

January 2012

Dear South Westminster Area Forum Member

You are warmly invited to the next Forum on:

**Wednesday 8 February 2012 from 6:30 – 8:30pm at
Altitude 360, 29th Floor, Millbank Tower, SW1P 4QP**

Altitude 360 are kindly hosting the meeting for us this time around; free of charge they are providing a stunning venue with great views across Pimlico and Westminster and supplying all the audio visual equipment and light refreshments. Our thanks to them.

At the Forum, as well as being able to talk with your local ward councillors and council officers, you will be able to discuss the following subjects.

- **Police communication with the local community.** In light of the muggings late last year* in Pimlico we've included this item to see how the Police currently communicate with residents and how it could be better. (*A number of people have since been arrested.)
- **Westminster City Council's Community Governance Review and Civic Charter.** Let us know how you want to represent your neighbourhood and potentially get involved in the delivery of services.
- **Adult Social Care.** Changes to services, what is happening and why.
- **Planning - The City Management Plan.** Contribute to the new strategy for planning which includes alteration and extensions, including those to basements.
- **'Hot topic'**

The 'hot topic' workshop will be decided by you, so please let us know by 27th January 2012 if there is a further local issue you would like to see discussed. Please send your ideas to areaforums@westminster.gov.uk or call Janis Best on 020 7641 3255 and we will take the most popular option.

There will also be an opportunity for you to discuss with your local ward councillors how their **ward budgets** have been allocated this year and put forward suggestions for next year.

Area Forums are open meetings and so we encourage you to invite other local residents, businesses, friends and colleagues, who may live, work or learn in the Churchill, Knightsbridge & Belgravia, Tachbrook, Vincent Square or Warwick wards.

Best wishes for 2012 and I look forward to seeing you at the Area Forum on 8th February.



Cllr Angela Harvey
Chairman, South Area Forum

South Westminster Area Forum – 8th February 2012

Agenda & format

**Surgery Session
6.30-7.00pm** Talk informally with a range of key council officers – including councillors and department directors – over a cup of tea or coffee.

There will be an information stall on:

- The Olympics

**Main meeting
7.00pm** Welcome from the Chairman of the South Area Forum, Councillor Angela Harvey.

7pm – Introductions

7.10pm – Workshops – Please attend two 30 minute workshops.

Workshop topics this evening are:

- **Police communication with the local community**
- **Westminster City Council's Community Governance Review and Civic Charter**
- **Adult Social Care**
- **Planning - The City Management Plan**
- **'Hot topic'** – this will be revealed on the night depending on submitted ideas.

8.10pm – Ward Budgets - Ward councillors will update you on how they have spent their £46,000 ward budget, and ask for your feedback on the projects they have funded.

8.30pm Meeting ends

Council Officers attending South Area Forum – 8th February 2012

These Officers will be available to meet with you on a one-to-one basis. The Area Forums Team will be on hand to help direct your query to the right Officer.

Please note this officer list may be subject to change.

Adult Services

Cath Attlee - Assistant Director Joint Commissioning (Care Health)

Benefits

Garry Few - HB/CTB Policy Officer

Citizens Advice Bureau

Richard Brown – Licensing

City West Homes

Leon Williams – Village Manager

City Management

Mark Banks - Group Manager (Waste & Parks)

Libraries

Ann Farrell – Library Manager, Victoria Library

Valentina Wong - Arts and Cultural Services Officer

Parking

Susan Chon – Contract Performance Officer

Planning

Godfrey Woods – South Area Leader

Premises Management

Ken Agnew – Environmental Health Officer, Noise Team

Sport and Leisure

David Kerrigan – Strategic Head of Commissioning - Sport, Leisure and Wellbeing

Street Management

Claudia Hemsley – Neighbourhood Crime Reduction Operations Manager – South

Transportation

Rakesh Vaghela - Service Development Manager (Highways)

Peter Wilson - Commissioning Officer Road Safety Education

Youth Services

Melanie Goode - Locality Manager

VENUE DETAILS

Altitude 360, 29th Floor, Millbank Tower, SW1P 4QP



Venue:
Altitude 360



C10 (use the stop on John Islip Street named Vauxhall Bridge Road)

87 runs from Horseferry Road to Millbank



Pimlico (Victoria line)



**4 pay by phone parking bays (free after 6:30pm)
outside Millbank Tower**

As this location is at the most south easterly tip of the South Area Forum area, and although there is some public transport, we are considering providing a small shuttle bus service to and from this venue with pickups at Kingsway College, Glastonbury House and outside the old Library on Tachbrook Street.

The running of this service will depend on demand from residents so please call Janis Best on 020 7641 3255 or email her on jb主@westminster.gov.uk to book a place if you are interested. Please book by **27th January** as if there is not enough demand this service will not be provided.

Access arrangements:



Wheelchair access



Lift available to function room



There are wheelchair accessible toilets



Please let us know as soon as possible if you require BSL interpreters as these are only booked on request.



Registered assistance dogs are welcome.

Westminster City Council is committed to making this meeting accessible. In order that all attendees can participate fully please let us know about any adjustments you may need and we will do our best to meet your requirements.

If you, or someone you know, would like these details in an alternative format please tell us and we will be happy to provide them.

For these and all other enquiries please contact the Area Forums team on 020 7641 3255 or via email to areaforums@westminster.gov.uk



Workshop Briefs:

1. Ward Budgets Update

Please find below details of all the ward budget projects which have been funded since the last Forum. Ward Members are still considering ideas for the final months of this year and any new suggestions for next year, if you have any proposals please contact Janis Best on the details below:

Email: jb主@westminster.gov.uk
Tel: 020 7641 3255

Churchill

Visiting Women at Work programme

Provider: Civitas; Cost: £4,000

Funding will provide an extension to this project which has seen girls from local primary schools visit women in work. Once the pilot is completed a pack will be produced which will allow local schools to carry on this work independently of Civitas and for no cost.

Pantomime trip for St Barnabas School

Provider: DreamArts; Cost: £1,600

Children from St Barnabas School were taken to see a performance of DreamArts' Christmas production, 1001 Arabian Nights.

South Westminster Community Choir

Provider: South Westminster Community Choir; Cost: £3,585

This choir started in Churchill Gardens last year and has now grown to encompass most of South Westminster. The Councillors of Churchill, Tachbrook and Warwick wards are all joint funding another year of this project. If you are interested in joining rehearsals take place each Monday night at St James the Less Church, Vauxhall Bridge Road, or contact Pat Shroff on patshroff@yahoo.co.uk or 07855 351116.

Fireworks night diversionary activities

Provider: Youth Services; Cost: £2,200

35 young people took part in workshops prior to bonfire night on the dangers of fireworks. On 5th November itself the group were taken to Thorpe Park, as a diversionary activity.

Christmas party – Churchill Gardens

Provider: Churchill Gardens Residents Association; Cost: £700

Over 100 local residents attended the party where they were entertained by a Pearly Kings and Queens group.

Toy and play session

Provider: Pimlico Toy Library; Cost: £9,945

17 sessions were provided during October and November which equated to 255 places for children and their carers.

Knightsbridge and Belgravia

Traffic Study in South Westminster

Provider: Grosvenor; Contribution: £5,000

This is a contribution to a larger traffic study being conducted in South Westminster.

Belgravia Sunday event

Provider: Belgravia Traders Association; Contribution: £5,000

Funding was provided for a Christmas event to boost trade in the Belgravia area; over 5,000 people attended over the course of the day.

*

Tachbrook

Knitting group

Provider: Knit Together; Contribution: £2,500

This group will provide a network for local parents to meet and support each other whilst learning a valuable skill.

Kung Fu classes extension

Provider: Neighbourhood Crime Reduction Unit; Cost - £3,120

Classes will continue each Friday night at Tachbrook Youth Club.

Christmas tree and lights in street tree

Provider: EML & Transerv; Cost: £1,750

A Christmas tree was installed on Moreton Terrace and the street tree lights were re-connected for the second year. The lights were switched on by Elle MacPherson and the shops along Moreton Street stayed open late. It is estimated that over 200 people attended the switch on.

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Wi-Fi at Pimlico Library

Provider: Libraries Service; Contribution: £2,838.77

Funding will provide an improved service at the library for users; this is funded by the Tachbrook, Vincent Square and Warwick wards.

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Vincent Square

Knitting group

Provider: Knit Together; Contribution: £3,000

This group will provide a network for local parents to meet and support each other whilst learning a valuable skill.

Trips for local older people

Provider: WAES; Contribution: £2,083.50

These trips are being joint funded in conjunction with St James's ward and will start to be advertised from late January 2012. For more information please contact Sindi Hearn at WAES on 020 7641 7099.

Parkour sessions at Queen Mother Centre**Provider: Westminster Sports Unit; Cost: £5,280**

The funding will provide youth Academy sessions for 11 – 19 yrs on Thursdays from 16.30 – 18.30 at Queen Mother Sports Centre for 30 young people per week

Christmas tree on Cathedral Piazza**Provider: EML; Cost: £1,700**

A tree was installed and lit at the side of the Cathedral Piazza.

Breathe Easy Community Group**Provider: Breathe Easy Paddington; Contribution: £991.12**

Funding will be used to increase the membership of this support group and fund transportation to take members in the south of the city to the meetings in the north. This project is joint funded with Warwick ward.

Breakfast Club for Older People**Provider: in-Deep; Cost: £5,380**

The ward budget has funded a breakfast club for older people for the past two years and the Members have agreed to continue this funding into 2012-13 as well. For further details please contact In-Deep on 020 7834 5204.

First Aid for parents**Provider: London Early Years Foundation; Contribution: £840**

London Early Years Foundation will provide 4 sessions (held between January and April 2012) for parents of children at the local nurseries and/or the local children's' centres, in paediatric first aid. This is jointly funded with Warwick ward.

Wi-Fi at Pimlico Library**Provider: Libraries Service; Contribution: £500**

Funding will provide an improved service at the library for users; this is funded by the Tachbrook, Vincent Square and Warwick wards.

Gardening project**Provider: MEMO; Contribution: £250**

A contribution to a larger gardening project, run by local residents, which will link into the successful history project run in the past.

*

Warwick**Classes for local older residents****Provider: Open Age; Cost: £9,924**

This funding will provide classes, from February 2012, for residents of Glastonbury House; run by Open Age.

Knitting group**Provider: Knit Together; Contribution: £2,000**

This group will provide a network for local parents to meet and support each other whilst learning a valuable skill.

Hotel inspections**Provider: Environmental Health; Cost: £10,350**

Funding will enable the EH team to check out hotels in the local area to make sure they meet the relevant requirements.

Hanging baskets

Provider: Parks department; Cost: £4,840

Baskets were installed along Warwick Way between Vauxhall Bridge Road and Belgrave Road last year. Funding has also now been allocated for another year's worth of planting and additional baskets will be installed along Warwick Way from Belgrave Road to Ebury Bridge.

Community lunch

Provider: Holy Apostles Church; Cost: £500

A lunch for parishioners will be provided during February 2012.

Christmas lunch

Provider: CityWest Homes; Cost: £660

A Christmas lunch was provided for residents of Glastonbury House in December 2011.

Christmas tree and lights

Provider: Abraxus & Collier and Co; Cost: £6,800

A tree and lights along Warwick Way were provided this year.

Theatre trip for St Peter's School

Provider: DreamArts; Cost: £1,200

Children from the school were taken to a performance of 1001 Arabian Nights at the Cockpit Theatre with a workshop with the actors and the theatre company after the performance.

Advice sessions

Provider: Westminster Muslim and Bangladeshi Association; Cost: £2,024

Advice and information surgeries for the residents in South Westminster; the service covers housing, welfare benefits, immigration, jobs etc. to helping young people develop CV's, assisting with job applications as well as arranged training to develop skills for the job market.

Breathe Easy Community Group

Provider: Breathe Easy Paddington; Contribution: £991.12

Funding will be used to increase the membership of this support group and fund transportation to take members in the south of the city to the meetings in the north. This project is joint funded with Vincent Square ward.

South Westminster Community Choir

Provider: South Westminster Community Choir; Cost: £3,585

This choir started in Churchill Gardens last year and has now grown to encompass most of South Westminster. The Councillors of Churchill, Tachbrook and Warwick wards are all joint funding another year of this project. If you are interested in joining rehearsals take place each Monday night at St James the Less Church, Vauxhall Bridge Road, or contact Pat Shroff on patshroff@yahoo.co.uk or 07855 351116.

Repairs to the stalls on Tachbrook Market

Provider: Civic Streets team; Cost: £4,236

Funds will be used to repair the canopies which the traders use and work to make sure that they are installed and dismantled correctly to prevent future damage.

Theatre trip for Abbots Manor Nursery

Provider: London Early Years Foundation; Cost: £980

The Nursery took 35 children, plus parent/carers and 2 members of staff to see Goldilocks at the Little Angel Theatre in January 2012.

First Aid for parents

Provider: London Early Years Foundation; Contribution: £840

London Early Years Foundation will provide 4 sessions (held between January and April

2012) for parents of children at the local nurseries and/or the local children's' centres, in paediatric first aid. This is jointly funded with Vincent Square ward.

Financial literacy sessions

Provider: Caxton Youth Organisation; Cost: £1,500

The project will enable disabled young people in Westminster, the opportunity to learn financial literacy skills and ways to effectively manage their money.

Wi-Fi at Pimlico Library

Provider: Libraries Service; Contribution: £500

Funding will provide an improved service at the library for users; this is funded by the Tachbrook, Vincent Square and Warwick wards.

Please use the form below for any comments you wish to make on this information or questions you would like to raise if you are not able to attend the meeting

Westminster City Council, Area Forums, FREEPOST LON17563, 17th Floor, City Hall, 64 Victoria Street, London SW1E 6QP.

Email: areaforums@westminster.gov.uk

Name:

Address / Email:

Contact Number:

Comments:



2. Communication between the Police and the local community in light of the response to the Pimlico Robberies

During November 2011 the Pimlico area experienced an increase in muggings, some of which were against lone females and some which were at knife point. This was obviously a big concern to the local community. 7 suspects have been arrested in total.

What we did: Communication

- Crime prevention leaflets and messages were delivered across the wards, by the Safer Neighbourhood Teams and Westminster Council by email and also by hand. It was also forwarded to residents via local housing providers.
- The crime prevention message was also sent out via Community Safe: a central point of real-time advice and information on counter-terrorism and crime reduction from the police and your local council. To find out more log on to: <http://communitysafe.gov.uk/>
- An open public meeting was held by the Metropolitan Police Service on Friday 9th December to discuss the robberies, reassure the public and outline how the police and Council were tackling the issues.

What we did: On the ground

- The CCTV unit were tasked to actively monitor the CCTV in the area.
- Westminster on street services were made aware and helped monitor the area.
- Audits of the lampposts and lighting were carried out by the local Westminster Wardens, and any that were out were being reported as an urgent request, and were prioritised.
- Local Safer Neighbourhood Teams had extra support from outside areas, assisting with patrolling the area.
- The police teams changed duties to cover late shifts; the time frame that the robberies were occurring in.
- The Local Safer Neighbourhood Teams worked closely with the Robbery Squad to help identify individuals which led to some of the arrests.

What are we doing now?

- The Neighbourhood Crime Reduction Officers with the Safer Neighbourhood Team are currently compiling lists of local key community contacts for each SNT area to allow us to disseminate information quickly in the event of a critical incident. The people to go on these lists should have established community networks and be able to cascade information to further residents / businesses. **Let us know using the form overleaf if you would like to be a key community contact!**

We want to hear from you:

- 1) Do you think the Police could improve the way it feeds back results to the wider community?
- 2) How do you think the Police could increase its level of engagement with the local community?
- 3) What kind of incidents do you think that the Police and Council should make the local community aware of?

Yes! I would like to be a Key Community Contact:

Email:

Area/Ward:

Please note we need your ward to add you as key community contact

Westminster Voice – Have Your Say! Westminster City Council and the Metropolitan Police Service are launching Westminster Voice – a new online way for you to **get involved in the decisions that matter** in your area.

How do I get involved? Simply fill in a one-screen **online survey** three times a year. The survey will take only a couple of minutes to complete. **How will the online surveys be used?** The results of the surveys will help the council and its partners **focus on what matters** to you and your community. We will feed back to you what we have done in **response** to your concerns.

Yes! I would like to be added to Westminster Voice:

Email:

Area/Ward:

Please note we need your ward to add you to Westminster Voice

Please use the form below for any comments you wish to make on this information or questions you would like to raise if you are not able to attend the meeting

Westminster City Council, Area Forums, FREEPOST LON17563, 17th Floor, City Hall, 64 Victoria Street, London SW1E 6QP Email: areaforums@westminster.gov.uk

Name:

Address / Email:

Contact Number: _____

Comments:



3. Community Governance Review and Civic Contract

Community Governance Review

Following the receipt of a valid petition to establish a Community (Urban Parish) Council in Queen's Park, the City Council resolved to conduct a Community Governance Review of Westminster.

The review is considering how the council can closely work with local communities, and in particular will make recommendations as to:

- whether or not to establish new parishes;
- the electoral arrangements of any new parish council; and
- whether or not to introduce any new community governance arrangements other than those relating to parishes and parish councils

The City Council is undertaking a period of public consultation from Monday 14th November, until 3rd February, to enable residents and interested organisations to submit their views in relation to Community Governance.

Until the 3rd February you are still able to contribute to the formal consultation by viewing the document at

http://www3.westminster.gov.uk/Newdocstores/publications_store/governance/wcc_community_governance_review_consultation_document.pdf

Whilst the formal consultation period will have ended by the time of this Forum the City Council will still be able to listen to your views and ensure they are included in the final report. This workshop will also enable the Council to report back on any key findings from the initial consultation period.

For more information please contact Tom Kimber on tkimber@westminster.gov.uk or 020 7641 3478

Civic Contract

Westminster City Council has launched a consultation paper that sets out a new vision for the running of the city and how public services will be delivered. At its heart lies civic responsibility, the idea that everyone who lives, visits or works in the city can contribute to making it a successful place.

The paper sets out the council's ambitious response to the challenges currently facing local government, including growing financial pressures, working with limited resources and coping with high levels of unemployment, whilst seizing the opportunities presented by the new Localism Act to enable communities to genuinely take responsibility for their areas.

The Civic Contract outlines new ideas for residents, businesses and communities in managing the city and delivering public services, and in doing so creates a potential model for the future of local public service delivery across the country.

We think that a new civic contract should be guided by three principles:

First: responsibility - those that live, work or visit the city should take responsibility for their actions and behaviours.

Second: fairness - the days of something for nothing are over. We believe that everyone should contribute to what they receive whether paying for the services that they receive or

becoming part of their local community. We also think it's fair to support the most vulnerable in our city but this will mean that we will need to take different decisions with the limited resources we have.

Third: opportunity - we believe that those with an interest in Westminster should work together to provide opportunities for those that live here.

This document is out for public consultation which is taking place between 12th December 2011 and 10th February 2012. The Council will then set out a programme of work to take forward these ideas in early March 2012. You can review the document here http://www3.westminster.gov.uk/Newdocstores/publications_store/governance/wcc_policy_review_dec2011_aw3_revised.pdf.

For more information please contact Simon Gartshore on sgartshore@westminster.gov.uk or 020 7641 2799, or visit the website at <http://www.westminster.gov.uk/services/councilgovernmentanddemocracy/civic-contract/>

Please use the form below for any comments you wish to make on this information or questions you would like to raise if you are not able to attend the meeting

Westminster City Council, Area Forums, FREEPOST LON17563, 17th Floor, City Hall, 64 Victoria Street, London SW1E 6QP
Email: areaforums@westminster.gov.uk

Name:

Address / Email:

Contact Number:

Comments:



4. Changes to Adult Social Care

Recent changes:

- *Adult Social Care Mandate: Independent Living* published
- Tri-borough commissioning and support for Adult Social Care being set up
- Changes to the eligibility threshold for access to social care services for adults
- Charges for all social services for those financially assessed as able to pay
- A specialist Dementia Day Centre at 42 Westbourne Park Road
- Older People's Hubs in operation
- Forthcoming consultation on Older People's Specialist Housing Strategy

The Mandate for Adult Social Care was agreed on 6th December 2012

This sets out the vision and direction for Adult Social Care in Westminster for this year and into the Tri-Borough arrangements for next year.

The Mandate looks to both capture key aspects from national policy with a strong local flavour for Westminster. We will give priority in our future service delivery to helping people recover, recuperate, and rehabilitate so that they are able to **live as independent a life as possible**.

The key elements of the Mandate include the aim to help people remain independent and not to rely on long term care and support where this is not necessary through offering short term interventions (prevention); to ensure that people who have disabilities (including mental ill health) have the same access to community facilities as the rest of the population; and to ensure that those who do require long term care and support are offered personal budgets.

It lays down a partnership between individuals, communities and the local council to all take some responsibility in reducing people's care needs and promoting their independence. We will invest in **schemes within the community** that can clearly demonstrate through their outcomes that they are helping people regain independence away from council funded services. We will encourage community organisations who can take on this role.

We will ensure that **all council departments** look to ensure that their policies promote good services for people who may have care and support needs e.g. we will look to ensure our street scene can be used by wheelchair users and that our Library Services have books in large print and talking books to assist blind and partially sighted residents. We will continue to use assistive technology and housing based solutions as part of the care and support offer into the future.

Tri-borough agreement

The new agreement with Royal Borough Kensington and Chelsea and London Borough Hammersmith and Fulham brings together the management of adult social care and the services that support it. Its aim is to provide a more effective service at a lower cost to residents of the three boroughs. Each borough retains its own sovereignty, policies and procedures, therefore the agreement should result in no noticeable change to the experience of users of social care.

Changes to the eligibility threshold and charging

In January 2011, following consultation, Westminster Council agreed to raise the **eligibility threshold** for access to social care services for adults so that only those with “substantial” or “critical” needs would in future be entitled to social services. Over the past year staff have been reviewing the needs of all those previously assessed as having “moderate” needs. In some cases their needs have increased to “substantial”. In other cases they have been advised that they no longer meet the criteria for services in Westminster. Staff have also reviewed people with “substantial” needs to see whether they still need the same level of care package. In some cases the care packages have been reduced, in others increased.

In addition, the Council has introduced **charges** for all social services for those financially assessed as able to pay.

Day opportunities

Last year we conducted a consultation on changes to day services for older people, people with learning disabilities and those with mental health problems, to reflect the move to personal budgets (meaning that people can choose alternatives to day services that better suit their needs), the change in eligibility criteria, changing demand and models of care, and the financial position. The Cabinet decided in December on the proposals recommended which include the establishment of a specialist Dementia Day Centre at **42 Westbourne Park Road**. The new centre at Westbourne Park will include a range of other services which would offer support for people who are diagnosed with dementia or have the early signs of dementia and their family carers. It would also include some health funded services such as the memory clinic. The service currently provided at **Pullen Centre** is unchanged, but, following reassessment, some current users may no longer be eligible to use it.

The Council recognises that **social isolation** is a pressing need for many people and is looking at how this need may be met at low cost in the community. There are still a range of low level services available for older people and vulnerable adults in the community and we will be providing an updated directory of information about activities and opportunities in the community in the next few months. In particular the Older People’s Hubs (see below) are now operating across the city and information on these is shown in recent editions of Westminster Plus as well as on the council’s website.

Adult Social Care aims to support people in the community and keep them out of hospital. We will continue to take referrals for those needing an assessment and will provide information and advice to those who are not eligible for social services.

The development of “hubs”

A new community hub for older people started in August in south Westminster. The hub is primarily aimed at those living in the **Churchill ward** who are over 50 years old and offers a range of activities and sessions that will be of interest to older people. The hub is managed by Open Age and is building and expanding on the hub that was formerly established at Glastonbury House. Anyone can go along to the hub themselves; they don’t need to be referred. The hub will offer a range of different activities that will be provided at different locations in the area

Activities on offer at the hub will be decided by the people who attend and will provide a range of services including advice and information, recreational activities, exercise classes, social events, knitting, information sessions such as on health matters, safety issues etc, computer classes and many more opportunities. Each hub is expected to see about 400 people a week. The hub will offer support to **carers** and will also offer volunteering opportunities for those older people who want to get involved.

We have also started a new **outreach service** to try and contact those people who would benefit from involvement and support to become more independent and improve social contact if desired and they will link very closely with the hubs. There is a **befriending** service as part of this for those people who would like some social contact on an ongoing basis. Our Citywide **Information and Advice service** links in with the hub to offer advice sessions.

Contact details:

Churchill ward hub manager: Jess Bryant
Tel: 020 7976 6354
Mobile: 07530 734 489
jbryant@openage.org.uk
www.openage.org.uk

The Outreach Team
020 7289 0176 /
outreach@octaviahousing.org.uk
The Befriending Team 020 8354 5681 /
befriending@octaviafoundation.org.uk
www.octaviafoundation.org.uk

Information and Advice
Age Concern Westminster
Tel: 020 3004 5610
Email: enquiries@acwestminster.org.uk
www.acwestminster.org.uk

Housing with care

We will continue to **develop housing schemes** with partners with suitably adapted accommodation and to offer care and support in the community wherever that is feasible to meet someone's needs (as opposed to residential care). This year we will consult widely on our Older People's Specialist Housing Strategy that will set our direction for future years.

Cath Attlee
Assistant Director, Joint Commissioning Adults
LBHF, RBKC, WCC / INWL PCTs

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Comments:



5. City Management Plan Policies

Westminster City Council is currently consulting on the Draft City Management Plan (CMP). The detailed policies in this plan will support and add to the Core Strategy, which the City Council adopted in January 2011. Once adopted, the policies in the Core Strategy and City Management Plan will replace all of the current Unitary Development Plan.

The consultation on the draft CMP will run until **23rd March 2012**. All consultation responses on the document must be received by this date. It is very important that you provide any comments you may have at this stage, as there are limited opportunities to change the document at the next, formal stages.

The City Management Plan sets out criteria against which planning applications will be considered and will contain policies covering a huge variety of planning issues, including:

- the Central Activities Zone, Opportunity Areas, and other special policy areas,
- commercial uses, including offices, retail, tourism-related uses and entertainment uses
- housing, including affordable housing,
- infrastructure including transport, social and community facilities, energy infrastructure, open space and waterways;
- design and conservation matters, including inclusive design and sustainable design

At this workshop we will be specifically considering policies relating to extension and alteration of existing buildings and specifically basement extensions.

Alterations and Extensions

There is a constant need to adapt our existing building stock to meet changing demands. The planning policies set out in the City Management Plan will guide how we determine future planning applications for extensions and other alterations such as new shopfronts, satellite dishes and mechanical plant. Policies need to balance the need for extensions and alterations with the need to safeguard the City's valuable historic environment while ensuring new development is attractive and neighbourly. We also wish to encourage the incorporation of more sustainable design features and ensure buildings contribute to a safe environment, which is accessible to all.

Basement Extensions

Basement extensions have become an increasingly popular form of development in recent years and they are a major concern to many residents due to both the noise and disruption caused by the works and concern over the long term effects on the structural stability of adjacent and adjoining buildings. Basement excavations within the footprint of the existing house do not require planning permission therefore our emerging policy can only look to control those excavations which extend beyond the footprint and into the surrounding garden area and where there are any visual manifestations such as skylights and lightwells. Draft policies address the following issues:

- Seeks to ensure that subterranean development will:
 1. extend under no more than 50% of the garden area;
 2. include landscaping, with at least 1.5 metre soil depth and deeper tree pits where appropriate;
 3. not result in the loss of trees of townscape, ecological or amenity value;
 4. be passively ventilated wherever practicable;
 5. not normally involve more than one additional basement storey;

6. have no adverse visual impact;
 7. not result in the loss of existing boundary walls; and
 8. protect heritage assets.
- Requires applications to be accompanied by a structural methodology statement and appropriate self-certification, and in certain cases a full construction method providing detail of the potential impact of subterranean development on the existing and neighbouring structures.
 - Sets parameters for the depth and extent of new or extended basement areas under the adjacent highway.
 - All subterranean development is required to achieve no net carbon emissions integral to the building itself (not the things that are plugged in)

To help us develop our policies we would ask you to consider the following questions:

- 1. What are your main concerns in relation to basement extensions and do the draft policy criteria sufficiently address these concerns?**
- 2. Are there any other forms of alteration and extension that you are particularly concerned about in your local area and would like to see addressed in the City Management Plan.**
- 3. What are your views on the council's intentions to improve building performance?**

Contact Details

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Please use the form below for any comments you wish to make on this information or questions you would like to raise if you are not able to attend the meeting

Westminster City Council, Area Forums, FREEPOST LON17563, 17th Floor, City Hall, 64 Victoria Street, London SW1E 6QP
Email: areaforums@westminster.gov.uk

Name:

Address / Email:

Contact Number:

Comments: