

Westbourne

2008-10 Ward Budget Monitoring Report

Councillors David Boothroyd, Rupert D'Cruz, Papya Qureshi

Summary:

Ward Members identified 7 priorities for how to allocate their ward budget from April 2008 – March 2010.

A total of 32 projects were allocated funded over the 2 years to meet these priorities.

The key outputs and achievements of each project funded have been highlighted under the priority headings in this document. Any problems experienced and lessons to be learnt have also been highlighted.

Ward Members were given £200,000 ward budget funding to allocate over the 2 year pilot programme.

£197,614.85 of this budget was allocated, however following under-spend on some of the projects and additional leveraged funding for others, the final actual expenditure for the 2 year period was £188,805.81. The remaining unspent budget has been returned to the councils reserves.

Key Highlights of Projects Funded:

Priority 1. Improving the local environment

- **Contributing to a twelve-month community gardening scheme (*Groundwork London*); Total ward budget funding: £26,130 (Joint funded with Harrow Road and Queen's Park)**
 - The community gardening programme was delivered across 3 wards between June 2009 and March 2010.
 - Additional funding was leveraged from CWH (£30,000) and NHS Westminster (£10,000) to contribute to the programme.
 - A total of 1002 people were engaged in the project including 336 adults, and 636 young people.
 - 2 full time trainee gardeners were employed in December 2009 through to March 2010. Both were Westminster residents and received significant hands-on training in addition to national proficiency qualifications in hedge trimming and strimming.
 - 19 projects were delivered across 3 primary schools, a nursery, an academy and 2 Tenants Residents Associations.
 - 2185m² of open space was improved during the programme (against a target of 2500m²), including improvements to 5 housing estates, 4 schools and a church.
 - The provider has secured further funding to continue some of the work into the next financial year.

Continued overleaf...



City of Westminster

- **Event to promote open spaces in Westbourne**
(Westbourne Neighbourhood Forum), **Total ward budget funding: £6,000**
 - The Canalside Green Fair event took place on Saturday 25th July 2009 from 1-5pm alongside the Grand Union Canal.
 - The theme of the event was to celebrate the outdoors, promote healthy lifestyles and raise awareness of environmental issues.
 - A range of information stalls, activities and food were available at the event.
 - The event was well attended with around 200 people attending throughout the day.

- **Contribution to new signage along the Grand Union Canal**
(Westminster Parks), **Total ward budget funding: £6,200**
 - A range of environmental improvements are taking place along the canalside.
 - 5 interpretive signs were installed in March 2010 to support the improvement works taking place.

- **Dog Socialising Classes**
(Westbourne Neighbourhood Forum); **Total ward budget funding: £1,375**
(Joint funded with Harrow Road ward)
 - Dog socialising classes took place at Westbourne Green every Saturday between 6th March and 10th April 2010.
 - Flyers for the free training have been distributed in addition to an advert in the local newspaper and on Avenues FM radio.
 - Despite the free training on offer, attendance was lower than expected with 5 owners and 6 dogs attending the sessions. The trainer felt that while people did not seem keen to register for the free training they were interested in learning about Dog Control Orders and receiving the free poop bags (supplied by the Westminster Dog Warden). A free neutering service is available at Mayhew Animal Home Rescue Centre and the trainer also gave out vouchers for this service.
 - A Dog Advice Stall was run at Westbourne Green on the 10th April from 2-4pm offering advice, training, vouchers and one to one training to reach out to an even wider audience.

- **Tree planting along the Grand Union Canal**
(Westminster Arboricultural Team), **Total ward budget funding: £3,000**
 - Suitable locations for the planting of 10 new trees along the Grand Union Canal have been sourced. The trees are due to be planted in May 2010.

Priority 2. Providing additional activities and services for young residents

- **Holiday activities for 5-13 year olds**
(Westminster Extended Schools Service), **Total ward budget funding: £20,000**
 - Edward Wilson Primary School worked in partnership with Our Lady Of Dolour's Primary School and St Mary Magdalene's CE Primary School to deliver a range of fun holiday activities during the May 2009 half term and the first 3 weeks of the summer holidays 2009. Children aged 5-11 took part in a variety of activities (including team games, arts and crafts, and cookery) while parents were at work between the hours of 8.30am – 5.30pm.



- A number of trips were also offered over the summer period including Woburn Safari Park on the 23rd July 2009, and Sayers Croft our door activity Centre on the 6th August 2009.
 - All activity programmes were full, with 30 children attending the May half term camp and 35 children attending the 3 week summer programme.
 - The Westminster Academy delivered a 4 week summer school in August 2009 aimed at Year 6 pupils entering the Academy in September 09. Alongside the Year 6 summer school the Academy also ran targeted study support sessions for Year 7, 8 & 9 students whose levels in Literacy & Numeracy were below the national average.
 - Parents were given the opportunity to send their children to at least 1 week of the summer school over the 4 week period. In total 81 students took part in the summer school (59% of the Year 6 cohort). 49% of children attending were male and 51% female.
- **Project to improve young residents soccer skills (Westminster Sports Unit in partnership with Samba Soccer); Total ward budget funding: £3,000**
 - Samba Street Soccer teaches a unique style of South American Football, giving training sessions to promote fitness, discipline, teamwork and planning.
 - Funding helped support the delivery of Samba Soccer training sessions at the Westminster Academy, 3 days a week for 52 weeks. Sessions ran on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 5-7pm from March 2009 – March 2010.
 - Westbourne residents' aged 4 to 16 years were targeted.
 - Average attendance increased during Quarter 2 from 14 people regularly attending during August, up to 20 young people in October. Further data for the later months of the project is not yet available, but will be supplied shortly.
 - On Average, 3 local volunteers gave 105 hours of their time each month to the project.
- **Celebration event for participants of Samba Soccer (Samba Soccer); Total ward budget funding: £600**
 - A celebration event was held on 14th December 2009 in recognition of the hard work, dedication and commitment of 50 young people from the ward who have taken part in Samba Soccer activities.
 - 100 people attended the event and 52 awards were given out to children for their achievements by Cllr David Boothroyd.
 - An additional £100 for this event was raised by Samba Soccer through sponsorship.
- **Half term activities for young people (Westbourne Family Centre); Total ward budget funding: £5,130**
 - The Club Xpress holiday club was delivered during October half term 2009 and February half term 2010 for 5-11 year olds in Westbourne.
 - The club ran for 3 days over October half term with an average of 29 children attending each day (21 of whom lived in Westbourne).
 - The holiday club also ran for 3 days over February half term with an average of 43 children attending each day (29 of whom lived in Westbourne).
 - A variety of games, activities and trips were arranged throughout the sessions.
 - An additional £4,400 of funding was either leveraged or provided in-kind for the project.

Continued overleaf...



City of Westminster

- **Contribution towards a children's playground at Elmfield Way (Paddington Development Trust); Total ward budget funding: £20,000**
 - A temporary play facility is being developed on a currently unused site on Elmfield Way. The site has been unused since 1990 and is overgrown and enclosed behind hoardings. It is adjacent to the Woodfield Road Medical Centre and near to Paddington Arts. There are currently no other social and community facilities in the immediate area, and the development is expected to meet a specific need.
 - The development has been delayed significantly due to delays in securing planning permission, however this was granted in March 2010. Development is now due for completion in May/June 2010.
 - Ward budget funding is supporting additional contributions from Stadium Housing and NHS Westminster.

- **Youth Life Project – after school classes in literacy and music (Real Action); Total ward budget funding: £6,279.85**
 - This was a pilot project run in conjunction with Westminster Academy over the Spring term 2010.
 - Each week from Monday 25th January, year 7 pupils were offered the chance to attend 1½ hour literacy classes, 3 days a week and a 2 hour music class.
 - 61 year 7 pupils registered to attend at least one of the classes, with just over 30 attending regularly each week.
 - Literacy classes were delivered at 2 levels: one for pupils with reading ages under 8 years, and the other for those with reading ages 8 -10.
 - Despite erratic attendances by some pupils and some difficult behaviour from a few, notable results were achieved in the literacy programme. The average improvement in literacy, in the relatively short period, was 11 months.
 - 90 percent of the 35 students who attended the weekly music workshop had no previous experience in music theory, instrument tuition or practice. The sessions proved very popular with students who learnt to keep time, play backing rhythms and singing.
 - In addition to the weekly classes, three 2 hour workshops in youth mentoring were also offered to students. 34 students attended the sessions which covered a range of topics such as role models and personal values, goal setting and personal plans, team building.
 - Westminster Academy have been very impressed with the outcomes of the pilot that they have asked the provider to continue providing the classes on a voluntary basis. The provider is happy to do so for as long as possible until further funding is found.

- **Fun school trips for all Westbourne Primary Schools and Play Centres (Westminster Play Service); Total ward budget funding: £1,443.85**
 - All four primary schools located in Westbourne, and the Edward Wilson play Centre were offered funding for a group of children at each school to attend a fun school trip.
 - Due to the time limitations of the funding, only 2 of the primary schools and the play centre were able to arrange the trips before the end of the funding period.
 - 2 trips were arranged for children from Edward Wilson Primary School. 56 year 4 children attended the Britain at War Experience on the 9th November 2009 and 55 year 5 children attended the Wimbledon Lawn Tennis Museum on the 16th November 2009.
 - 33 children from St Mary Magdalene Primary School attended the new Dinosaur Exhibition on Oxford Street in April 2010.

Continued overleaf...



City of Westminster

- Children from the Edward Wilson Play Centre also attended the Dinosaur Exhibition in April.
- **Educational school trips for young people to learn about their community (Beauchamp Lodge); Total ward budget funding: £3,000**
 - All 4 primary schools in Westbourne were offered free trips for children on the floating classroom (a purpose built barge) along the Grand Union Canal.
 - 3 of the local primary schools (Our Lady of Dolours RC, Edward Wilson and St Mary Magdalene CE) took up the offer of free trips and these took place on the 23rd, 24th and 25th March for the schools respectively.
 - In total 82 children benefited from the trips (ranging in age from 5-9 years), joined by 12 adults.
 - The education programmes covered on the trips were chosen by the individual schools to meet the appropriate Key Stage criteria in science, nature and environment.
 - Unfortunately St Mary of the Angels did not take up the offer to participate and an additional trip was therefore offered to Edward Wilson Primary School. A family learning day took place on the 15th April, with 12 parents and 18 children attending.
 - The feedback from all the children, teachers and parents attending the trips was 100% positive.
- **Sports activities and equipment for use on the Grand Union Canal (Westminster Boating Base); Total ward budget funding: £6,180**
 - Project was devised to encourage use of the Grand Union Canal for sports activities.
 - A range of equipment was purchased in March 2010, including 12 Kayaks, 12 paddles and 12 buoyancy aids. All equipment is to be stored at a local venue for future use by local children taking part in organised activities.
 - It was initially envisaged that ward budget funding would also support a series of kayaking taster sessions to be delivered along the canal. However due to the cold weather up to March, it has been agreed that Westminster Sports Unit will fund a weekly programme of activities along the canal throughout the summer months – making full use of the equipment.
- **Football project on the Amberley Estate (Westbourne Safer Neighbourhoods Team); Total ward budget funding: £0**
 - Westbourne Safer Neighbourhoods Team (SNT) devised a programme of sports activities with young people on the Amberley Estate to help improve relationships and trust between young people and the local police.
 - Whilst working up the proposal it was identified that the Westminster Sports Unit were already running activities on the Estate and therefore additional funding was not required. The local SNT will now work with the sports unit on the existing project.

Priority 3. Providing additional activities and services for older residents

- **Social Session and Link Up Service (Open Age); Total ward budget funding: £17,360.01**
 - The project was designed to provide support to older people to prevent loneliness and social exclusion and link them into available opportunities, including social groups.
 - A link worker was employed, by Open Age, in June 2009

Continued overleaf...



City of Westminster

- (through to March 2010) and a volunteer champion was recruited during July/August.
 - An information stall was managed at two events during the summer to distribute information and recruit members for the project.
 - Visits were made to Lords Cricket Ground and subsidised lunches provided for attendees at the Stowe Centre.
 - Two asserted outreach sessions were conducted along the Harrow Rd targeting the betting shops and pubs.
 - Three social groups were set up - one at the Stowe Centre (men only for the first two months of the project), one at Hardy House and one run in partnership with St Mungo's Hostel for homeless and alcoholic men.
 - During the first quarter 11 people were engaged in the project, increasing to 23 by mid-project and by the end of the project 56 people were engaged - four short of the target.
 - 30 of the 56 members completed an evaluation form and all were 100% satisfied with the service, having attended activities and developed new social relationships as a result of the project. Comments included "you are all so very friendly", "I have enjoyed meeting new people" and " I really enjoy coming to this group".
- **Installation of new benches**
(Westminster Highways); Total ward budget funding: £8,361.90
 - 10 new benches were installed during March 2010 at the following locations:
 - Sutherland Avenue near the junction with Shirland Road – 1 new bench installed at the back of the northern footway outside the library
 - Sutherland Avenue near the junction with Harrow Road – 1 new bench installed outside the shops inline with the phone box
 - Warwick Crescent – 6 new benches installed along the canal, spaced equally alongside existing benches.
 - Tavistock Road, near the junction with Great Western Road – 2 new benches back-to-back on the paved island, close to Westbourne Park Station.
- **Film project for isolated older residents**
(Westminster Cinematic Arts); Total ward budget funding: £10,000
 - The project was to make a 30 minute documentary film about isolation, loneliness and depression in older people. The film is to be screened at two events at Westminster Academy along with the production of 500 DVDs of the film for distribution.
 - A crew was selected to complete this project during 2009 - 2010.
 - Interviews were conducted with a number of medical professionals, social workers and sufferers including users of Open Age, the Amberley Room Club and Age Concern and professionals from the Royal College of Psychiatrists.
 - Post- production work has taken longer than envisaged and as at the end of March 2010 the film was not quite complete. The provider will complete the final edits of the film at their own cost with final screening events and distribution expected to take place in May/June 2010.
- **Complementary therapies for older residents receiving benefits**
(Munro Health Co-operative), Total ward budget funding: £2,898.74
 - Complementary therapy sessions (including Indian Head Massage, Neck and Back Massage, and Reflexology) were delivered during February and March 2010.
 - During February 5 clients were registered to attend a 4-week block of treatments - out of the possible 20 sessions, only 12



were kept by the participants; a reserve list was used to fill some of the cancelled appointments.

- During March another 5 clients registered for the second 4-week block - 17 out of the possible 20 sessions were kept, with the reserve list again being used to fill the cancelled appointments.
 - Feedback from the sessions included "the treatments are absolutely wonderful", "very relaxing" and "absolutely fantastic".
 - A health fair was also delivered by the provider on Monday 29th March 2010 from 12 – 2.30pm at the Stowe Centre.
 - A variety of complementary therapies were on offer throughout the health day as well as a raffle with free treatments as the key prizes. 24 people had complementary therapy treatments at the event and 12 had ear acupuncture.
- **Older residents better health and wellbeing project**
(Westminster Advocacy Service for Senior Residents – WASSR);
Total ward budget funding: £3,324.34
(Joint funded with Harrow Road and Westbourne wards)
 - A wide range of outreach work was undertaken during January – March 2010 with the aim of increasing the number of people supported through the advocacy service.
 - WASSR discussed and promoted the service through various local community organisations such as Paddington Churches Housing Association, Westminster Refugee Consortium, Disabled Living Foundation, BME Health Forum, the Somalia Women's group, and local Open Age groups. Key outreach was also undertaken via City West Homes estate managers, local shops, libraries and medical practices.
 - During the 3 month period a total of 13 local residents over the age of 65 benefited from one-to-one advocacy advice (this was slightly below the targeted number of 15). They were supported with issues such as legal, financial, housing and mental health.

Priority 4. Developing and promoting the 'active citizen'

- **Mail-out to all households requesting residents 'Smart Ideas' for ward budget spending 2008**
Total ward budget funding: £1,555
 - A mail-out was delivered to every household in Westbourne in October 2008, advising residents on projects currently being funded.
 - Residents were also given the opportunity to submit a 'Smart Idea' for how some of the funds could be spent.
 - Over 70 responses were received and 3 project suggestions were taken forward as outlined below.
- **Establishment of a Residents 'Smart Ideas' Fund (up to £10,000 for 2008-09)**
Projects funded:
 - **Surya Chandra Yoga Project**
(Westbourne Neighbourhood Forum); Total ward budget funding: £3,355.04
 - Three 6-week courses were delivered between 18th November and 31st March 2010, for Westbourne residents, particularly those with either weight issues or addictions.
 - The sessions encompassed Asanas (yoga postures), which were adapted for each participant's needs, relaxation and breathing techniques.



- There was a slow start to the project, however attendance grew over the funding period from an average of 4 attendees during the first 6 week course, to 7 regular attendees for the last 6 week course.
 - The feedback from those attending was very positive and attendees are hopeful that the sessions will continue in future.
 - **Healthy Active Community Project (Kyu-Yobushin); Total ward budget funding: £1,234.40**
 - The project was designed to improve the health and well-being of families in Westbourne by holding sessions each month with two 'reward' trips at the end of the project.
 - Sessions were held on the first Saturday of each month between 10am and 12:30 pm; over the period of the project from November 2009 to March 2010 15 families were engaged; 21 adults and 33 children.
 - The activities at each session included: walking, speed walking, sprinting, back peddling, stepping, jumping, skipping, equipment trail and a stamina circuit.
 - The reward trips comprised of a rock climbing trip on 19th February 2010 to the Westway climbing wall and a boat trip on 16th February on the floating classroom.
 - **Butterfly School (Real Action); Total ward budget funding: £4,670**
 - 25 young Westbourne residents aged 5-12 took part in 2-hour literacy classes on 14 Saturdays during the Autumn Term 2009, and 9 Saturdays during the Spring Term 2010.
 - The children were taught by the Butterfly method in graded groups of up to 15 pupils, in classrooms at the City of Westminster College, Elgin Avenue W9.
 - When they enrolled for the classes, children were given national standardised reading tests to establish their reading age, and placed in one of seven graded classes according to their reading level. They then moved up the classes as their reading levels rose.
 - At the end of the Spring Term, pupils were given follow-up reading tests. The average improvement in reading age during the two terms was 16 months, with one girls reading age improving by over 3 years.
- **Contribution towards the print and delivery of a 4 page newsletter within the Paddington People (Paddington Development Trust); Total ward budget funding: £442.75 (Joint funded with Queen's Park, Church Street and Harrow Road)**
 - The Ward Members of Harrow Road, Queen's Park, Westbourne and Church Street agreed to share the costs for print and delivery of a four-page newsletter inserted into the December 2008 issue of the Paddington People.
 - The article highlighted some of the projects that had initially been allocated funding during 08-09 as well as explaining the ward budget process and how residents could get involved and put forward their suggestions for future spending.
- **Community Capacity Training workshops (Queen's Park Neighbourhood Forum); Total ward budget funding: £2,000 (Joint funded with Queen's Park ward)**
 - 2 free workshops were delivered during March 2010 for residents of Queen's Park and Westbourne.



- The first workshop titled 'build confidence and communication skills' was held on Tuesday 16th March from 2-6pm at Great Western Studios, W2. 3 professional development coaches delivered the session which covered confidence building, improving stage presence and assertiveness and public speaking skills.
- The second workshop titled 'citizen power and local campaigning' was held on Wednesday 24th March from 10am – 4.30pm at Great Western Studios. The session was delivered by community capacity building specialists, covering practical skills for residents to effectively engage in decision making in their neighbourhoods.
- 24 residents attended the first workshop and 19 residents attended the second workshop.

Priority 5. Improving community cohesion

- **Event to celebrate International Day 2009**

- **(Westbourne Neighbourhood Forum); Total ward budget funding: £3,950**

- The International Day event was held on Saturday 18th April 2009 from 1-4pm.
 - The event celebrated the multi-cultural nature of the ward with various food stalls and entertainment provided by key world zones including Bangladesh, Ireland, Great Britain, Eritrea, Sudan, North Africa, The Caribbean, Kosovo/Albania.
 - Over 200 people attended the event and feedback was very positive.

- **English language classes for residents with restricted or no knowledge of English**

- **(Real Action); Total ward budget funding: £8,382**

- 26 Westbourne residents, with a wide range of first languages, studied English for 2 hours a day on weekdays during the period 11th January to 31st March 2010.
 - Residents were taught by the fast-acting Callan Method in graded classes of up to 14 students in classrooms at the Learning Store in Mozart Street.
 - Initial levels of English were assessed allowing students to be allocated to a class at an appropriate level at a time convenient to them.
 - At the start of the project, 12 participants were complete beginners (pre-entry level ESOL equivalent). All of those attending the course increased their English ability by at least 2 stages during the 3 month period.
 - 6 of those attending achieved a Level 2 or above (a good understanding of the language), which will greatly improve their chances of future employability.

- **Event to celebrate International Day 2010 and additional climate change feature (Westbourne Neighbourhood Forum); Total ward budget funding: £6,500**

- The annual International Day event was held on Saturday 27th March 2010 at the Stowe Centre.
 - As per the previous International Day event, the afternoon celebrated the multi-cultural nature of the ward with various food stalls and entertainment provided by key world zones including India, Ireland, Great Britain, Sudan, North Africa, Portugal/Brazil and Somalia.
 - This year there was a focus on climate change at the event and Greenpeace and Oxfam were in attendance looking at the key issues and signing people up.
 - Over 300 people attended the event and feedback was very positive.
 - There were also two climate change events held in conjunction with International Day taking place on the 30th and 31st March at the Westminster Academy.



- Both workshops focused on climate change and its affects on Bangladesh and Sudan. The presentations, given by the World Development Movement and Christian Aid respectively, provoked a lot of discussion and were enjoyed by those who attended.
- In total 30 people attended the climate change workshops.
- **Contribution to Westminster Timebank**
(Westbourne Neighbourhood Forum); Total ward budget funding: £1,092
 - Funding was allocated to support the expansion of the North Paddington Timebank scheme which works across Queen's Park, Harrow Road and now Westbourne.
 - People are encouraged to sign up to the Timebank. Individuals are asked to list the skills they can offer and the skills they would like to receive. Each hour of volunteered time earns the individual an hour of credit which can then be exchanged for a voluntary service, free access to a local facility, or time based rewards like trips or social events.
 - To date the Timebank scheme has seen 13 local organisations exchange over 500 hours of their time. 47 individuals are currently signed up to the scheme and have exchanged 307 hours of their time.
 - Locally based youth organisations have also agreed to join the youth participation scheme whereby young people can 'earn' specific rewards e.g. access to Volunteering Abroad programme, photography workshops and local recording studio time.
 - 19 young people are currently signed up to the youth scheme and have to date exchanged 248 hours of their time.

Priority 6. Crime and fear of crime

- **Contribution to the production of magnets with contact details of local police and emergency numbers**
(Westbourne Neighbourhood Forum); Total ward budget funding: £3,000
 - 6,000 fridge magnets advising Westbourne residents of the contact details and situations to report crime and anti-social behaviour to the Westbourne Neighbourhood Forum were produced in November 2009.
 - 5000 magnets have been distributed in 2009 to residents across the Westbourne ward including the Brunel, Brindley, Warwick and Amberely Estates. 1,000 magnets were kept back to be distributed at events during 2010.
 - The Westbourne Neighbourhood Forum contributed an additional £1,000 towards the remaining costs of the project.

Priority 7. Aiding economic recovery

- **Enterprise support and business development services for Westbourne residents (developed in response to a local resident suggestion (Paddington Development Trust – Neighbourhood Centre), Total ward budget funding: £4,058.35 (Joint funded with Queen's Park)**
 - A launch event was held at the Beethoven Centre in February with 12 people attending.
 - 6 seminars were held during February and March offering formal business coaching and basic business planning training to any prospective entrepreneur living in Queen's Park and Westbourne.

Continued overleaf...



City of Westminster

Take up for the service was low initially, however it increased to an average of 8 towards the later stages.

- Whilst the number of people benefiting from the seminars was lower than expected, the Neighbourhood Enterprise Centre (NEC) has been successful in working with 4 residents to develop business plans. Once plans are completed they will be assisted to apply for grants, start up loans and guided through the self employment registration process. The NEC expects this process to take a further 4-6 months and will continue to monitor and update WCC on their progress.
- A case study of a Westbourne resident who has benefited from this scheme was reported in the spring 2010 edition of the Paddington People. Rachel Kavuma-Kyagulanyi, is now self employed as a children's author and illustrator due to the support from the Neighbourhood Enterprise Centre.

