

Paddington, Bayswater and Westbourne Area Forum

Chairman: Cllr Michael Brahams

(020) 7641 3916

areaforums@westminster.gov.uk

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Dear Bayswater Area Forum Member

Thank you to all who were able to attend the recent Paddington, Bayswater and Westbourne Area Forum 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 area forum meeting on Tuesday 24 May, four workshops were held to give you the opportunity to comment on Crossrail, the Parking Policy Review, crime reduction and housing renewal in Westbourne Green. If you would like more detail on the workshop discussions and ward budget spending visit www.westminster.gov.uk/neighbourhoods

Crossrail

Graham King, Head of the council's City Planning Group, told you the latest news on Crossrail. The Crossrail Act has granted permission to build a tunnel and a railway but the constructors still have to come to the council for permission to build above ground. The plans for Paddington Station are due to be submitted soon. The council cannot refuse the application as the railway is already being built. However, the application will have to take account of the planning briefs that the council has prepared. Final plans for Paddington Station and the surrounding area are due to be submitted soon and the council is awaiting the submission of proposals to close Eastbourne Terrace for two years, with significant restrictions for a further three years. You asked whether Mr King was satisfied with the arguments for full closure. Mr King replied that the council was awaiting proof, but Crossrail had argued that it would be easier, as well as two and a half years quicker, to do it this way.

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 consultation closed on 23 June and the responses received are being analysed and will help inform the final parking policy proposals, which will go to cabinet for approval in July.

Crime Reduction

Ian Russell, Neighbourhood Crime Reduction Officer, explained local coordinated crime reduction work. The Neighbourhood Crime Reduction Service works with the police and a range of other partners to reduce crime and the fear of crime. Each area in Westminster has its

own Police Safer Neighbourhood Team and a council Neighbourhood Crime Reduction Officer. Further details and contact information are available at www.met.police.uk/teams/westminster

Mr Russell explained that Neighbourhood Crime Reduction Officers are working closely with Environmental Health to ensure that front doors are safe and secure and you were encouraged to alert the council of any problems when they first occur. He also highlighted that once a burglary has been committed, council officers will visit the victim to provide advice on how best to protect themselves and secure their property in the future.

Westbourne Green Masterplan

Anthony Kelly, Housing Project Officer, discussed the Westbourne Green Masterplan. This 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: an increase in the supply and quality of affordable homes, improvements to the public realm and facilities that meet the needs of the community. The aim of the masterplan is to build on this work to make the area a better place to live. The team is now in the process of identifying a range of opportunities for improving the area, which will be presented at a public exhibition at the Stowe Centre in early July. For more information about the Westbourne Green Master Plan process please visit www.westbournegreen.com

Neighbourhood Funds – how should yours be spent?

Westbourne, Bayswater, Lancaster Gate, Hyde Park

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 Bayswater Area 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 visit www.westminster.gov.uk/wardfinder

Your next Bayswater Area Forum

I look forward to welcoming you to the next Area Forum on 19 October, Lancaster London Hotel, Lancaster Terrace, W2 2TY. If you would like to raise a topic at the next forum, or for further information, please contact the Area Forums Team using the contact details on the front page of this letter.

Cllr Michael Brahams

Chairman of the Hyde Park, Bayswater and Westbourne Area Forum

Bayswater@westminster.gov.uk
Lancastergate@westminster.gov.uk

Hydepark@westminster.gov.uk
Westbourne@westminster.gov.uk