

West End Area Forum
Chairman: Cllr Tim Mitchell
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28 June 2011

Dear West End Area Forum Member

Thank you to all who were able to attend the recent West End Area Forum at St Martin-in-the-Fields and help us to make decisions that affect your local area. Your views are important to us, so I'd like to take this opportunity to let you know what we are planning to do in response to your feedback.

At our last meeting on Thursday 26 May 2011, four workshops were held to give you the opportunity to comment on changes to buses in the West End, the Olympic Route Network, Pedicabs and the Parking Policy Review. If you would like more detail on the workshop and ward budget discussions contact the Area Forums team or visit www.westminster.gov.uk/neighbourhoods

Transport for London - Buses

Peter Bradley, Head of Consultation and Engagement at TfL, told you that over the past year there has been a considerable increase in the number of people boarding buses, the distance they travelled and the distance covered by bus routes. Mr Bradley explained that the next steps for TfL Buses are a relaunch of the Oxford, Regent and Bond Streets partnership, development of the VIP concept (traffic free days), the tourist buses on Regent Street and understanding the impact of the Olympics. Goals for cleaner buses are also in place, as TfL is constantly renewing its fleet and hybrid buses are being developed.

Parking Review

Cllr Lee Rowley, Cabinet Member for Parking and Transportation, Barry Smith, Operational Director of City Planning and Hugh Brennan, Principal Transport Planner, discussed the Westminster Parking Policy Review 2010-11. Over the past nine months we have undertaken a major review of parking provision across the city and on 9 May, the cabinet agreed a series of draft policy proposals for parking in Westminster for consultation. These proposals can be seen in full on the council website at www.westminster.gov.uk/parkingpolicyreview. The responses to the consultation are being analysed and will help inform the final parking policy proposals, which will go to cabinet for approval in July.

Olympics

Martin Low, City Commissioner of Transportation, told you that the public consultation on the Olympic Route Network (ORN) was starting on the 6 June. He explained that effects of events at Lord's, Horse Guards Parade and Hyde Park will be significant for Westminster residents. There will be 100 days of high activity, starting with the Diamond Jubilee celebrations from the 27 June 2012, followed by the Olympic torch being in London on the 20-27 July. Mr Low also explained that

there will be events on the streets and in the parks as well as the main venues and that some roads will be shut at times for these events, in addition to the ORN closures. You were reminded that TfL wants your views on this and phase four of the public consultation will begin at the end of June, details can be found on the TfL website. You can email via the TfL website or contact Martin Low directly on 020 7641 1975 or mlow@westminster.gov.uk You will receive letters about the ORN consultation depending on which route(s) you are closest to.

Pedicabs

Chris Smallwood, Chairman of the London Pedicab Operators Association, said that pedicabs should be embraced as a cycling evolution and that there is a new partnership between operators, the police and the council, where codes of practice will cover safety, performance, accountability, insurance, training and construction of vehicles. Discussions are ongoing and a PR campaign has been proposed which would aim to marginalise those operators who are not willing to be part of the new partnership. Some of you were concerned that pedicabs could cause a lot of accidents and did not belong in London at all. Mr Smallwood assured you that they have a good safety record with no fatalities.

Neighbourhood Funds – how should yours be spent?

Neighbourhood Funds are dedicated funds to support local projects and priorities. They enable councillors to address the local issues that matter most to residents, and we want your suggestions on how they should be spent. This could range from improving the local environment with new trees, flowers or improved paving, to purchasing new equipment for the local sports club, or funding activities for older residents.

Suggestions were put forward at the West End Forum and further suggestions can be made to your ward councillors through the contact details at the bottom of this page. If you would like to find out about how neighbourhood funds were spent last year, please visit www.westminster.gov.uk/neighbourhoodfunds

To find out which electoral ward you are in, please contact the team or visit www.westminster.gov.uk/wardfinder

Your next West End Area Forum

I look forward to welcoming you to the next West End Area Forum on Monday 31 October, venue to be confirmed. If you have any ideas for agenda items or a place to hold the meeting in future, please do let us hear your thoughts. To get in touch or for more information, please contact the Area Forums team using the contact details on the front page of this letter.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tim Mitchell". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined with a single horizontal stroke.

Cllr Tim Mitchell

Chairman of the West End Area Forum

Contact your ward councillors by calling 020 7641 3916 or email:
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