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# Bayswater – 24<sup>th</sup> May 2011

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## Ward Budgets

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Councillors are currently seeking ideas about how to spend this year's ward budgets. If you would like to find out about how ward budgets were spent last year, please go to [www.westminster.gov.uk/wardbudgets](http://www.westminster.gov.uk/wardbudgets) To find out which electoral ward you are in, please visit [www.westminster.gov.uk/wardfinder](http://www.westminster.gov.uk/wardfinder) or contact the team.

Suggestions can be emailed to [areaforums@westminster.gov.uk](mailto:areaforums@westminster.gov.uk).

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## Crossrail

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Community Liaison Group – this meets four times per year at Paddington Station and is chaired by Graham King. This where Crossrail reports back to the local community and interested stakeholders; such businesses, residents and the Council about the works. To join this group please contact Graham King on [gking@westminster.gov.uk](mailto:gking@westminster.gov.uk) or 020 7641 2749; the next meeting is planned for 29<sup>th</sup> June.

- Crossrail works under an Act of Parliament which gives the government permissions to construct a railway, this does not cover anything about the trains running on this railway. In terms of Crossrail this means that the permission is for the construction of the tunnel and railway only.
- The constructors of Crossrail only have to come to the Council for permission when they have more detail about the actual construction above ground. In Westminster the area covers the site from Ladbroke Grove to Charing Cross Road.
- All the works are started for the construction but none have been completed. All the works in progress are preparing for the main tunnel boring machines.
- The boring will start at Royal Oak and the boring machines are being specially constructed for this work. The machines will bore two tunnels which will be large enough to take normal size National Rail trains.
- The tunnels will run under the existing train lines then under Eastbourne Terrace to Hyde Park and then parallel to the south side of Oxford Street.
- Each new station will have platforms of 200-250m in length and each train will have up to 12 cars/carriages – which means there will be up to 1,000 people accommodated on each train. In terms of trying to visualise the length of the trains for example when the train is in the West End the back will be at Bond Street station and the front will be in Hanover Square at a new station to be constructed. Another example would be when the train is in Regent Street the back would be at Dean Street and the front near Centrepont.
- All the stations sites are being prepared at present.
- The boring machine will take all the spoil out to Paddington New Yard from a conveyor belt behind the machine. It will then be taken to north and west London and finally onto Essex where a new island is being created as a bird

sanctuary. However there is no firm decision on where the spoil from the construction of the stations will end up.

- The proposals for Paddington Station is due to reach the Council in a fortnight. The Council cannot refuse the application as the railway is already being built but the application will have had to take account of the planning briefs which were prepared by the Council in regards to this work.
- The next stage of the Crossrail works are the physical works to the rails and the stations; travel will be able to be made on the system from 2018. In the next year tenders will be made available for train companies to bid to run the trains on the rails. The minimum area of travel at present is from Reading to Abbey Wood and Chelmsford.
- There will be a new station under Eastbourne Terrace and in order for the construction they has been an application to close the road from Praed Street to Cleveland Street. The application originally hoped to keep one lane open each way throughout the works but Crossrail says this does not now seem possible. The tender to build the new station will be awarded by Crossrail in August. It is proposed that the road be closed for 5 years (from the end of 2011 until 2016)
- Meetings have already been held with local residents in Craven Terrace/Eastbourne Terrace about this and the biggest concern is where the buses might be diverted.
- TfL are at present looking at the diversion routes which will try to mimic the original routes as much as possible so could divert down Westbourne Terrace, into Craven Road and then down Praed Street. Any diversion will probably be in place by the autumn. This is also the time when the 436 bus reverts back to a normal bus from a bendy bus.
- The information on the diversions will be available from TfL for public consultation. This information will have been independently assessed and once passed to the Council will also be assessed again to make sure it is in line with what the Government originally stated about any diversions at the start of the process. The second assessment will be carried out by the Council but the monies for it will come from TfL.
- Westbourne Park footbridge – it is felt by the Council that this is the right time to also do work on the bridge when all the other works are taking place.
- At the same time as all the Crossrail works Network Rail are also replacing all their track so that by 2016 when all the InterCity125 trains are replaced by electric trains, they will have the track to run on.
- A resident asked whether Graham was satisfied with the arguments for closing Eastbourne Terrace. Graham responded that proof was awaited, Crossrail say it would be easier and quicker (2.5 years off the time) to do it this way. The Council's job is to challenge Crossrail on these things which will have an effect on residents.
- The new tube station which will back onto the canal at Paddington Station will be opening in 2014.
- The ramp off the bridge at Paddington Station will from October take the taxi stands which are at present on the Station Departures Road.
- The whole Crossrail scheme is in budget and on programme at the present.

- Tottenham Court Road station – this works is in two stages, the first stage (works going on at present) relate to the overcrowding on the Northern Line and the alleviation of that. The second stage are the works related to Crossrail which will be running through the station in 2016/17.

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## Parking Review

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John Zamit  
Update website  
£100 per day  
Visitor overnight  
Go to church  
Arts and Leisure  
Outside London  
Low skilled / low paid  
Hasn't been thought through  
Sliding scale car tex –green  
HPA – Second car ok small numbers  
Visitors parking  
Contractual work  
Someone coming from another borough  
Res bays  
Any relax – not welcome  
Hyde Park Ass  
Fraud around scratch cards  
Appropriate fines  
High fines  
Shortness of res parking bays  
Car parks  
Queensway Q Park  
Bill for ensuing year min max?  
9 months? Mr Lloyd?

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## Crime Reduction

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Coordinated Crime Reduction  
Ian Russell, Neighbourhood Crime Reduction Officer

- Concerns about the first entry point doors in private and public housing estates being left open for hours on end by removalists and postmen. Also concern that such doors aren't repaired quickly enough when damaged.

**RESPONSE:** Neighbourhood Crime Reduction Officers are working closely with Environmental Health Officers to ensure that first entry point doors are

safe and working properly. He encouraged residents to alert the councils of such problems when they first occur.

- Concerns that a number of police stations would be merging.

**RESPONSE:** While there has been a lot of conjecture regarding this matter nothing as yet has been decided.

- Mr Russell highlighted that homes that have recently been burgled have a higher probability of being burgled soon after the initial crime. Once a burglary has been committed Westminster Council officers will visit the house / unit to provide advice on how best to secure and protect the victim's safety and property in the future.

- Residents concerns that the law is too soft on criminals and that more needs to be done to strengthen penalties and sentencing.

**RESPONSE:** Stated that matters relating to the legal system need to be directed to their local councilors and members of Parliament.

- A resident raised the problem that some old keys / locks are out of copyright and as such people are very vulnerable.

**RESPONSE:** Stressed the need to always double lock your house and that it is a matter that Westminster will bring up with the local police force.

- A resident questioned the composition of local police panels in each ward. Accusing the police of 'cherry picking' members for political reasons and that they don't truly represent communities.

**RESPONSE:** Stated that these matters are the responsibility of the police force and that he will pass on her concerns to them.

- An issue that was raised by a number of residents was "carding" in telephone boxes promoting prostitution and other forms of crime. Residents were concerned that the penalties involved for doing this was not enough of a deterrent, that the fine should be increased. Carding may only promote low level crime but it can lead to much more serious crimes down the track.

While Westminster Wardens can play a part in taking such cards down there is only one warden in most wards and therefore their role is limited. Also discussion that phone companies could play a role by barring such numbers.

**RESPONSE:** Acknowledged the problem and that especially since the reduction in Westminster Wardens it has been difficult to clean up the telephone boxes regularly. He advised residents to express their concerns to their local councilors and members of Parliament to strengthen penalties for such offenders.

- Questions about the council's intentions for 'Group Dispersal Zones' to be carried out over the summer period.

**RESPONSE:** Feedback from last year's initiative was positive and the intention is to once again put in place such zones this summer for a period between three and six months.

- Council officers don't visit post burglary that's a job the police Safer Neighbourhood Teams do in the form of "Spotlight" visits – reassurance and crime prevention advice.
- I would de-emphasise carding a little if possible and remove any link with more serious crime – although the couple that voiced this felt strongly about it this isn't generally the norm. It has never explicitly been a ward panel priority and thus is prioritised accordingly by the police. On our side we do what we can in relation to the problem with joint operations and removal of cards as resources allow.
- Group Dispersal Zone (GDZ) – just one zone was mentioned that will cover part of the Westbourne ward and is specifically to deal with youth anti-social behaviour through the summer period.

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## Westbourne Green Masterplan

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### Westbourne Green Housing Renewal Masterplan

Westbourne Green is a section of the Westbourne ward bounded by the Grand Union Canal to the north and the railway line to the south. The area includes the Warwick and Brindley estates and a short stretch of the Harrow Road.

The area has been identified as one of Westminster's Housing Renewal priority areas. A team of specialists has been asked to establish an overarching vision for the area, through extensive consultation with the local community. The team will be focusing on three key themes for the area, including:

- Increase the supply and quality of affordable homes
- Improvements to the public realm
- Facilities that meet the needs of the community

The Pick Everard team introduced themselves to attendees and explained what they have done so far, what they are planning over the coming months and how local people can get involved.

The team acknowledged that a lot of work has been done in the area already, including the upgrading of the Little Venice towers, the new Academy, and canalside open space improvements. The aim of the masterplan is to build on this work to make the area a better place to live. They are keen to seek as many views of local people as possible, to ensure their final proposals reflect what people really want and need in the area. The team have already started an extensive consultation process which they will continue throughout the coming months.

A display and discussion took place at the recent International Day event on 9<sup>th</sup> April at the Stowe Centre, and discussions are also ongoing with local schools and community groups. The Paddington Development Trust Community Engagement Team will also be going door to door to speak to people directly to ensure as many views are heard as possible. The team have to date knocked on 1,000 doors, and plan to continue with this exercise over the coming months. Further work is also

planned with schools, collecting young people's views on the area and what is needed, through an interactive film project.

An exhibition is also planned for early July which will be open to all.

A website is also due to go live next week with more information about the plans, and providing another way of letting people share their views.  
<http://www.westbournegreen.com/>

#### **Q & A**

Q. Housing for local people was mentioned however wont there also be private property for sale?

A. To make the scheme financially viable new developments will have a mix of both social and private housing. As the masterplan process progresses we will have a better idea of the likely split between private and affordable housing.

Q. Resident from the Brunel Estate did not like the idea of master plans and felt that it should be for the people to say what they want. New homes should also be built for all, not just a proportion of them.

A. The community engagement strategy for Westbourne Green presented this evening sets out all of the activities taking place to ensure that local people have the opportunity to say what they want. The workshop was invited to make suggestions as to how the community engagement programme could be improved. As above, some private sales will be required in order to fund the wider improvements for all. Current residents in the area will be given priority for the new affordable homes. The recent lettings of the 14 new undercroft units in Westbourne Green demonstrates the council is committed to building new homes for local people.

Q. Resident felt though that the social housing tenants will be given the poor options (i.e. round the back of developments, hidden away, separated from the private properties as in other big developments).

A. Pollard Thomas Edwards architects (the company leading the design work) have recently completed similar projects in other parts of London, including Tower Hamlets and Islington. They design buildings in such a way that you can see no difference in homes that a social housing or those that are private. In Islington for example, they have located the social housing properties with views over the Canal.

Q. Resident didn't think those in private homes will want to share with those in social housing.

A. Social and private properties are likely to be located in separate blocks, with separate managing agents, though will look the same from the outside.

Officer asked those attending whether there were any specific facilities they would like to see in the area, or what improvements were needed.

Responses included:

- The area needs a good size supermarket or general store. It could also host a post office and bank inside for convenience (people suffered from the loss of the local post office a few years ago).
- Size of living space is important (people need more space to live in).
- The area has good medical centres and schools, but parking is an issue. Perhaps underground parking with a new supermarket.
- No loss of open space. Especially no loss of the main park area at Westbourne Green. The idea of land swaps was discussed.
- Shop fronts along the Harrow Road (Westbourne end) look shabby and run down – these need improvement. The range of products sold along the stretch also needs to better cater for all tastes.

- Railings have been removed from Cirencester road, allowing cars to drive up on to the pavement. Some felt that these should be reinstated.

Q. In regards to open spaces, one resident was concerned that the large, existing open space could be built on, as long as other spaces were created to replace it. These other spaces however could be made up of lots of smaller plots of land rather than one single open space.

A. Officers acknowledged that whilst the amount of open space was important, the quality and level of usage of open spaces should also be important considerations. Under the planning policy they were required to ensure open spaces were better than existing spaces, not worse.

Residents are encouraged to attend the exhibition at the Stowe Youth Centre in early July to find out more about plans for the area. Information will also be available at the Stowe Centre and on the new website <http://www.westbournegreen.com/>

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