

# Abbey Road

## 2008-10 Ward Budget Monitoring Report

Councillors Lindsey Hall, Dr Cyril Nemeth, Judith Warner

### Summary:

Ward Members identified 5 key priorities for how to allocate their ward budget from April 2008 – March 2010.

A total of 15 projects were funded over the 2 years to help 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 clearly highlighted.

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

£167,731.94 of this budget was allocated however following under spend on some of the projects, the final actual expenditure for the 2 year period was £154,793.94. The remaining unspent budget has been returned to the council's reserves.

### Key Highlights of Projects Funded:

#### **Priority 1. Reducing anti-social behaviour on and around the Boundary Road Estate**

- **Installation of new security door entry systems to City West Homes properties on Boundary Road (City West Homes, via external contractor);**  
**Total ward budget funding: £98,825**
  - CWH appointed the successful contractors (AJS) in January 2010.
  - Work started on site in February 2010.
  - Work on site at Dale House is slightly behind schedule, however a large proportion of the work to the blocks of Whitby, Evesham and Crowland House are complete.
  - Work on site at Waltham House was completed in February 2010. This was the only block with an existing door entry scheme however CWH had to fast track the replacement of this system because it failed. The costs of the works to this block were therefore met separately by CWH (outside the ward budget funding).
  - Due to the lengthy procurement process and some small delays on site, the work is now due to complete by the 21 May 2010.

#### **Priority 2. Young residents**

- **A residential trip to Sayers Croft for deserving young residents (12-16) (Westminster Sports Unit); Total ward budget funding: £4,880**
  - A residential trip to Sayers Croft was organised by the Sports Unit during the February half term 2010.

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- The Sports Unit had 13 young people from the Abbey Road ward, register to attend the 4 day trip. However on the day, only 4 of those who registered turned up.
  - The trip went ahead, in conjunction with young people from other wards (Church Street, Little Venice, Maida Vale and Lancaster Gate).
  - The feedback from all those attending was extremely positive. Feedback included "it was a bit of a shock at first, but I enjoyed the activities and was great to get out of London". Many of the young people had never been away from home, others had never had to make their own bed, so for all parties involved it was an experience that will be remembered.
- **Outreach cricket activities at Lords (Joint funded with Regent's Park)  
(Capital Kids Cricket, via the Sports Unit); Total ward budget funding: £2,660**
    - The course was delivered over a 10 week period, between 6<sup>th</sup> January and 12<sup>th</sup> March 2010. The activities took place twice weekly, at Lord's Cricket Ground indoor school on Wednesday and Friday evenings between 5pm and 6 pm.
    - Up to 29 young people (aged 12-16) took part in the weekly Friday evening sessions
    - 16 young people (aged 8-12) took part in the weekly Wednesday evening sessions
    - A community cricket festival was held at Lord's cricket ground on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> March from 10-4pm, with 100 young people attending the day. The participants were given a tour of Lord's cricket ground as well being taught a variety of different cricket skills. The day ended with games.
    - Following the end of the project, participants were signposted to Regents Park Cricket Club, and a large number of the young people attending, said they would be joining the club.
  - **Development of play area on the Boundary Road Estate  
(City West Homes); Total ward budget funding: £7,500, plus £170 planning fee**
    - Project has been delayed due to the need to obtain planning permission.
    - Planning application was submitted in late March 2010. The process is expected to take approximately 8-12 weeks.
    - Pending planning approval, the play area should be complete by the summer 2010.
    - City West Homes have been paid the £7,500 funding upfront to be ring fenced for this work only. If the planning application is unsuccessful then CWH will return the funding to the council.

### **Priority 3. Older residents:**

- **Weekly coffee mornings in a local venue for six months  
(Open Age); Total ward budget funding: £3,871.45**
  - 18 weekly coffee mornings were run from the 13<sup>th</sup> November 2009 through to 26<sup>th</sup> March 2010.
  - The coffee club took place on Friday mornings between 10:00am-12:00pm at Barbara Brosnan Court on Grove End Road.
  - Throughout the project, 44 different individuals have attended the coffee club, with the average weekly attendance being 9.4.
  - Feedback from attendees was very positive.
  - Future plans: A weekly coffee morning was also funded for Regents Park residents, and Open Age have invited the two groups to

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Join together and run their own coffee club. The manager of Barbara Bronson Court has offered residents the opportunity to continue using the facilities there free of charge, and a number of attendees from both clubs have shown interest in continuing the weekly meetings.

- **Two weekly seniors online sessions at St John's Wood Library for 24 weeks (Joint funded with Regent's Park) (WCC Libraries); Ward budget contribution: £3,400**

- Nine computer courses (6 Beginners and 3 Intermediate) were delivered at St John's Wood library by Open Age tutors between September 2009 and March 2010.
- 72 free places were available during the project to both residents of Abbey Road and Regent's Park. 64 places on the course were filled, with 48 people completed the full 6 week course.
- The courses have been extremely popular and well received. Some feedback from residents include: 'I was bought a machine for Christmas, but didn't even know how to turn it on. The tutor has taught me so much, I feel a dab hand now'
- Staff have also commented that Seniors Online is bringing learners back into the library to take full advantage of all library services. Learners are meeting new people from the area and consider the library as a social and learning hub of the community.
- There continues to be a waiting list for the courses, particularly for more advanced courses as people are keen to develop their new skills.
- A celebration tea party was organised for 17th April in the library to celebrate the achievement of those completing the course and also to offer residents information on other activities and courses they may like to get involved in.
- Some small problems were experienced during the delivery of the project, including a slight delay in the start date of the project and a 3 week teaching gap over Christmas. The extremely poor weather in January also prevented a number of people from attending the course resulting in lower attendance and completion rates during the winter period.

- **Weekly Bridge club in a local venue (WAES); Total ward budget funding: £1,335**

- A beginners Bridge course was delivered between January-March 2010. It was initially planned that the weekly class would run for a 20 week period, however due to initial low take up pre-Christmas; the project was successfully remarketed enabling the project to be delivered over a shorter period.
- Weekly classes took place on Wednesday afternoons for 2.5 hours at Barbara Bronson Court.
- The classes were well attended with 18 residents attending regularly and 80% stating they would like the classes to continue.
- Feedback was extremely positive with learners stating that they had not only acquired a new skill but their quality of life had increased, 'I have made new friends in the area.'

- **Two tea parties in Abbey Road (WAES); Total ward budget funding: £0**

- Project was unsuccessful. Tea parties did not go ahead due to lack of take up from residents.

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- **Installation of 6 new benches in the ward (Westminster Highways); Total ward budget funding: £5,017.14**
  - 6 new benches were installed during March 2010 at the following locations in agreement with members:
    - Abbey Road/Carlton Hill junction
    - Outside 37 Abbey Road
    - Carlton Hill / Loudoun Road junction, opposite Public House
    - Abbey Road / Marlborough Place
    - Opposite Wellington Court, Wellington Road
    - New Court Street outside Police station
  
- **Cultural trips for Abbey Road residents (WAES); Total ward budget funding: £3,158**
  - Four trips were organised for local residents to the following locations:
    - Opera – Royal Opera House
    - Ballet – Royal Opera House
    - William Morris Gallery
    - Henry Moore Exhibition
  - All trips took place during March 2010
  - 44 Abbey Road residents registered to attend the trips, however due to poor weather on the day of the trip to the Opera, only 33 residents attended.
  - All feedback from those attending was incredibly positive with many people stating that they had a thoroughly enjoyable day out and made new acquaintances within the area.
  - Examples of feedback included: *'This was a such a lovely day out, thank you. Nice and well chosen locations, galleries and restaurants'* (resident attending the William Morris Gallery). *'Absolutely tremendous such a wonderful opportunity it was really appreciated'* (resident attending the Ballet).
  - The provider noted that delivering the project in the winter months caused difficulties with attendance for some, especially the more elderly residents.

#### **Priority 4. 'Making life fun'**

- **Weekly painting and drawing art classes (WAES); Total ward budget funding: £2,422**
  - Two weekly beginner's visual art classes took place between January and March 2010.
  - It was initially planned that a weekly art class would run for a 20 week period, however due to initial low take up, the project was successfully remarketed enabling two weekly courses to be delivered over a shorter period.
  - Greathead lodge and the New Village Club were identified as the most suitable venues for the classes as both offer easy access to local transport and provided a large bright lit space to deliver in.
  - A total of 24 older residents attended the classes on a regular basis.
  - A showcase event of all the attendees work took place at the end of March at St John's Wood library and was shared with residents of the Regents Park ward who had also taken part in a similar art project. The showcase was a success with many attendees and friends turning up to view the work they had produced.
  - Feedback from those attending was extremely positive, and due to demand from attendees WAES have agreed to continue running the classes at least until June 2010 (though a small £1 fee will be charged).

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- **Festive lighting on St John's Wood High Street – December 2009 (Joint funded with Regent's Park)**  
(WCC Transerv and contractor Abbraxus);  
**Total ward budget funding: £6,945.62**
  - Planning permission was sought for the installation of Christmas lights on St Johns Wood High Street in November 2009.
  - Planning permission was granted on the 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2009, and lights were installed on 26 lamp columns the following day.
  - The majority of the lights were installed along St John's Wood High Street, however some also extended round onto Circus Road and St John's Wood Terrace.
  - Lights came on from 3pm each afternoon until 6<sup>th</sup> January 2010.
  
- **Monthly book club for adult residents**  
(WCC Libraries); **Total ward budget funding: £2,370**
  - A book club of Abbey Road ward residents was created to meet regularly and discuss latest book titles. This activity was accompanied by a mini-literature festival with talks by the authors of books read by the club.
  - 6 book club meetings took place between January and March 2010 at St John's Wood Library. 5 author events also took place over this period
  - The Abbey Road book club consisted of 22 individuals over the course of the project, with 15 members attending regularly.
  - The author events proved extremely popular with a total of 109 people attending the 5 events. Due to the publicity of these events in the local press, a proportion of those attending were from neighbouring wards.
  - The feedback to the book club has been extremely positive, with one resident commenting, 'This is exactly what I have been looking for. Now I am retired it is wonderful to have time to read again and having events in the local community makes life so much easier, especially with the weather like this!'
  - Future plans:
    - There is a core membership of the book club, and they have arranged to continue to meet regularly at the library as an independent group.
    - Library staff are also keen to build on the success of the project by increasing younger audiences. Another author event is planned for June to take place after the library is closed to help encourage a larger audience.

#### **Priority 5. The Environment**

- **Intergenerational community gardening project (Joint funded with Regent's Park)**  
(Groundwork); **Total ward budget funding: £3,872.25**
  - Delivery of the project was affected by some delays in the commissioning process, and the provider being let down by some initial positive contact with community groups. Final outputs are subsequently lower than targeted at the start of the project. The reduced cost of the project reflects this.
  - 2 main partners were keen to commit to the project: Quintin Kynaston School in Abbey Road and Dora House residents in Regent's Park.
  - A total of 9 gardening sessions were delivered between February and March 2010.
  - 38 young people were involved in the gardening sessions and 20 older people.
  - A film, showcasing the project has been produced and will be available shortly.
  - The Quintin Kynaston gardening group are going to continue holding their weekly sessions even though funding has now ended – encouraging parents to also get involved with the children's learning.

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- **Improvements to Lord Lucan Corner site on Allitsen Road (City West Homes); Total ward budget funding: £8,367.48**

- Aim of the work is to reduce anti-social behaviour caused by congregation of young people in this area.
- Contractor started work on site in March 2010.
- The start date was delayed due to issues around future location of the benches. Benches will now be stored by CWH and, pending restoration work, will be relocated.
- All work to the site completed by May 2010.

- **Installation of new litter bins in the ward to reduce litter and dog fouling (Westminster Waste and Recycling Team); Total ward budget funding: £0**

- Funded via mainstream funding as part of Council's Living City pledge to install 1,000 new bins across Westminster.
- New bins have been installed at the following locations in Abbey Road in agreement with the councillors:
  - Hall Road - *Outside grove Hall Court next to bench*
  - Abercorn Place - *In front of crossover, opposite Warner House*
  - Abercorn Place - *Outside St Marks Church, left of lamppost, near sweeper bin*
  - Carlton Hill - *Opposite No 84 1m to left of post 7*
  - Carlton Hill - *Opposite No 88 1m to left of junction box No 36*
  - Carlton Hill - *Next to bench near junction with Maida Vale*
  - Carlton Hill - *Opposite Drinking trough next to post no s2*
  - Carlton Hill - *Outside No 4 next to Lamppost No 27*
  - Greville Place - *Outside No 22 next to lamp post*
  - Greville Road - *Next to Lamppost No 5*
  - Boundary Road - *Outside George Elliot School opposite Darman Way entrance*
  - Boundary Road - *Outside No 111*
  - Springfield Road - *Opposite No 54*
  - Marlborough Hill - *Next to lamppost near Marlborough Place junction*
  - Clifton Hill - *Between No 84 & 86*
  - Clifton Hill - *Near junction with Abbey Road*
  - Clifton Hill - *Near junction with Abbey Road (opposite side)*
  - Marlborough Place - *Next to Lamppost No 13*
  - Marlborough Place - *Next to Lamppost No 15*
  - Marlborough Place - *On south side Near junction with Finchley Road*
  - Hamilton Terrace - *Next to Lamppost No 10 near junction with Marlborough Place*
  - Hamilton Terrace - *Outside No 87*
  - Hamilton Terrace - *Outside No 90 near to lamppost*
  - Hamilton Terrace - *Outside No 131 next to Lamppost*
  - Abbey Gardens - *Opposite No 11*
  - Abbey Gardens - *Outside No 11*
  - Alma Square - *Next to Lamppost No 2 near park*

