

# PRIMROSE HILL CONSERVATION AREA ADVISORY COMMITTEE

**Open Day: energy saving in  
Primrose Hill – protecting our  
future, preserving our past**

## **Programme**

Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> November 2022 10am–4.30pm

Primrose Hill Community Centre,

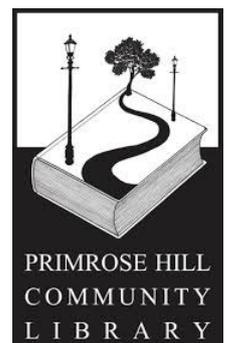
29 Hopkinson's Place NW1 8TN

Free – please register in advance to make  
sure of your place (and your lunch), the link  
for registration is <https://phca.cc/phcaac>

Organized by the Primrose Hill Conservation Area  
Advisory Committee in partnership with the Primrose  
Hill Community  
Association and  
Community Library.



**PRIMROSE  
HILL** COMMUNITY  
ASSOCIATION



## Introductions 10.00-10.15

### Morning Session 1. 10.15-11.15

#### 1.1 – An introductory case study by Richard Davies – architect member of PHCAAC.

Richard is currently in the process of planning a retrofit of his newly acquired house in Kentish Town. He investigates the energy now used in the house – which is essentially unmodernized – the range of retrofit possibilities, and the energy reductions they might achieve.

#### 1.2 Retrofitting in a conservation area – Jane Wylie, head of the conservation team at Camden.

Energy efficiency and heritage conservation are not always easy partners. Jane looks at the Energy Hierarchy – which ranges from changing behaviours to installing a heat-pump – to identify what we can do which requires no planning permission at all before explaining what planning consents are needed in a conservation area, and in a Listed Building. What is 'permitted development' and what does it mean in our context?

Discussion

### Short break 11.15-11.30

### Morning Session 2. 11.30-12.30

**Given the range of possibilities, how do we decide what to do? The Energy Plan provides a way of making informed and coherent choices while also enabling practical planning and execution of work.**

#### 2.1 An introduction to the Energy Plan – Bill Bordass, neighbour in Primrose Hill, experienced on energy and environmental issues, adviser to Historic England and the SPAB technical committee.

Bill outlines the Energy Plan as a key part of planning a successful retrofit, providing an assessment of options available to suit the individual property, its occupation and use, the residents' priorities, and the budget available.

#### 2.2 An Energy Plan in action – Laura Rivkin of Princess Road, and Ben Owen from RetrofitWorks.

Laura has allowed her home in Princess Road to be used to give us all an insight into how an Energy Plan is prepared. Ben, the qualified surveyor who prepared the plan, will outline the process. Ben and Laura will then discuss what they have learnt from the process and its findings. What retrofit choices are now looking good for Laura?

Discussion

### Lunch 12.30- 1.15

## Afternoon

### We take a closer look at some of the options already identified. What might they mean for our homes?

#### **3.1 Insulating our houses and flats – including the windows 1.15-2.15**

##### **A presentation by Bob Prewett of Prewett Bizley Architects.**

Bob has worked on retrofit projects to Listed Buildings and homes in conservation areas in London, including Camden. He always starts by understanding the existing fabric from an energy and conservation point of view and developing a whole house plan, that includes an approach to walls, floors, roofs, and windows. This goes hand-in-hand with a clear strategy for how the building will be heated and ventilated, for example considering whether or not to use a heat pump. Practical and cost-effective solutions require well-balanced combinations of fabric, systems, and operational measures.

He will focus on options for walls, and particularly windows.

These frequently permit the largest energy improvements, but are highly vulnerable to poorly considered work, both in their execution and in relation to wider issues such as ventilation, cleaning, and summertime operation. He will pay particular regard to the impact of different options in relation to their visual and cultural characteristics. Bob's presentation will be supplemented by a conversation between Bob, Bill, Chris, Jane,

#### **3.2 Low carbon energy systems at home – solar panels or slates and heat pumps 2.15-3.15**

As energy prices soar, saving energy and generating our own becomes more and more attractive.

Engineer Chris Twinn, of Twinn Sustainability Innovation, discusses the options. Formerly at Arups, he is a leading authority on buildings and the environment, and seeks sustainable solutions that use fewer natural resources and cost less than business-as-usual. He is currently leading the housing retrofit team at LETI - the London Energy Transformation Initiative – investigating cost-effective retrofit options. Too often people – particularly suppliers – recommend solutions that are poorly-matched to the characteristics of a particular building and its use, and are frequently oversized and so run inefficiently.

#### **3.3 Low carbon energy systems in the community 3.15-3.45**

Sometimes communal systems offer benefits in terms of cost, flexibility, and heat and electricity storage, particularly for buildings that may be difficult to alter or space constrained.

A presentation by Leo Murray, Director of Innovation and Engagement at Possible, a Camden-based environmental charity. One of their campaign messages is 'ask your council to put heat pumps under parks'. What about households getting together on heat pumps, or even using local open space? Are there groups of buildings in Primrose Hill which could benefit from a shared approach?

#### **Concluding discussion 3.45-4.30**