

## **Queen's Park Case Study: Creating a Council**

In 2007, the Government passed the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act, which, among other provisions, permitted the creation of community councils in London, with the aim of enhancing community governance in urban areas.

The Campaign for a Community Council in Queen's Park (QP) is the first campaign to utilise this relatively new power. The QP Campaign is formed from a group of local residents who want to change their community for the better. They have decided that they can achieve this by creating the first community council in London.

The QP Campaign was born from the Queen's Park Forum, a sub-group of the Paddington Development Trust, set up in 2003 with funding from the Westminster City Partnership. However, government funding to support the work of the forum has finished.

On 22 January 2011 the formal campaign to introduce a community council in Queen's Park was launched by residents with the support of Queen's Park Forum, with aim of providing an ongoing voice for local residents. In April 2011, the QP Campaign presented to Westminster Council - the principal authority for the area - over 1400 signatures asking for a parish council.

Westminster Council are still to confirm the exact arrangements for the consultation and review process, but residents have been busy publicizing and organising their campaign, with support from NALC and the Department of Communities and Local Government.

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