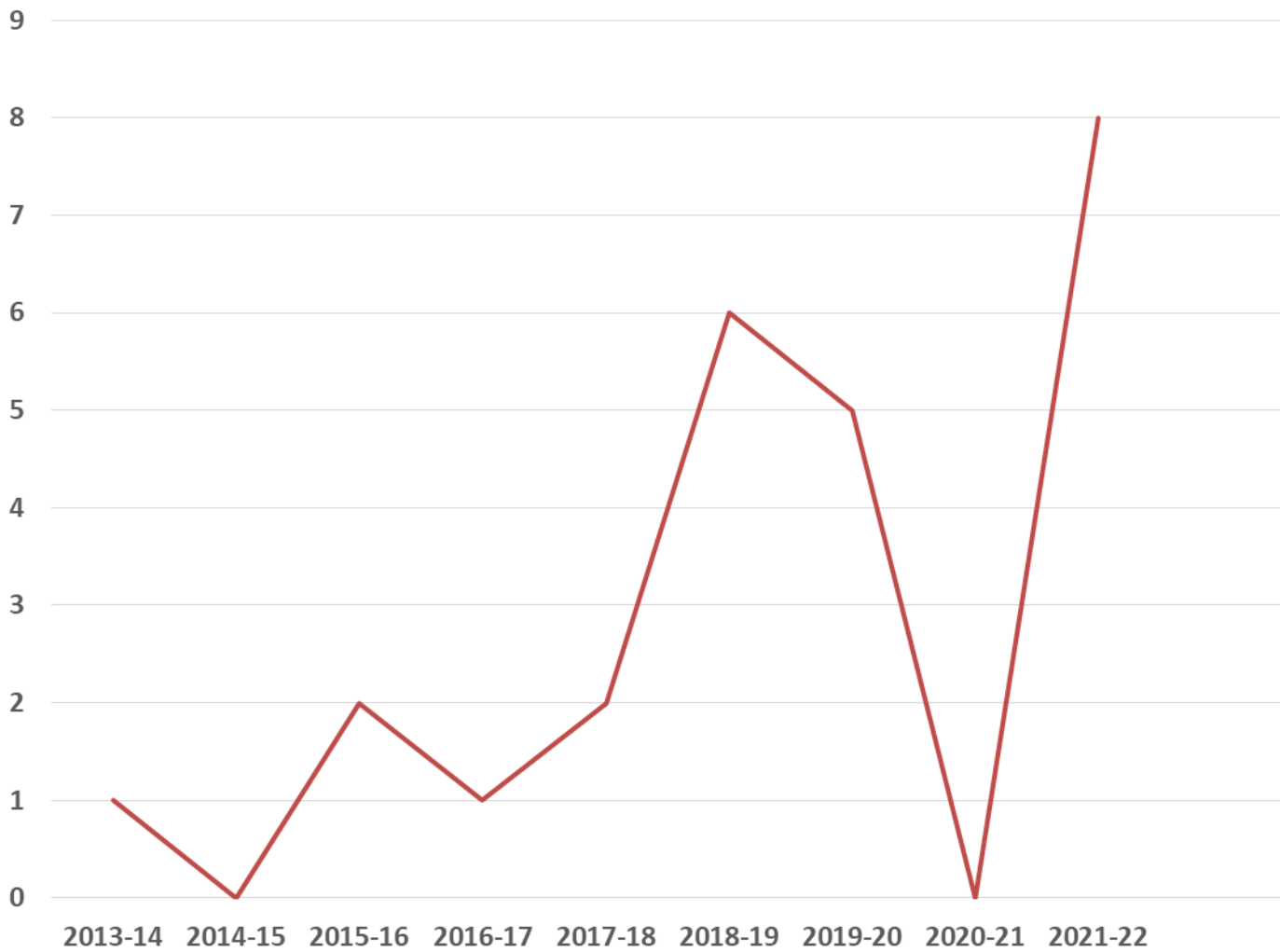


## Number of Forums first designated





# Neighbourhood plans completed





# Time taken

64 months

Average duration from designation to  
referendum

+15

Change since 2019

*“plans for Queens Park and Crofton Park & Honor Oak Park  
have both taken nearly eight years”*



# Gaps

23

**Number of local planning authorities  
without a made neighbourhood plan**

-3

Change since 2019

**“We have also drawn attention to eleven orphan neighbourhood areas which have been designated without an accompanying neighbourhood forum to develop a plan.”**





# Deserts

**BARKING &  
DAGENHAM**

**BEXLEY**

**BROMLEY**

**IN – Bexley (Hill View)**

**OUT – Redbridge (South  
Woodford)**

**CITY OF  
LONDON**

**CROYDON**

**HARROW**

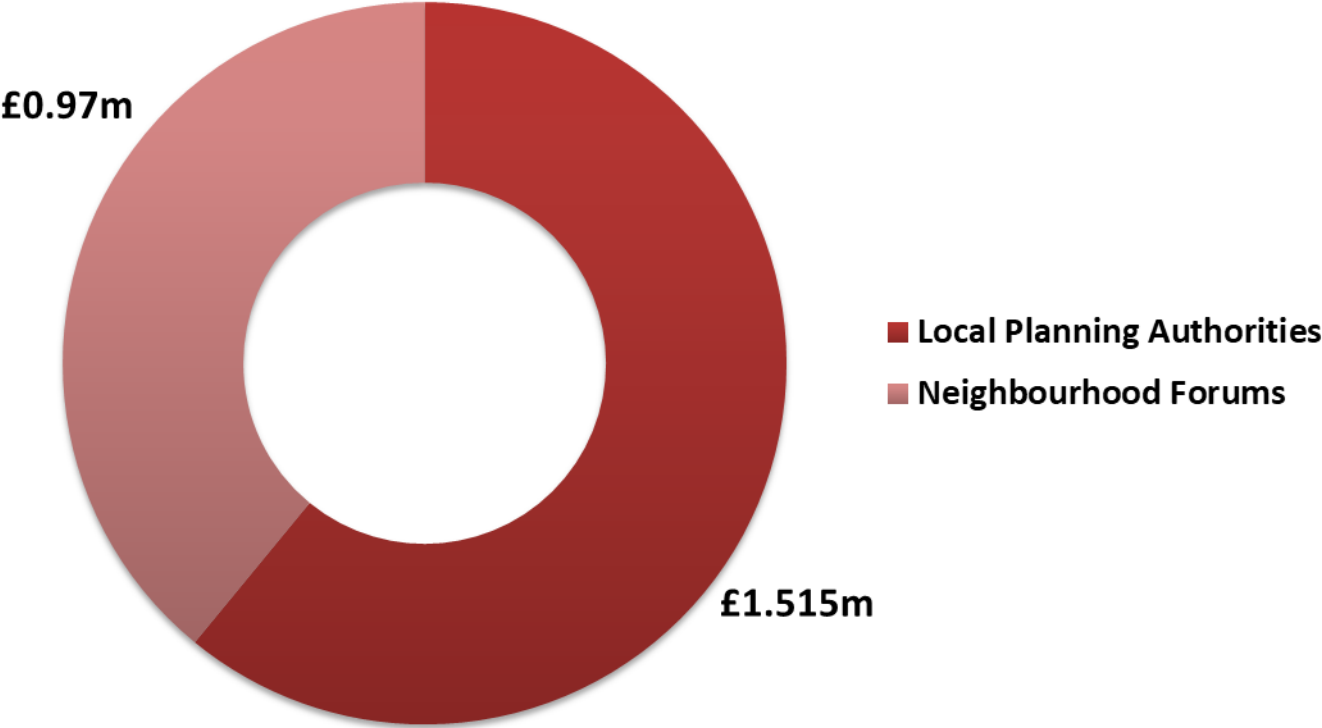
**HAVERING**

**MERTON**

**NEWHAM**



**Funding support from Government  
2013/14 - 2021/22**





# Mayoral inaction

**“The GLA’s Planning Committee undertook a helpful review of neighbourhood planning with our support in 2020. It concluded the Mayor should *“explicitly support neighbourhood planning and convene volunteer neighbour planners with local boroughs to develop a programme for accelerating the delivery of neighbourhood plans”*. The Mayor responded to say he *“would be happy to host a Neighbourhood Planning event”*. A mayoral election and nearly two years later we are still to see any progress.”**

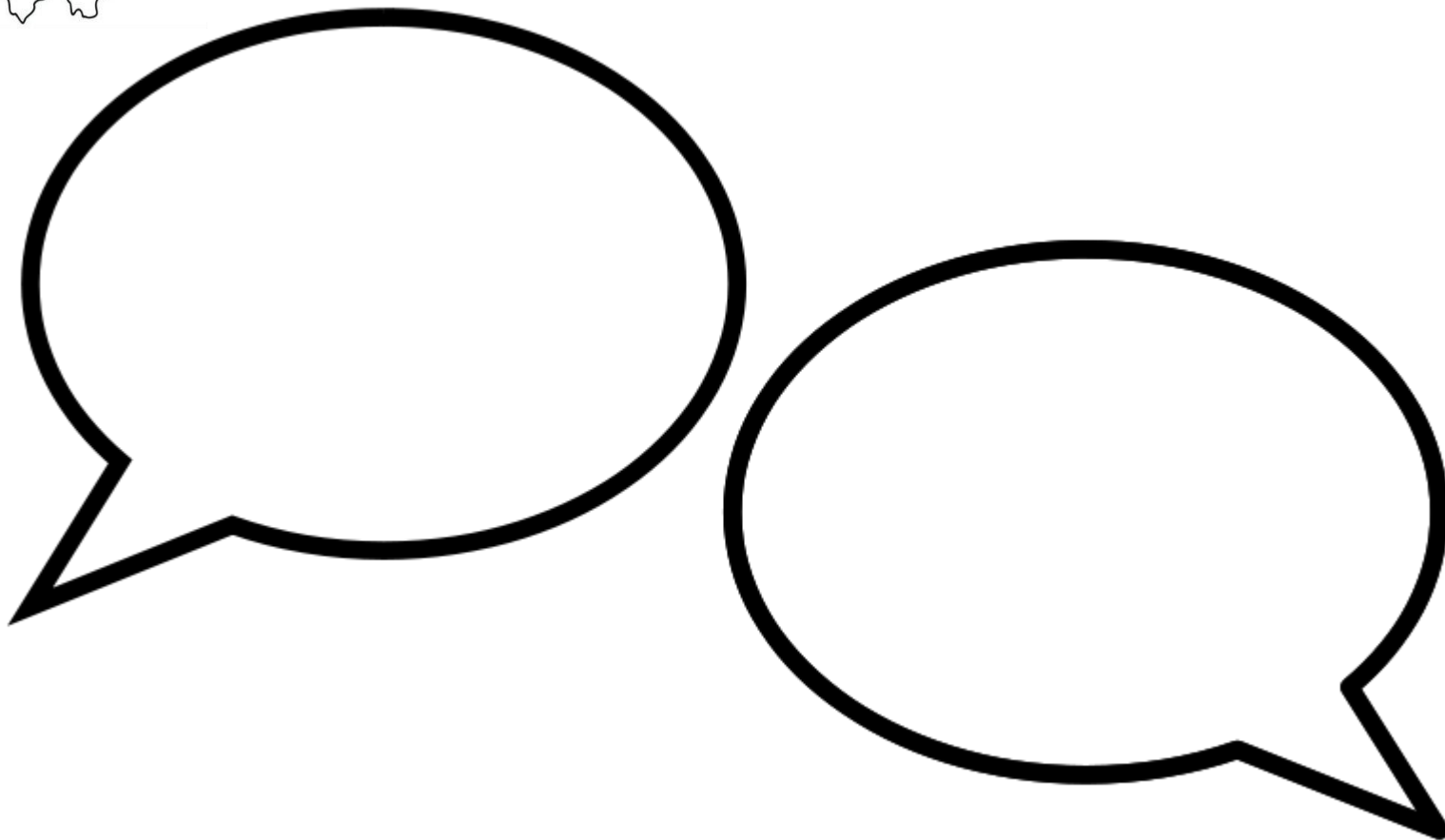


# Priorities for action

- I. **Communities** – Continue to exercise your rights to neighbourhood plan and support the neighbourhood planning community in London
- II. **Boroughs** – Recognise and support the vital role of volunteer-led neighbourhood planning as part of London’s development plan framework and in planning decisions
- III. **Mayor** – Show strong leadership in supporting the strategic role of neighbourhood planning in securing “Good Growth” in the capital
- IV. **Government** - Refresh the neighbourhood planning support programme to strengthen and expand the advice and funding available, especially to neighbourhood forums
- V. **Government** – Give neighbourhood forums the same control over spending the local element of the Infrastructure Levy as town and parish councils
- VI. **Government** - Provide stronger legal safeguards for neighbourhood forums to progress through the different stages of plan preparation, including designation



# Discussion





# Levelling-up and Regeneration Bill

- I. **Backs neighbourhood planning**
- II. **Adjusts Basic Conditions** – align with Local Plans on housing; match new “environmental outcomes” replacing SEA
- III. **Broad legal scope**
- IV. **Climate** – support policies on adaptation & mitigation
- V. **“Neighbourhood priorities statement”** – prepared by Qualifying Body; LPAs “have regard to” when preparing Local Plan
- VI. **National Development Management Policies** – equivalent to development plan; not to be repeated in neighbourhood plans
- VII. **Plan-led** – unless material considerations “*strongly*” indicate otherwise



# Neighbourhood Priorities Statement

Any qualifying body may make a statement, to be known as a “neighbourhood priorities statement”, which summarises what the body considers to be the principal needs and prevailing views, of the community in the neighbourhood area in relation to which the body is authorised, in respect of local matters.

“Local matters” are such matters as the Secretary of State may prescribe, relating to—

- (a) development, or the management or use of land, in or affecting the neighbourhood area,
- (b) housing in the neighbourhood area,
- (c) the natural environment in the neighbourhood area,
- (d) the economy in the neighbourhood area,
- (e) public spaces in the neighbourhood area,
- (f) the infrastructure, facilities or services available in the neighbourhood area, or
- (g) other features of the neighbourhood area.



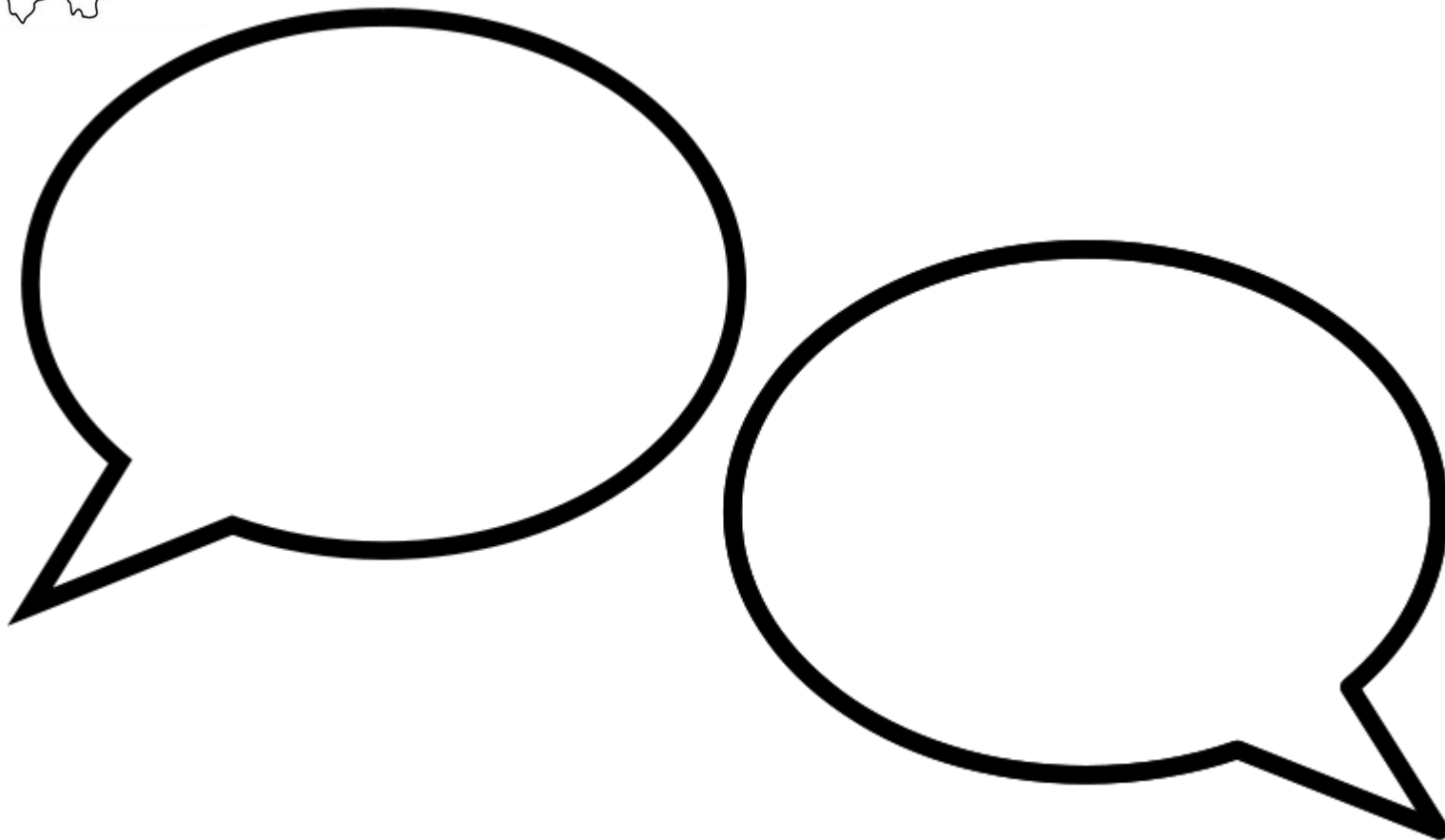
# Commentary

**Professor Gavin Parker**  
**University of Reading**





# Discussion



# Stay in touch



## September 21<sup>st</sup> conference

[www.neighbourhoodplanners.london](http://www.neighbourhoodplanners.london)

[@NPlannersLondon](https://twitter.com/NPlannersLondon)

[info@neighbourhoodplanners.london](mailto:info@neighbourhoodplanners.london)