

Harlesden Neighbourhood Forum membership demographic

Summary

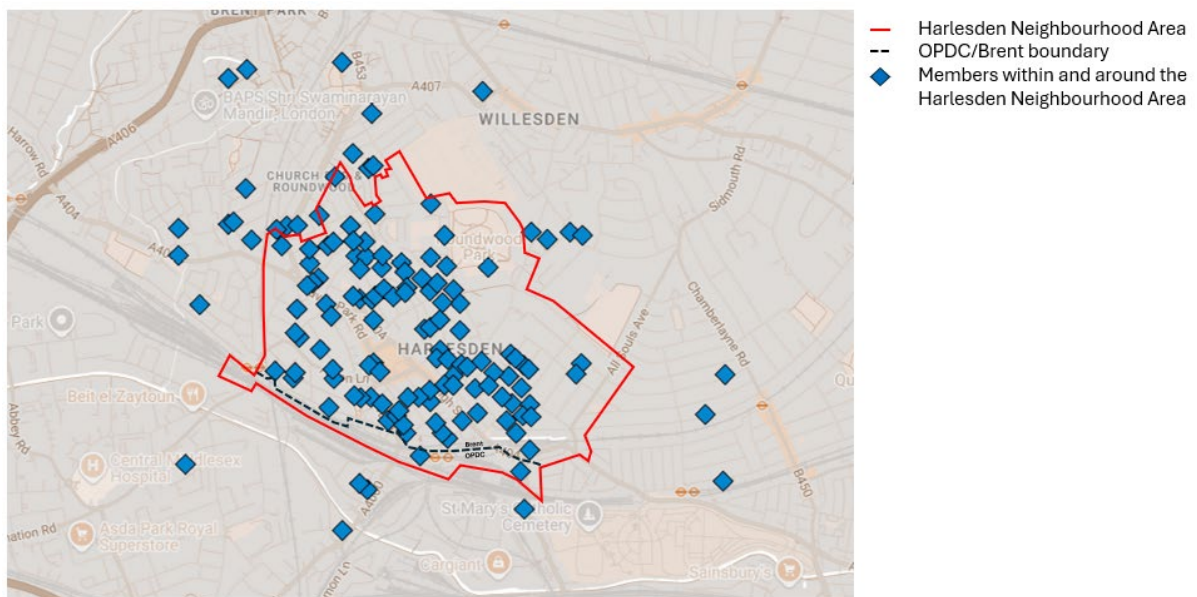
Provided to accord with Localism Act, Schedule 9, Part 61F, criterion 7(a)(ii) 'members are from different sections of the community in that area, and inclusive in terms of age, disability, gender, race, religion, sex and sexual orientation.'

Number of Members

The Neighbourhood Forum has significantly more registered members than the 21 minimum that regulations require, which is a real positive, albeit its population is significant (estimated to be at least 16.000 adults). The response to the characteristics information requests from the Forum however have been lower than the total membership identified. Whilst Brent Council has not been aware of qualifying residents' concerns or itself has any fundamental concerns on the representativeness of the forum and its openness, the limitations of this data captured reduce the effectiveness in understanding the extent to which the forum membership is reflective of the area it draws from. The forum would benefit from explaining to members why it is important for them to provide their characteristics information to assist in monitoring representation of the Forum overall and allow potential imbalances to be more clearly addressed.

Geographic spread:

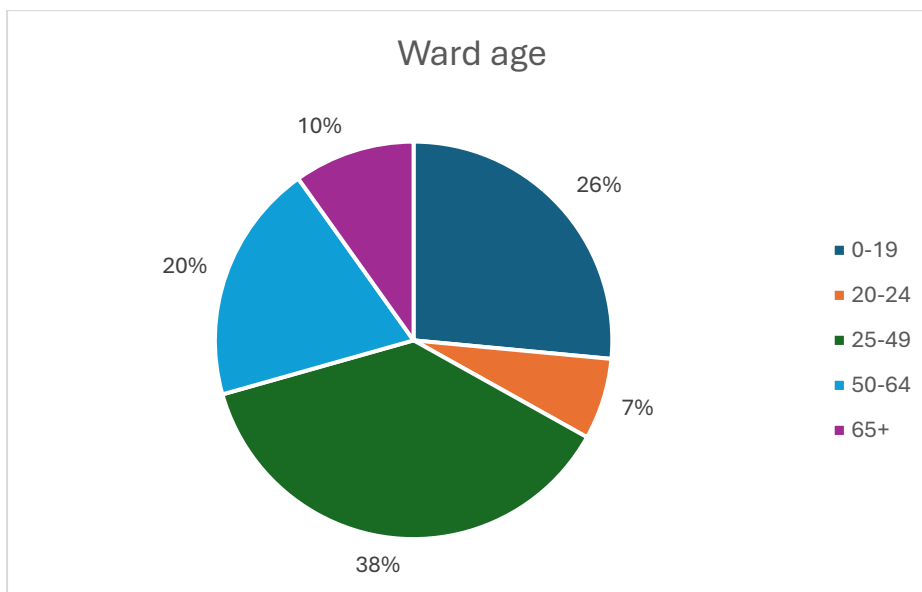
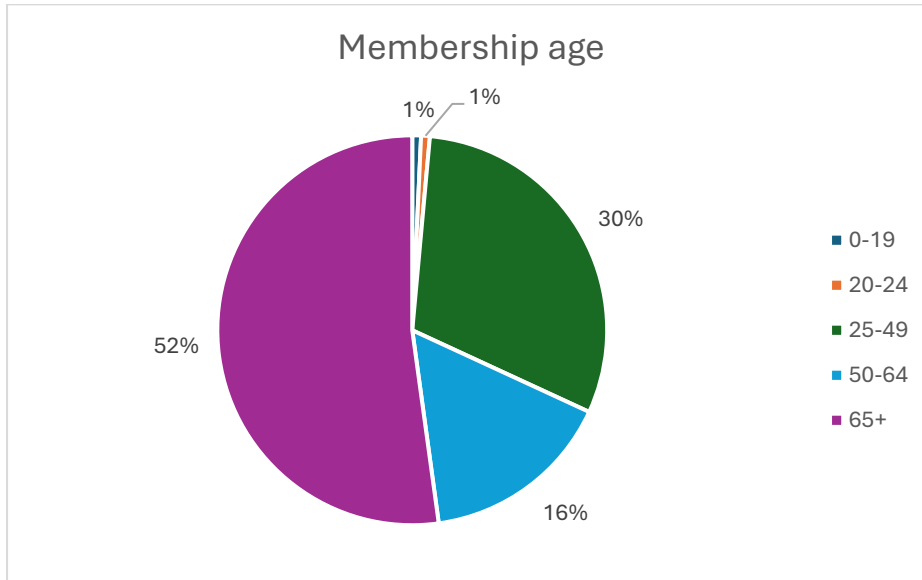
Members are drawn from across the area as seen below:



Perhaps reflective of the Harlesden Neighbourhood Plan's focus on Harlesden town centre, representation is greater in the vicinity of that area. Moving forward, ideally some membership representation from the recently extended Neighbourhood Area around Ambleside Road would be desirable, as would the areas surrounding Holland Road and between Roundwood Park and All Saints Avenue. Brent Council will encourage the Forum to try to gain greater membership from these areas.

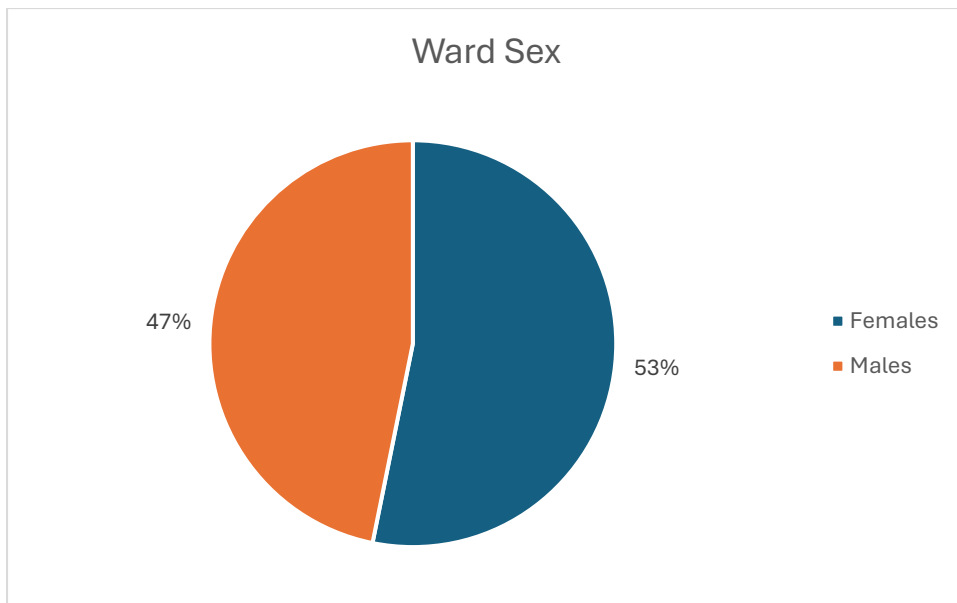
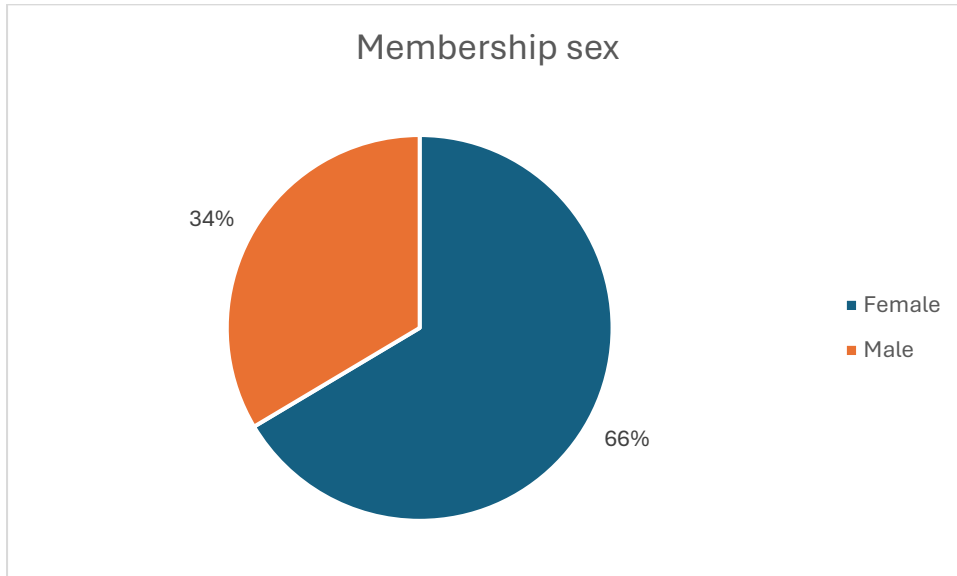
Age

Of the 189 members to respond, 138 provided their age. Of these there is a good spread across the brackets, with the vast majority being 25+ including only 2 below this age. Whilst recognising that participation in planning matters from younger people can be difficult to achieve, Brent will also encourage the Forum to consider ways in which it could encourage greater membership representation from the 20-24 age group.



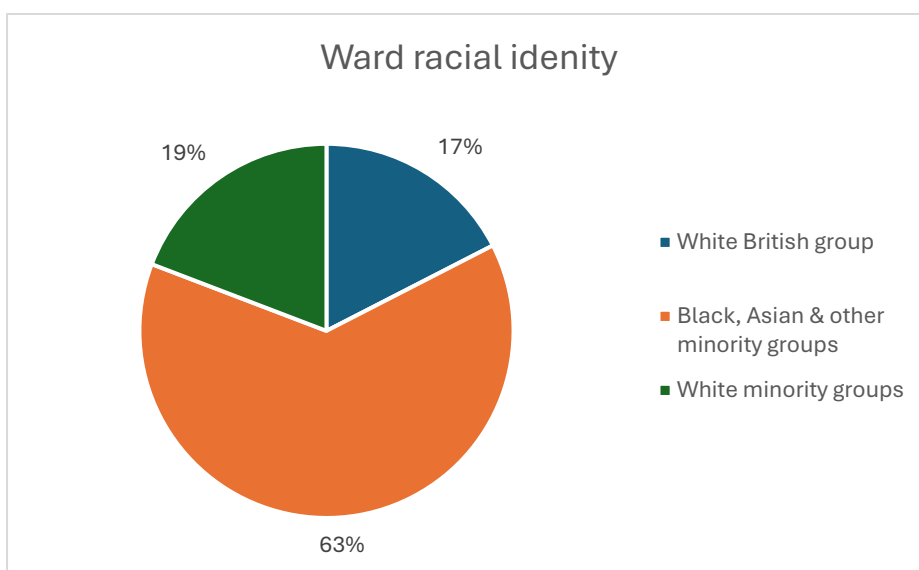
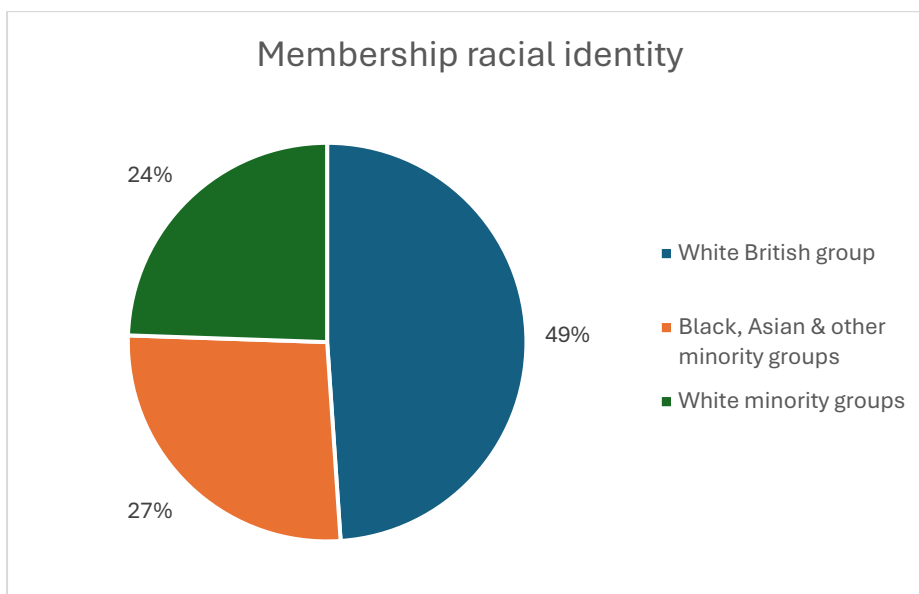
Sex

Of the 189 members to respond, 152 provided their sex. Two thirds are female, with 51 members male. Brent Council would expect the mix to be closer to an equitable number in each 53% female/ 47% male which is typical of the area and the wider borough, and would similarly encourage the forum to undertake work to gain greater equity in the sexes.



Race

Of the 189 respondents 74% provided their race. Whilst in respect of those that did response, the membership is mixed, in some respects it isn't very closely aligned with Harlesden area's diversity shown in the Census 2021. The Census indicates that roughly 63% of the population of the Harlesden was from black and minority ethnic groups, whilst the membership is 27%. Greater representation (49%) compared to the Census (17%) of British white groups is occurring. The data on other groups is weak in terms of being able to compare categories. Race can be a sensitive issue for respondents, particularly those that are non-white, and therefore are less inclined to respond. So, this may be reflected in the greater representation of white respondents. This highlights the importance of at least encouraging people where possible to respond to this question but also may indicate a need to focus in particular on getting greater representation from black and minority ethnic people for membership.



Disability

Of the 189 respondents, only 116 provided their ability. Of these, only 3 are physically disabled, with 6 others identifying themselves as having other disabilities. At 8% this is below the 13.4% identified in the 2021 Census, and again indicates that either greater capture of reporting of disability will be necessary or a review to consider how greater participation from those with a disability is supported.

