



The cuts crisis:

HOW WE CAN TAKE CONTROL

**From 'Neighbourhood Forum' to 'Community Council':
a vital step for our community's future strength**

ALL THE WORK THAT'S BEEN DONE over the past eight years to build togetherness and make Queen's Park a better place to live - all this is now in danger of collapse.

The paid workers and the finance that have made many changes possible - including the Queen's Park Forum itself - are in the process of being made redundant and cancelled under the government's cuts.

We are proud of our neighbourhood's achievements over the past few years, proud of so many things that have helped bring us together as a community, and we don't want to see them thrown in the dustbin.

To have a chance of success, we will need the support of **all** residents, not just those who already give their time and effort for the community. Our ability to champion the interests of all Queen's Park residents will only be guaranteed if we can convert the Queen's Park Forum into an official Community Council, recognised by Westminster City Council.

A substantial group of residents recently declared their support for a campaign to make this happen. Now the **Campaign for a Queen's Park Community Council** needs everyone else to get behind it.

In order to be recognised as a Community Council, we shall need to put together a petition to Westminster with at least **800 signatures** of residents supporting the scheme.

600 people have already signed the petition in the first 3 weeks. Please help us reach 800 by the end of February.

What is a Community Council?

It's the lowest tier of local government – the closest to the people who elect it. There are 9,000 such councils in England. The councillors are unpaid volunteers drawn from the local community. Recognised by law, the Community Council would give the area **power that can't be taken away!**

What purpose does it serve?

Having a community council means the needs of Queen's Park will be heard. It also means that residents have to be consulted on local issues.

As services are drastically reduced we need, more than ever, to lobby for the best interests of everyone in Queen's Park. If successful, our campaign will **make sure we don't lose out** in a postcode lottery to other better better off areas.

The Community Council will have the power to raise funds and carry out priority projects. Local charity Paddington Development Trust has already raised £120,000 for 3 years for the Queen's Park Community Council, if we are successful!

How can I help?

The campaign group needs supporters. To have any chance of success we need to collect 800 signatures in just a few weeks. Here are some things you can do to help:

1. join the Campaign Group & help collect signatures of electors,
2. talk to your neighbours about it,
3. put a Campaign poster in your window to show your support,
4. stay in touch through our website: campaign4queenspark.org

Successfully making the transition from Neighbourhood Forum to Community Council will not be easy. There will be many hurdles on the way and no doubt some opposition to our efforts to gain greater local independence for the people of Queen's Park. The first step is to submit a petition with the required 800 signatures. Ultimately Westminster Council has to give its consent, but if we are to succeed we shall need the strongest possible support from all sections of the community.

Please help us to help ourselves! Remember, in the words of the old proverb, "**UNITED** (as a community) **WE STAND**; **DIVIDED** (into separate personal interests) **WE FALL**" !

www.campaign4queenspark.org