

Harrow Road

2008-10 Ward Budget Monitoring Report

Councillors Ruth Bush, Guthrie McKie, Sharan Tabari

Summary:

Ward Members identified 9 priorities for how to allocate their ward budget from April 2008 – March 2010.

A total of 25 projects were allocated funding over the 2 years to meet these priorities.

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

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

£198,920.23 of this budget was allocated, however following under-spend on some of the projects, the final actual expenditure for the 2 year period was £180,283.18. The remaining unspent budget has been returned to the councils reserves.

Key Highlights of Projects Funded:

Priority 1. Additional provision for young residents

- **Tell It Like It Is project ***

(Harrow Road Neighbourhood Partnership - HRNP);

Total ward budget funding: £26,500

- This project was funded to enable the continuation of the work already undertaken by the Harrow Road Neighbourhood Partnership (HRNP) around achievement of young people in BME communities, specifically around academic achievement of African-Caribbean boys in the Harrow Road ward.
- The project was delivered between June 2009 – March 2010 covering three key aspects of working with students, parents and the wider community and key professional partners.
- As part of the wider project a Future Champions summer transition programme was held at the Paddington Academy over a 2 week period in August 2009. 17 young people aged 10-15 participated in the programme which focussed on improving teamwork, leadership skills, respect, discipline and responsibility through the use of a sports and classroom based programme of activities. The feedback to this was extremely positive.
- Since August 2009 the project has directly engaged 60 parents and residents from varied backgrounds: African, Caribbean, Mixed Heritage, White British, Arabic, Eastern European.
- 15 parents currently form the TILII steering group, which was established in October 09. 3 steering group meetings have been held to date (Oct. 09, Dec. 09, Feb.10) resulting in these parents (including 3 local

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school staff and 2 parent governors) agreeing to have dialogue with head-teachers and schools on behalf of the community as a whole.

- 20 residents completed a 6 week intensive community mentor training course in March 2010. This was an accredited course and all participants received a Certificate of Completion. Due to high demand, a second course is being arranged for later in the year.
- The HRNP have worked very closely with all local primary schools and secondary schools over the course of the project including meetings with head-teachers and discussions at parent forums.
- A number of events and activities have also been delivered through the course of the project such as 'A Taste of Africa' and 'Flavour of the Caribbean' events held at Maida Hill Market in October 2009.
- A number of reports and reference materials have also been produced over the course of the project, including a DVD which is due to be completed and distributed later in 2010.

Priority 2. Isolated and vulnerable residents

- **In the Loop project ***

(HRNP); Total ward budget funding: £26,000

- This project was set up with the key aim to help reduce isolation and vulnerability for residents within the ward.
- A community link worker was recruited and employed to work on the project for a nine month period from July 2009 – March 2010.
- During the lifetime of the project the community link worker made personal contact with 207 isolated/vulnerable residents, through various means such as at events, presentations, a stall at Maida Hill Market and door knocking. A further 2,100 residents were contacted via targeted information mail outs.
- During the course of the project 52 residents benefited from individual signposting / information sessions.
- 47 residents were referred to existing support/information services such as the North Paddington Timebank.
- 3 local residents have become actively engaged in volunteering as a result of 'The Loop' project.
- Feedback from local residents has been very positive with many letters of thanks sent to the community link worker for her support.

Priority 3. Provision of ward based advice services

- **Claim the Max project – income maximisation service**

(Paddington Law Centre); Total ward budget funding: £6,339.75

- This project ran from 22 October 2008 to the end of May 2009, and involved appointments being made at Westminster City Council's One Stop Shop on *Harrow Road*, for residents to check if they are claiming everything they were entitled to.
- Over the lifetime of the project, 35 people received help and advice from an experienced solicitor specialising in Welfare benefits. The solicitor took on 32 of these cases. Of these cases, 10 either resulted in a successful appeal or were resolved. A further 12 cases were ongoing when the final monitoring report was submitted.

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Priority 4. Improving the environment in Harrow Road

- **Contributing to a twelve-month community gardening scheme *
(Groundwork London); Total ward budget funding: £26,130
(Joint funded with Queen's Park and Westbourne)**
 - The community gardening programme was delivered across 3 wards between June 2009 and March 2010.
 - Additional funding was leveraged from CWH (£30,000) and NHS Westminster (£10,000) to contribute to the programme.
 - A total of 1,002 people were engaged in the project including 336 adults, and 636 young people.
 - 2 full time trainee gardeners were employed in December 2009 through to March 2010. Both were Westminster residents and received significant hands-on training in addition to national proficiency qualifications in hedge trimming and strimming.
 - 19 projects were delivered across 3 primary schools, a nursery, an academy and 2 Tenants Residents Associations.
 - 2185m² of open space was improved during the programme (against a target of 2500m²), including improvements to 5 housing estates, 4 schools and a church.
 - The provider has secured further funding to continue some of the work into the next financial year.

- **Chicken and Herb Garden at the Paddington Academy
(Paddington Academy); Total ward budget funding: £4,500**
 - The project developed a redundant piece of land at the back of the Paddington Academy car park on Oakington Road into a chicken and herb garden.
 - A series of workshops were held with students of the academy to involve them in the design and use of the space.
 - A chicken run and planters were installed at the site in March 2010. Further work to the site is ongoing.
 - Pictures will be available on site completion, expected June 2010.

- **Dog Socialising Classes
(Westbourne Neighbourhood Forum); Total ward budget funding: £1,375
(Joint funded with Westbourne ward)**
 - Dog socialising classes took place at Tamplin Mews every Saturday between 6th March and 10th April 2010.
 - Flyers for the free training have been distributed in addition to an advert in the local newspaper and on Avenues FM radio.
 - 7 owners and dogs registered for the first class which went really well and over 100 Poop bags (supplied by the Westminster Dog Warden) were given out to people who passed through and showed an interest. A free neutering service is available at Mayhew Animal Home Rescue Centre and the trainer also gave out vouchers for this service.
 - The numbers have grown gradually in the following weeks and people in the area have been very receptive to the help and advice on offer. A large number of young people passing through during the classes, have also been very receptive to advice from the trainer regarding local dog laws.

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- One resident who registered had particular problems with her Jack Russell as it had been attacked previously and the trainer gave her a free one-to-one session as part of the project.
- A Dog Advice Stall was run at Westbourne Green on the 10th April from 2-4pm offering advice, training, vouchers and one to one training to try to reach out to an even wider audience.
- Feedback from residents to the service has been very positive with particular interest in one-to-one sessions and a dog show in the area. The trainer has found the sessions very rewarding.

Priority 5. Consultation and engagement with residents on ward budget spending

- **Mail-out to all households in Harrow Road (2009)**
(WCC Neighbourhoods Team); Total ward budget funding: £1,700
 - A mail-out was delivered to every household in Harrow Road in May 2009, requesting that residents submit their suggestions for ward budget projects during 2009-10.
 - Over 50 residents put forward suggestions for spending. A football project, lead by Fernhead Rovers, was one suggestion which was successfully funded.
- **Contribution towards the print and delivery of a 4 page newsletter within the Paddington People**
(Paddington Development Trust); Total ward budget funding: £442.75 (Joint funded with Queen's Park, Church Street and Westbourne)
 - The Ward Members of Harrow Road, Queen's Park, Westbourne and Church Street agreed to share the costs for print and delivery of a four-page newsletter inserted into the December 2008 issue of the Paddington People.
 - The article highlighted some of the projects that had initially been allocated funding during 08-09 as well as explaining the ward budget process and how residents could get involved and put forward their suggestions for future spending.

Priority 6. Community Cohesion

- **Christmas tree and lights December 2008**
(HRNP); Total ward budget funding: £3,230
 - A 22 foot Christmas tree and lights was installed at the Prince of Wales Junction in Harrow Road between December 2008 and January 2009. Additional lights were also installed in an existing tree at the same site.
- **Festive decorations on the Maida Hill Piazza and Harrow Road, December 2009**
(HRNP; Westminster Transerv and Planning); Total ward budget funding: £13,113.78
 - The Harrow Road Neighbourhood Partnership were responsible for the installation of miniature artificial Christmas trees and white lights on 22 lamp columns on Harrow Road, a 22ft Christmas tree with white lights and blue star lights in an existing tree on the Maida Hill Piazza. The tree and lights were in place between 3rd December 09 and 5th January 2010.
 - Additional costs were incurred compared to the previous year as new lamp columns required upgrade work to enable festive lighting installation and planning permission for the lights was required.

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- **Community engagement project on substance misuse ***

- **(Westminster Drug Project); Total ward budget funding: £4,280**

- The project was delivered over a 3 month period from June – August 2009. A range of community engagement was undertaken from workshops to advice and information sessions covering substance misuse and related health issues. The aim was to promote local services available and to gain a better understanding of the specific needs of the community.
 - The project worked across three main areas. Firstly training Peer Advocates in order to offer confidential advice & information, support to local residents, and significant others who are affected by someone else's drug use. Secondly preparing Peer Advocates and appointed paid staff in offering community education to local residents, businesses and professionals around substance misuse. The final element comprised of offering community satellites that provide a first point of call for information and referrals into WDP Project based services.
 - The numerous community engagement activities included; Attending local Neighbourhood meetings; Community information stalls – offering Drug Awareness advice & information; On street engagement – (needs assessment questionnaires).
 - The response from the community was very positive with many people open to talking about their experiences. The provider engaged with approximately 107 individual local people, including local residents, businesses and people working in the area.
 - The provider had problems with attendance at the organised workshop sessions and as a result, 2 of these have been delayed to take place in 2010.

*** Note: All projects funded were also intended to make a contribution to furthering community cohesion**

Priority 7. Health and wellbeing of Harrow Road residents

- **Commission complementary therapies for older residents receiving benefits ***
(Munro Health Co-operative); Total ward budget funding: £7,553.07

- Complementary therapy sessions (including reflexology, massage and Indian head massage) were delivered between July 09 and March 2010.
 - 30 minute sessions took place at the Neighbourhood Enterprise Centre at St Peters on Elgin Avenue over a period of 40 consecutive weeks. Some home visits were also provided.
 - Most residents received a therapy session in blocks of six weeks.
 - Over the 40 week period, 289 free sessions were delivered to 62 different clients.
 - Feedback has been extremely positive, with examples including: "I am more able to relax since I have been having the treatments" and "I feel refreshed and energised."

- **Fernhead Rovers FC Community Youth Football Project**

- **(Westminster Sports Unit); Total ward budget funding: £1,660**

- Weekly training sessions for young people aged 8-16 took place during February and March 2010 with an average of 20 young people attended each week.
 - Speed, agility and quickness training equipment was purchased to support training.
 - The Fernhead one day challenge was held on Sunday 27th March from 1-6pm with a range of competitions and prizes. 84 young people took part in the competitions, with an additional 45 people attending as spectators.

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- **Older residents better health and wellbeing project**
(*Westminster Advocacy Service for Senior Residents – WASSR*);
Total ward budget funding: £3,324.33
(*Joint funded with Queens Park and Westbourne wards*)
 - A wide range of outreach work was undertaken during January – March 2010 with the aim of increasing the number of people supported through the advocacy service.
 - WASSR discussed and promoted the service through voluntary sector housing (WECH), City West Homes, local shops, libraries and medical practices. Presentations were also given to local organisations such as the Rainbow Centre for parents and carers of disabled adults on Bravington Road.
 - During the 3 month period a total of 8 residents over the age of 65 benefited from one-to-one advocacy advice (this was however below the targeted number of 15). They were supported with issues such as financial, housing, mental health and care. It is expected that the extensive outreach undertaken to date will have helped people become more aware of the service and the provider expects to support more local people in the coming months.

- **Football training project for young people at the Paddington Academy**
(*Westminster Sports Unit via Westminster Warriors FC*);
Total ward budget funding: £0
 - Project did not go ahead and no funding was claimed.
 - Project proposal required significant work to make the project feasible for funding, resulting in a delay in funding being approved. When funding was approved in February 2010, there was insufficient time for the project to be delivered successfully. The provider also failed to provide WCC with relevant contact details to progress.

Priority 8. Older residents

- **Winter Walking Bus**
(*HRNP*); **Total ward budget funding: £600**
 - The notion of a Winter Walking Bus originated during Winter 2009/10 as older people had reported feeling unsafe outside after dark, with some unable to access events and services which would require a return journey in the darkening late afternoon.
 - It was initially hoped a walking bus could be implemented for Winter 2009/10, however it became apparent that further time was needed to ensure the service was effective. Funding was therefore reduced and was used for further consultation to take place around the need for the service and potential routes.
 - A local information pack and questionnaire was sent to 1,800 residents identified as in receipt of Pension Credit, inviting them to give their views on the timing, staffing and route of the Bus.
 - This consultation processes will assist the Harrow Road Neighbourhood Partnership to develop a full walking bus plan for the 2010-11 winter period. It has also enabled them to form new relationships with previously unengaged individuals who will be kept informed of the work of the partnership and the plans for the walking bus.
 - Whilst the feedback to the consultation has been positive, responses have been varied in suggestions for the route and times of the walking bus. HRNP will continue to analyse the findings over the coming months, in addition to working with local housing provider WECH to undertake further face to face consultation with residents over the summer.

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- HRNP provided match-funding alongside the ward budget funds through providing worker time and photocopying costs.
- **Seniors online sessions at the Queen’s Park Library ***
(Westminster Library Services); Total ward budget funding: £6,800
 - Queen’s Park library, in partnership with Open Age, offered IT training sessions to ward residents aged 50+, from July 2009 to March 2010. Learners were offered six weekly 2 hour computer sessions at the Library either on Tuesday mornings (11:30am-1:30pm) or Friday mornings (9.30am-11.30am).
 - Basic IT courses were offered as well as intermediate courses.
 - Between July and March, 58 local residents took part in the courses with 41 completing the full 6 weeks.
 - The number of completers was affected by the drastic weather which took place over the winter months which led to a number of students needing to leave the course due to illness.
 - The response to the project has been extremely positive. One resident has gone on to undertake an open university course as a result of the confidence and skills gained through the seniors online course.
 - Another positive outcome is that the library has seen an increase in membership as a direct result of this project, with learners subsequently using a range of library services in addition to the computer class.

Priority 9. The Harrow Road community

- **‘It’s my country’ – Walking project ***
(The Ramblers Association); Total ward budget funding: £16,539
 - The project began in September 2009 engaging with groups and community leaders in Harrow Road to recruit both volunteers and beneficiaries for the walks.
 - 9 volunteers were recruited (2 were residents of Harrow Road), briefed, trained and became engaged with planning the project.
 - 3 walks took place at the end of 2009 on the 15th & 29th November and 13th December. Each walk visited a different green space within London and a different attraction.
 - 18 different people attended the first 3 trips, 78% describing themselves as from a BME background.
 - 6 further walks took place between January and March 2010, culminating in an overnight trip to the New Forest. A further 77 places were filled over the course of these trips, with an average of 81% of people from BME backgrounds.
 - 18 participants of the project have registered to become members of the Ramblers association and are keen to continue walking in the future.
- **Support and advocacy for crack cocaine users in Harrow Road ***
(Westminster Drug Project - WDP); Total ward budget funding: £8,349
 - Weekly evening engagement sessions with Crack cocaine users were delivered from 6.00pm – 8.00pm every Monday at the WDP Open Access Service on Harrow Road between September 2009 and March 2010.
 - The evening sessions saw hot food provided for clients, followed by a structured workshop session with facilitator and then a complimentary therapy offered in acupuncture.
 - Workshop sessions covered a range of issues such as addiction, triggers, relationships, self awareness, harm minimisation and life skills.

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- Although only 8 participants attended the first session in September the group programme has had a rolling number of 47 participants at about an average of 12-14 service users attending on a weekly basis.
 - In total the provider has offered information and advice to 84 individuals, with 29 of those referred to another form of structured treatment.
 - Of those benefiting from the service, 62% were from BME backgrounds.
 - The service provider found that a number of those attending the service were no longer using, yet continued to attend the sessions as a secure and comfortable support group. These individuals were not yet ready to access aftercare support, however the provider will work with them over a transition period to help them to move on.
- **‘All Sing!’ Establishment of a Community Choir ***
(Wigmore Hall); Total ward budget funding: £9,053
 - 3 initial taster sessions were delivered on the 10th November, 1st and 2nd December 2009. 54 people attended the taster sessions.
 - Attendees at the taster sessions were invited to join the winter festival at Maida Hill Market on the 5th December to sing carols. 12 people attended, and were joined by a further 10 people on the day.
 - Between January and March 2010, 10 weekly workshops were held at the Paddington Academy. The average attendance was 40 people.
 - Places at a concert at Wigmore Hall were provided free of charge to participants of the Choir. 61 people attended the concert on the 7th March.
 - The project culminated in the choir putting on a concert at Wigmore Hall on the 21st March 2010. 44 choir members sang in the concert which was attended by 366 people.
 - The feedback to this project has been excellent.
- **Contribution to Mural on the gable of the Westminster Drug Project premises ***
(HRNP); Total ward budget funding: £2,200
 - A 10m wide art mural was completed in November 2009. The Harrow Road ward budget contributed to the cost along with funding from NHS Westminster and Waltham and Elgin Community Homes (WECH).
 - The mural was painted by artists Bleach, Busk and Zadok, from the Elsewhere Collective.
 - Residents in the area had previously described the wall as an ‘eyesore’ but the response to the final mural has been very positive.
- **World Hug – permanent public art mural ***
(London Print Studio); Total ward budget funding: £8,085
 - Large art mural installed at Wilberforce Primary School
 - The ‘World Hug’ image has created a school portrait in which the children of Wilberforce Primary School are grouped together to form a map of the world, with pupils creating the continents and land-mass.
 - The image is designed to challenge feelings of insecurity that have been developing within the diverse school community, by showing the children as one world. Collaborating with the Centre of Fine Print Research in Bristol, the World Hug image is being transformed into a huge 3.5x4m photo-enamel mural, and is due to be installed on the exterior of the school in June 2010.



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- All 350 children from Wilberforce School have been involved in the development of the mural over a 6 month period from late 2009 – March 2010.
 - All the children and staff at the school have also been involved in a series of workshops run to support the development of the mural, helping to promote understanding of the diverse make up of the school community.
 - Feedback from the school has been extremely positive, with Headteacher Angela Piddock commenting that, ‘the impact on the school has been huge...The resulting photo-enamel mural is incredibly important as it is a tangible and visible representation of the schools position of celebrating diversity.’
- **Walterton and Elgin Community Homes - Community event (WECH); Total ward budget funding: £0**
 - Provider declined the funding as was unable to deliver the event before the end of March 2010 in line with the terms of funding. It was felt that the poor weather in March would result in lower attendance at the planned out-door event.
 - Provider plans to deliver the event in May 2010 using alternative funding and hopes to apply for ward budget funds again in 2010-11 for a summer event in July 2010.
- **Westminster Works – bursaries to help people into work (HRNP); Total ward budget funding: £1,050**
 - The Westminster Works programme is a new City-wide initiative to help local people gain access to the jobs, training, or work experience they need to move into employment. The HRNP are supporting this programme in Harrow Road and used ward budget funding to provide bursaries to local residents to aid them in their search for a job or training experience.
 - During February and March 2010, a total of 28 small bursaries between £20 and £100 were given out to support residents’ training or job search. Bursaries supported residents’ course fees, travel and / or lunch expenses, and clothing for job interviews.
 - By the end of March, 15 residents had received specific information, advice and guidance to aid their job search, 6 residents had entered employment, 4 had entered training and 1 had obtained a volunteering placement.
- **Educational school trips for young people to learn about their community * (Beauchamp Lodge); Total ward budget funding: £1,612.50**
 - 2 groups of children attending St Peters CE Primary School were able to attend trips on the floating classroom (a purpose built barge) along the Grand Union Canal.
 - 29 five and six year olds attended the first trip on the 11th March 2010, accompanied by 8 adults. The school chose the ‘floating through history’ education programme that was offered to compliment Key Stage 1.
 - 29 seven and eight year olds attended the second trip on the 29th March 2010, accompanied by 5 adults. The school chose the ‘floating through history’ education programme that was offered to compliment Key Stage 2.
 - The feedback from the children and the teachers was 100% positive.

Additional information:

- *More detailed monitoring reports and/or photos are available on request for projects marked with **
- *A full financial breakdown of the Harrow Road ward budget is attached as Appendix A*

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