

# *Unlocking Holloway for the Community*

**Justice Matters:**  
A **Community** Plan  
for **Holloway**  
#plan4holloway

# *Unlocking Holloway for the Community*

Community Plan for Holloway is facilitated by the Centre for Crime and Justice Studies, an independent, London-based charity. The initiative is funded by Trust for London, a charitable funder working to reduce poverty and inequality in London.

To find out more about our activities, to join our mailing list or get involved visit [www.plan4holloway.org](http://www.plan4holloway.org)





# Unlocking Holloway for the Community

**Unlocking Holloway for the Community offers a vision for how the former prison site can be redeveloped for the benefit of the local communities that live in Islington.**

The vision has been inspired by the more than 900 people and organisations who responded to the Community Plan for Holloway survey, the hundreds who attended public meetings and the many individual conversations held throughout the borough in the first half of 2017. *Unlocking Holloway* captures these community perspectives. Residents and community groups have been very clear about what they would like to see: they believe that following the closure of the prison in July 2016, it is time to unlock the Holloway land and create much needed homes, community facilities and greenspace for the people of Islington.

In the world of planning and development, it is usually those who have the most power and money who wield the greatest influence. The Ministry of Justice plans to sell the ten acre site to a private developer, who many expect will want to build unaffordable luxury flats. The Ministry then aims to spend the proceeds on building new prisons outside London.

*Unlocking Holloway* has a more positive vision, one that will strengthen the communities and neighbourhoods that are at the heart of Islington. Residents and community groups have made it clear that they fully expect to be involved in the decisions about the site to ensure this vision is realised.

The redevelopment is likely to be a long, drawn out process with many twists and turns. It is important that in the coming months and years the vision to unlock the Holloway site for the community benefit is centre stage. *Unlocking Holloway* is a resource to inform campaigns, but also to influence decision makers and hold them to account.



‘A positive vision, one that will strengthen the communities and neighbourhoods that are at the heart of Islington.’

**What is the Community Plan for Holloway?**

The Community Plan for Holloway is a coalition with local people and community groups to create and promote a positive vision for the former Holloway prison site that was closed in July 2016. The Community Plan is involved in four key activities:

1	Understanding local needs.
2	Gathering the views of the different communities in Islington.
3	Sharing a picture of what the communities of Islington would like to see.
4	Engaging decision makers.



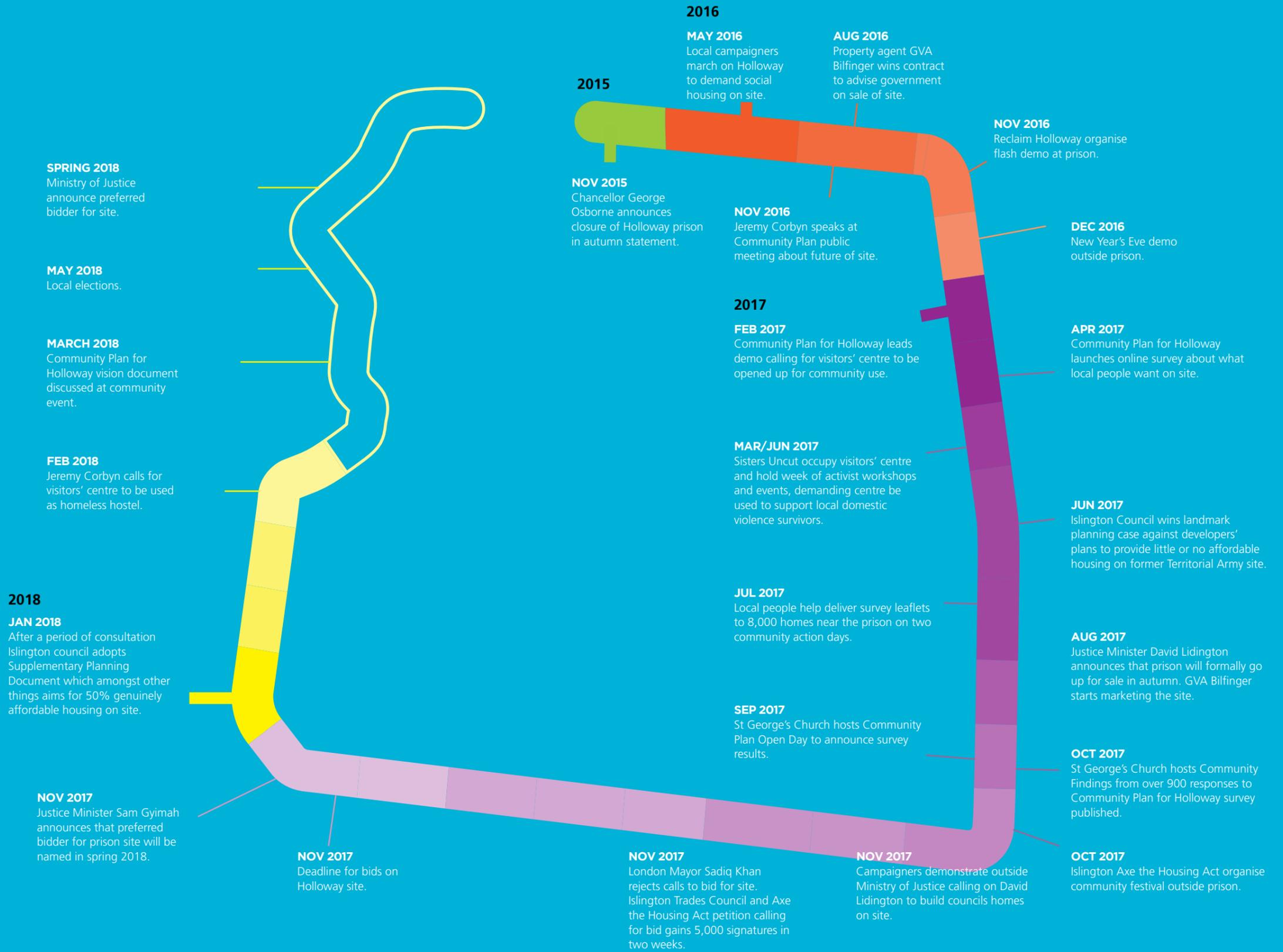
**What about the women who were in Holloway prison?**

**The women in HMP Holloway were moved out with little notice and were, in the main, dispersed to prisons outside London and beyond.**

The voices of women in prison are rarely heard so the Community Plan thought it important to ask what they thought about the future of the site. Their views are brought together in *After Holloway: Consultation with women affected by the criminal justice system* which can be downloaded from the Community Plan for Holloway website.

One of the strongest themes to come through in response to Islington Council's own consultation process was the demand for a new women's building to be part of any new development. It is envisaged that the building would provide services and support for all women across the community who have needs that are currently being unmet, irrespective of whether or not they had been involved in the criminal justice system.

# The story so far





What the community do not want to see

**‘This is a chance to be truly imaginative... create a mixed community with a real heart’**

**What the community told us**

**Housing**

*‘I just want a rent I can afford.’*

*‘Council housing to support those on low pay, single people and care leavers’*

*“Affordable sheltered housing and services for the elderly”*

**Community facilities**

*‘A community health centre.’*

*‘A centre and apprenticeship services to help young people’*

*‘A women’s building with mental health services.’*

**Public Space**

*‘Public space for people to share and enjoy’*

*‘A community café, garden and allotments.’*

*‘A park for the community, a playground for kids and a gym for adults’*

# What does the future hold?

*Unlocking Holloway for the Community* is far from the final word, the fate of the Holloway site is still in the balance. There is a window of opportunity for the local communities to establish their claim to the site.

Recent media coverage has shown that there is widespread interest in what happens to the land - people are watching. The Mayor of London and the Greater London Assembly may also have a role to play in what the future holds.

Local residents and community organisations, activists and members of political parties in the borough, have developed a positive vision for the future of the site. The Community Plan for Holloway is calling on both local and national decision makers to share that vision at a time when the housing crisis has risen to the top of the policy agenda.

The Islington Council's planning objectives for the site show striking similarities to those in the Community Plan vision, this is promising. If residents, community groups and others can work together, then a coalition can emerge with a voice that policy makers and developers, both local and national, will find difficult to ignore. There is an opportunity to have a real impact.



## WHAT YOU CAN DO

1	The May 2018 local elections will be a unique opportunity for the community to let its views be known about what should happen to the Holloway site.
2	If you are a member of a political party in the borough, the possibility of hundreds of genuinely affordable new homes, green space and community facilities, could be top of your election agenda.
3	If you are a voter, you can make your voice heard on the issue. Ask your ward candidates what they think should happen to the site. The Community Plan will be producing an on-line Election Action Pack with information to help.
4	After the local elections...

# ***How do we turn a vision into reality...***

## ***Send us your ideas:***

*E-mail your ideas to [Will.McMahon@crimeandjustice.org.uk](mailto:Will.McMahon@crimeandjustice.org.uk)*

*Text your ideas to: 07968 950223*

*Post to: Community Plan for Holloway, 2 Langley Lane, London, SW8 1GB*

***I can...***

***We can...***

***Leave contact details if you want to...***



# Further information



#### **Community Plan for Holloway survey**

Over 900 people and organisations responded to the Community Plan for Holloway survey, which ran from April to September 2017. This included 50 women in the criminal justice system and 100 children from Robert Blair School. The main survey asked what people did and did not want to see on the Holloway site.

#### **What people want to see on the Holloway site**

Affordable housing was mentioned in 527 responses, with a particular emphasis on genuinely affordable housing and social housing (362 and 328 responses respectively). Community space was mentioned in 365 responses. Green space was mentioned in 270 responses. Community services were mentioned in 254 responses. Provision for different groups was mentioned in 185 responses, with particular emphasis on provision for children and young people and women (165 and 123 responses respectively).

#### **What people do not want to see on the Holloway site**

Unaffordable luxury housing was mentioned in 422 responses. Private housing was mentioned in 192 responses, as was a private development in general. Gated or privatised space was mentioned in 60 responses.

#### **Our partners**

The Community Plan for Holloway Partners Group is made up of local community organisations who have supported this work from the beginning. They have been integral to the success of the project and will be pivotal to the future of the site. The group includes: Holloway Ward Labour Party; Islington Axe the Housing Act; Islington Faiths Forum; Islington Green Party; Islington Hands off Our Public Services; Islington Liberal Democrats; Islington Trades Union Council; Islington Unite Housing; Reclaim Holloway; St George's Church; St George's Ward Labour Party; St Luke's Church; Women in Prison.

#### **Other key documents**

**Islington: A local needs analysis**  
<http://bit.ly/2CDiz>

**Holloway prison: Community perspectives**  
<http://bit.ly/20ooYef>

**After Holloway: Consultation with women affected by the criminal justice system**

**Islington Council's Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) for the Holloway Prison site**  
<http://bit.ly/2BGFzS>

LUXURY  
FLATS = DEAD  
TINS

CAREES

NO TO

EAGES

60%

WOMEN  
LEAVING

PRISON ARE  
HOMELESS

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