

Maida Vale Area Forum
Westminster City Council
16th Floor, City Hall
64 Victoria Street
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Chairman: Cllr Ian Adams
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04 August 2009

Dear Area Forum Member,

Thank you to all who were able to attend the recent Maida Vale Area Forum and help us 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.

If you would like more detail on the workshop discussions and ward budget spending, visit www.westminster.gov.uk/neighbourhoods or call us on the number above.

Housing in Westminster

You raised concerns that private rents are very high, shared ownership is often not affordable, and young people are moving away from the city due to lack of housing. You suggested that empty properties around Westminster should be used to accommodate those needing housing. The council employs an empty property officer to advise and assist owners to bring long-term vacant dwellings back into use. We also offer grants to owners to encourage them to rent properties to households nominated by the council, and we're trying to obtain funding for a discounted rent scheme, where eligible renters can accumulate savings for a deposit by paying a lower rent. For more information contact Cecily Herdman: cherdman@westminster.gov.uk, 020 7641 2789.

Healthy Living

Representatives from NHS Westminster attended the forum to hear your thoughts on local health services and leading a healthy lifestyle. The council and NHS Westminster are already working together, for example through the recent 'Healthy Westminster' edition of the Westminster Reporter, and will strive to work more closely together and pool resources in future as you suggested. We will be launching a campaign to help people understand what is available and how to make informed choices later on this year. This will be followed next year by a healthy lifestyles campaign regarding obesity and stopping smoking.

Westminster Carers Strategy – Consultation

You highlighted the negative impact caring responsibilities can have on the health and well-being of carers and the need for health professionals and the community to better value the contribution carers make to the well-being of families. We will include your feedback on the need for better support for carers in our final strategy for supporting carers in Westminster. Under the new three year plan, social services will be transformed so that people will be able to choose the services they want, ensuring the highest possible quality services for cared for people. Please give us your feedback on the Westminster Carers Strategy via www.westminster.gov.uk/adultservices or by calling Katie Wright on 020 7150 8193, by the 30th September.

Westminster Standard - 'Your Services Your Way'

The council is in the process of reviewing the way in which it offers services; finding out how you want to contact us, what your priorities are for improvements and what we need to do to meet them. Our aim is to understand what works well and what needs to change in order for us to improve. Your feedback on how you would prefer to access council services and your priorities for improvements is a key part of the first stage of our review of the services we offer.

£100,000 for your Area – Ward Budget Updates

Harrow Road councillors are funding Seniors Online sessions, complementary therapies for older residents and the continuation of a joint-community gardening project. The councillors have requested residents' 'Bright Ideas' and are currently deciding which to support. They are also considering a community choir and a walking club.

Little Venice councillors are continuing to fund additional recycling collections, and have funded English lessons for isolated ethnic minority individuals and a speed gun and a speed display sign for use by the police. They are considering funding therapies for older residents, activities at the Little Venice Sports Centre, further community safety proposals and Seniors Online sessions.

Maida Vale councillors are funding outreach youth workers, a trip to Sayers Croft activity centre for young people, and city guardians to patrol in the ward. They are also considering improvements to Elgin Parade and greening proposals at Paddington Recreation Ground.

Queen's Park councillors are continuing to fund the community gardening project, welfare benefits advice and the apprenticeships programme. They are also funding dog socialising classes and a dog show, educational trips for local primary schools and a contribution to the interfaith event that took place in June. Councillors are also reviewing responses from the survey on priorities and residents' 'Bright Ideas'.

To find out which electoral ward you are in, visit www.westminster.gov.uk/wardfinder or contact the team.

Your next Maida Vale Area Forum

I look forward to welcoming you to the next forum on Wednesday 11th November, from 6.30-8.30pm at the Paddington Academy on Marylands Road. 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 Ian Adams
Chairman of the Maida Vale Area Forum

Contact your ward councillors by calling 020 7641 2322 or email:

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