

# Church Street 2008-10 Ward Budget Monitoring Report

Councillors Mehfuz Ahmed, Barbara Grahame, Aziz Toki

## Summary:

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

A total of forty four projects were funded over the 2 years to meet these priorities.

The key outputs/ achievements of each project funded have been highlighted under the priority headings in this document.

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

£198,458.98 of this budget has been allocated, with the remaining budget (£1,541.02) being returned to the council's reserves.

## Key Highlights of Projects Funded:

### Priority 1: Improving the local environment

- **Window box competition**

**Total ward budget funding: £3,216.10**

- On 1<sup>st</sup> August 2009 around 200 people took part in the Great Communities Day and planted window boxes.
- At the Orchardson Block Party, 50 residents made their own window boxes
- In addition another 20 residents took part in other workshops.

- **Bangladeshi Women's Gardening**

**Total ward budget funding: £5,000**

- 15 women participated.
- 2 large wooden planting areas were constructed and the group provided with tools and seeds.
- During winter 2009 the focus was on propagation of seeds to be planted out in the spring.

- **Front Garden Clearing**

**Total ward budget funding: £2,841.94**

- Over 30 gardens were cleared and replanted between June and November 2009.
- Attendees were from the Princes Trust, the local Youth Offending Team and other individual and corporate volunteers.



City of Westminster

## **Priority 1: Improving the local environment (cont.)**

- **Sensory Garden**

**Total ward budget funding: £2,971**

- Consultation was done with the residents of 60 Penfold Street in spring 2009.
- Weekly Wednesday sessions were organised for the work to commence.
- Over 20 residents from the sheltered housing units participated.
- The area was cleared and then edible and sensory areas planted.

- **Hughenden and Missenden House**

**Total ward budget funding: £724.94**

- The communal garden has been improved with planting, hanging baskets, climbing plants, bulbs and bedding plants.
- Residents were given watering cans, a hose and tools to help maintain the area.
- BBQs were not purchased on the advice of the Estate Office.

- **Fisherton Nursery improvements**

**Total ward budget funding: £1,500**

- A contribution was made to the installation of a new play surface at the nursery.

- **Benches on Lisson Green Estate**

**Total ward budget funding: £2,558.28**

- Benches and a picnic table have been purchased and installed.

- **Planters for St Paul's Church**

**Total ward budget funding: £620**

- Funding purchased two sets of planters, two sets of tables and chairs and plants.

- **Sensory garden at Church Street Nursery**

**Total ward budget funding: £1,557.85**

- Funding purchased equipment to improve the quality, play and physical activities for all children at the nursery.
- Equipment purchased included: plants, trees and hanging baskets, garden furniture, sensory equipment and resources to support the children's learning and development in regards to the natural environment.

- **Water butt for Lisson Green Estate**

**Total ward budget funding: £100**

- The water butt has been ordered and will be installed shortly.



## Priority 1: Improving the local environment (cont.)

- **Let's Go Let's Grow**

**Total ward budget funding: £4,497**

- Funding has been provided as start-up costs for the following projects: the Don Perry Kitchen garden; a girl's garden; patio/balcony box scheme, a micro-farming project and a food co-op.
- Reports will be received throughout 2010-11 on the progress of these projects.

## Priority 2: Supporting children and young people

- **Youth gardening project – Fourth Feathers**

**Total ward budget funding: £5,810**

- 60 young people took part in the project, their ages ranging from 11-17 years old.
- A roof garden was constructed for use by the young people and is being continued as an ongoing project for the youth club.

- **Children's gardening project – Vital Regeneration**

**Total ward budget funding: £10,000**

- From Jan – March 2009 after school provision was provided, focusing on encouraging children to engage with local outdoor spaces.
- 38 children attended who were between 6-13 yrs old.
- Three clubs were held: Edible Garden Club (Greenside Community Centre), Eco Kids Club (Fisherton Estate) and Environmental Kids Club (Gateway School).

- **Wildlife garden**

**Total ward budget funding: £1,299**

- A 2-day workshop was delivered on 27 & 28<sup>th</sup> August 2009.
- On each day 10 children participated in planting wildlife friendly plants and flowers.
- All children were between the ages of 8-12 yrs old.
- With underspent funds another workshop was held during the October half term.

- **Sports on Sundays**

**Total ward budget funding: £5,000**

- London Tigers ran community sports sessions from October 2008 to March 2009.
- The majority of attendees were between 8-15 yrs old and were male.
- As well as the Sunday sessions, which were open to all, London Tigers also ran Tuesday and Friday sessions targeting the 7-9 and 9-11 year olds.



City of Westminster

## **Priority 2: Supporting children and young people (cont.)**

- **Space for Sports**

***Total ward budget funding: £2,113***

- A sports programme for children on the Fisherton Estate was delivered 2 hours a week. During the summer holiday it ran every Wednesday afternoon and since the start of the autumn term every Saturday between 2-4pm.
- Approximately 10 children attended each session aged between 7 and 12 yrs old.

- **Children's Nursery Garden**

***Total ward budget funding: £416.30***

- A planting workshop was delivered for 15 children where they planted 2 plants each. Each child also got a mini watering can and colouring sheets of their plants.
- In the autumn a spring bulb planting workshop was delivered where beds were cleared and new winter bedding added.

- **Gateway School summer fair**

***Total ward budget funding: £1,200***

- Funding was used to rent a bungee jumping trampoline for the day.

- **Trip to Sayer's Croft**

***Total ward budget funding: £4,880***

- A residential trip to Sayers Croft took place in the February 2010 half term
- 9 young people registered for this trip but only 5 attended on the day.

- **Supervised play at Luton Street**

***Total ward budget funding: £5,467.44***

- Between September 2009 and February 2010, supervised play sessions were held twice weekly on Wednesday and Sunday evenings.
- On average 42 young people between 10 to 16 years of age have accessed these sessions.

- **Basketball project**

***Total ward budget funding: £6,000***

- Basketball sessions were held from October 2009 until March 2010 on the Ravensbourne pitch.
- On average 8 young people attended each session.



## **Priority 2: Supporting children and young people (cont.)**

- **Parent and toddler group**

***Total ward budget funding: £2,724***

- Sessions have been held weekly on Tuesday and Friday mornings between 10am - 12 pm
- Attendance has averaged 20 children and 10 parents/carers per session

- **Volunteering project – Fourth Feathers**

***Total ward budget funding: £3,363.14***

- The project has 13 volunteers giving their time and a waiting list of more who would like to join the programme.
- Three of the volunteers are currently completing their NVQ level 2 in Youth and Community work and one is completing a BA Honours in Youth and Community work.

- **Cheerleading project – Fourth Feathers**

***Total ward budget funding: £2,533.60***

- Burning Hearts Cheerleading group ran sessions for young people aged 8 – 13 years old. Twelve young people who attended were selected to represent the group in competitions.

- **Supplementary Arabic, English and Maths classes**

***Total ward budget funding: £7,640***

- Classes took place on Sundays, at Gateway School, between September 2009 and March 2010; approximately 70 children aged between 6 and 12 yrs old attended.
- English, maths, poetry, singing and Arabic literacy were covered.
- Funds covered rent, teachers and resources.

- **Music project**

***Total ward budget funding: £400***

- 10 music sessions were held at Christchurch Bentinck School from January to March 2010; on average 13 children attended each session.
- The sessions covered topics including; voice coaching, footwork and rhythm, song preparation and dance routine, culminating in a final performance.

- **Sports mats**

***Total ward budget funding: £2,860***

- Karate mats purchased for use by Gateway School.



City of Westminster

## **Priority 2: Supporting children and young people (cont.)**

- **Mini West End musical gala**

**Total ward budget funding: £9,370**

- A week of rehearsals during the Easter holidays at the Cockpit Theatre, which culminated in a performance at the Cochrane Theatre on 11<sup>th</sup> April.
- Over 45 local children participated in this project between the ages of 8 and 19 years old.

- **Marylebone Bangladesh Society premises**

**Total ward budget funding: £9,000**

- Funding was used for the development of new premises at Boscobel Street. This enabled phase 1 of the works to be completed and the Youth Centre made accessible for all.

- **Church Street Library youth section**

**Total ward budget funding: £8,000**

- One scoping session was held followed by four book buying visits.
- Twenty two young people participated between the ages of 12 – 18 years old.

- **Equipment for Westminster Play Service**

**Total ward budget funding: £4,183**

- Funding has purchased a shade for use in wet or hot weather, foam footballs and targets, foam rugby balls, a rounder set, Kwik cricket sets and a ten pin bowling set.

## **Priority 3: Community cohesion and engagement**

- **Community outreach worker**

**Total ward budget funding: £34,840**

- A worker was employed to engage with the community and run a number of 'open space' projects; these included Space for Sports, the Penfold Street sensory garden and the front garden clearing programme.
- In total nearly 40 green spaces were developed in the local area including 30 front gardens.
- In total over 130 volunteers were involved in working on all the projects managed.

- **Cook and Eat event**

**Total ward budget funding: £647.25**

- A community 'potluck' event was held on 17<sup>th</sup> October 2009 – around 15 people attended and all were over 50 yrs old.
- People were encouraged to share their recipes and plant herbs to take home.



City of Westminster

### **Priority 3: Community cohesion and engagement (cont.)**

- **Multi-cultural festival**

**Total ward budget funding: £5,000**

- This festival was held on 4<sup>th</sup> July 2009 and over 700 people attended the event.
- There were food stalls, children's activities, performing arts events, a children's performer and information stalls.

- **Inter-generational dance project**

**Total ward budget funding: £6,355**

- Three taster sessions and 10 workshops (during a residency week) have been held; 34 people participated in the taster sessions and 49 in the residency week.
- Screening of documentary made about the project was shown on 26<sup>th</sup> March 2010.
- The age of the participants ranged from 3 – 80 years old.

- **Eid party**

**Total ward budget funding: £450**

- Funding was provided for hall hire at Gateway School, musical entertainment and refreshments.
- Over 200 children and parents attended the event on 29 November 2009.

- **Community choir**

**Total ward budget funding: £1,680**

- Three workshops were held at Gateway School on Saturdays in March.
- The choir is continuing with the help of volunteers over the next few months.

- **Paddington People insert**

**Total ward budget funding: £442.75**

- An insert was designed and placed in Paddington People advising local residents what Members had funded at the start of the ward budget programme.

- **St Paul's Mental Health drop in**

**Total ward budget funding: £1,188**

- The group met on Mondays between 2-5pm and Wednesdays between 10 - 12pm; during March 91 people attended the sessions.
- Attendees could participate in games, outdoor activities or trips e.g. walks in Regent's Park.
- The drop-in service offers local people who are vulnerable, and otherwise isolated, a space to socialise.



City of Westminster

#### **Priority 4: Supporting older people**

- **Taster sessions and a health and well-being day for older people**

**Total ward budget funding: £1,440**

- Two weeks of taster sessions and a health and well-being day were held in March 2010.
- Altogether over 115 older people attended the sessions and the day itself.

#### **Priority 5: Supporting families**

- **Childminders and new parents sessions**

**Total ward budget funding: £4,318**

- Weekly two hour sessions were offered for both groups; 9 childminders and 15 children and 12 parents and 13 children attended the respective sessions.
- Childminders were offered support and play activities and new parents were offered support and advice and encouraged to meet outside of the sessions and support each other.

- **Parent champions**

**Total ward budget funding: £15,000**

- Pinnacle People appointed a project manager to oversee the project at a local level. Across the whole of Westminster 9 parents were interviewed and 5 offered posts.
- Church Street has two dedicated parent champions who have begun to encourage local parents to use registered childcare and explore existing networks available to them.

- **Family days on the floating classroom**

**Total ward budget funding: £7,575**

- 6 trips were provided for local primary school children and their families; in total 56 adults and 105 children benefitted from the trips.
- Feedback from attendees indicated that all rated the day as very good and a number of families have gained a better understanding of the history of their local environment and experienced something new.

#### **Priority 6: Supporting people into employment**

- **Westminster works bursaries**

**Total ward budget funding: £1,676.39**

- Between November 2009 and March 2010; 104 participants had enrolled on the programme; 18 were in employment after leaving the project; 14 were undertaking further job search and training and 2 were volunteering.



City of Westminster