

# Queen's Park

## 2008-10 Ward Budget Monitoring Report

Councillors Paul Dimoldenberg, Barrie Taylor, Patricia McAllister

### Summary:

Ward Members identified 7 priorities for the allocation of their ward budget from April 2008 – March 2010.

A total of 45 projects were funded 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. Any problems experienced have also been highlighted.

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

£198,271.23 of this budget was allocated, however following under-spend on some of the projects and additional leveraged funding for others, the final actual expenditure for the 2 year period was £154,689.97. The remaining unspent budget has been returned to the councils reserves.

### Key Highlights of Projects Funded:

#### Priority 1. Improving the local environment

- **Contributing to a twelve-month community gardening scheme (Groundwork London); Total ward budget funding: £24,411.60 (Joint funded with Harrow Road 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 continue to the programme.
  - A total of 1002 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.
  - 2185m<sup>2</sup> of open space was improved during the programme (against a target of 2500m<sup>2</sup>), 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.

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- **Dog socialising classes and a dog show (2 years)**  
(*Queen's Park Neighbourhood Forum*),  
**Total ward budget funding: £5,000 (year 1), additional funding of £5,600 (year 2)**

Year 1 highlights:

- 6 dog socialising classes held during September and October 2008; 17 owners registered for these sessions
- 6 dog socialising classes held during January and February 2009; the sessions covered picking up after your dog, walking your dog on a lead, issues with traffic and the new dog control acts; 10 owners registered for these sessions.
- 5 one-to-one sessions covering specific issues that owners had; these included pulling on the lead, incessant barking, intimidating behaviour and jumping up at people.
- A 'Scruffs' dog show was held on 26 July 2008 with an awards ceremony held on 2 August 2008.

Year 2 highlights:

- 12 dog socialising classes held between June 2009 and March 2010.
- Average attendance was 11 owners and 14 dogs.
- 5 one-to-one sessions held between September 2009 and March 2010, these gave more personal time to owners with specific problems with their dogs.
- 'Scruffs' Dog Show held on the 25<sup>th</sup> July 2009. 34 entrants took part.
- 6 education talks held between November 2009 and March 2010 including talks at local schools, the local library and the Beethoven Centre.

- **Contribution to an event to promote environmentally-friendly living in Queen's Park**

(*Queen's Park Neighbourhood Forum - QPNF*), **Total ward budget funding: £600**

- Event was held in November 2009.
- 145 people attended the event
- A number of presentations took place from local residents and statutory partners (such as CWH recycling team and Vital Regeneration) about making a positive contribution to the environment.
- Short performances from local talent took place including a fashion show by Avenues Youth Club and a video produced by Paddington Academy students about recycling.
- Food from a wide variety of cultures was available, in addition to information on healthy eating.

- **Planting of new trees on Kilburn Lane**

(*WCC Arboricultural Team*), **Total ward budget funding: £2,100**

- Councillors Barrie Taylor and Patricia McAllister undertook a ward walk with Paul Akers (WCC Arboricultural Manager) on the 9<sup>th</sup> February 2010 to discuss feasible locations for planting.
- 7 trees have subsequently been planted along Kilburn Lane.

## Priority 2. Improving Community Cohesion

- **Literacy project for teenagers and adults**

(*Real Action*), **Total ward budget funding: £5,000**

- Free courses were offered for residents to help improve their written or spoken English between August 2008 and March 2009.

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- 15 residents took part in the courses (ranging in age from 15 to 57), completing a minimum of 5 weeks. Many attended for the full 16 weeks of lessons.
  - All students saw an improvement over the course.
- **‘Back on Track’ - Exercise programme for Bangladeshi residents (North Westminster Muslim Cultural Association),**  
**Total ward budget funding: £4,550**
    - During the 6 week project, 20 exercise sessions were delivered, 10 health awareness sessions and 10 citizenship classes.
    - 20 swimming sessions for males and females separately at the Jubilee Sports Centre were also provided and were extremely popular.
    - Sessions were run in Bengali, to help those with limited English to become engaged in the health advice and healthy activities available. Feedback was very positive, for example “I really enjoyed the swimming sessions as nothing of this sort has been arranged for us women before” (Resident, aged 57, translated from Bengali).
- **Cross Cultural Healthy Eating Event (Westminster Neighbourhoods Team in partnership with A2 Dominion and NHS Westminster); Funded via mainstream budget and leveraged funding**
    - A healthy eating event took place at the Beethoven Centre on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> November 2008 in partnership with the PCT and the Dominion Housing Group.
    - A wide range of healthy food was available. The Food Co-op was also on hand, providing residents the chance to sample a wide selection of fruit.
    - Chefs from the local Indian takeaway restaurant, Koh-I-Noor took part in the event – giving residents a cooking demonstration of their new healthy chicken curry recipe. Samples of the dish proved to be extremely popular, and the restaurant have since agreed to include the new healthy chicken curry on their menu.
    - The Health Improvement Team from the PCT were also available on the day to offer residents help and advice on eating healthily.
    - A range of information was also available on the various activities open to residents that would help keep them fit and healthy. A Kapawara demonstration was given to encourage people to get involved.
    - Recipe cards were distributed to all those attending the event – providing a range of healthy Arabic and Bengali recipes for people to try at home.
    - Over 50 people attended the event.
- **Interfaith Event – 20<sup>th</sup> June 2009 (Queen’s Park Muslim Council); Total ward budget funding: £500**
    - The Interfaith event took place on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> June 2009 from 12.30-4.30pm at Queen’s Park School.
    - The event was widely advertised in the local community and brought together all cultures from across the community.
    - A wide range of health advice was available, in addition to exercise taster sessions, a wide variety of healthy foods and multi-cultural music and dance.
- **Queen’s Park Community Fireworks Display (Queen’s Park Neighbourhood Forum); Ward budget contribution: £4,000**
    - Fireworks display held on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> November 2009 in Queen’s Park Gardens.
    - Approximately 1500 residents attended the display.



- **Queen's Park Running Club**  
(Queen's Park Neighbourhood Forum); **Total ward budget funding: £1,500**
  - 5 family running club sessions delivered between January and March 2010.
  - 45 different people (from 6 different ethnic backgrounds) attended the club, with average weekly attendance of 24.
  - 1 volunteer was trained to assist with the sessions and it is hoped they will continue.

### **Priority 3. Providing additional activities and services for older residents**

- **Queen's Park Bangladeshi Association Healthy Eating Club**  
(Queen's Park Bangladeshi Association); **Total ward budget funding: £5,000**
  - A twice weekly healthy eating club for older residents over the age of 50 was run between January and July 2009.
  - A men's lunch club ran on Monday's between 1.30 and 3.30pm. Average weekly attendance was 11.
  - A woman's club ran on Wednesday afternoons, with average attendance of 20 (up to over 30 by the end of the project).
  - Food for the lunch clubs was provided by local restaurants due to the need to meet food and safety standards, however 8 members of the club signed up to undertake a food and safety course so that in future they will be able to provide home cooked food to those attending the lunch clubs.
- **Commission complementary therapies for older residents receiving benefits**  
(Munro Health Co-operative); **Total ward budget funding: £4,000 (Initial 6 month project), £4,272.94 (continuation of project)**
  - Complementary therapy sessions (including Indian Head Massage, Neck and Back Massage, Leg Massage or Reflexology) were initially delivered between 1<sup>st</sup> March and 1<sup>st</sup> September 2009.
  - Due to the success of the complementary therapies project, funding was extended to allow free treatments to continue to elderly residents from October 2009 – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2010.
  - 35 minute sessions took place at the Moberly Sports Centre throughout the funding period with most residents receiving treatments in blocks of six weeks.
  - Over the 12 month project, 219 treatment sessions were delivered to 50 different clients.
  - A health fair was delivered by the provider on Monday 29 March from 12 – 2.30pm at the Stowe Centre. The Health Fair was open to residents from Queens Park (in addition to residents from Westbourne), with a range of taster sessions provided.
- **Older residents better health and wellbeing project**  
(Westminster Advocacy Service for Senior Residents – WASSR);  
**Total ward budget funding: £3,324.34**  
(Joint funded with Harrow Road 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 various local community organisations such as the Beethoven Centre's advice plus surgery, the Somalia Women's group, Henna Ladies (Muslim Women's activity group) and local Open Age groups. Key outreach was also



undertaken through City West Homes estate managers, local shops, libraries and medical practices.

- During the 3 month period a total of 20 residents over the age of 65 benefited from one-to-one advocacy advice (this was above the targeted number of 15). They were supported with issues such as legal, financial, housing, mental health and care.

- **Older carers information and relaxation programme**  
**(Westminster Society for People with Learning Difficulties);**  
**Total ward budget funding: £1,339.81**

- The key aim of the project was to give older carers access to key information to help support themselves and the people they care for as well as provide them with an opportunity to relax and socialise.
- Information and relaxation sessions were held for 2 hours every Monday morning from 10am for 5 weeks from 22<sup>nd</sup> February and 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2010.
- Average attendance ranged from 4-11 each week.
- Age range of attendees was 49-86 years.
- An Information Day was held at the Stowe Centre on the 30<sup>th</sup> March with 23 people attending. A wide range of information was available in addition to relaxation sessions such as massages on offer. Pamper packs were also available for people to take away.

#### **Priority 4. Providing additional activities and services for young residents**

- **An apprenticeship scheme for young Queen's Park residents**  
**(Paddington Development Trust), Total ward budget funding: £0**

- Funding was allocated for the delivery of an apprenticeship programme for up to 5 young Queens Park residents aged 16-24, to be given the opportunity to learn new skills and work experience to enable them to become more employable.
- The project did not progress as planned due to insufficient time to advertise and recruit suitable people before September 2009, when NVQ courses started. Due to the problems in developing the project, the provider did not claim any of the allocated funding.
- One resident however, did register an interest in the project and began an NVQ course in October 2009. The resident is currently employed as an assistant administrative officer for the Park Royal Centre for Mental Health and working towards an NVQ in Business Administration Level 2.

- **Extended sports provision at the All Stars Boxing Club**  
**(All Stars Boxing Gym); Total ward budget funding: £5,312.76**

- Free training sessions were offered to young people over the age of 11 at the All Stars boxing club throughout the summer holidays 2008.
- In total 33 sessions ran for two hours per day, five days a week: Monday to Friday from 21<sup>st</sup> July until 5<sup>th</sup> September 2008
- A total of 370 children attended across the summer. Average attendance was initially low at just 7 people per day, however this increased to an average of 14-15 for most of the sessions.

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- **Soccer school with Queen's Park Rangers (Westminster Sports Unit with Queen's Park Rangers);**  
**Total ward budget funding: £0**

  - A 4 day summer soccer school for 10-16 year olds was planned for August 2008.
  - Due to lack of attendance from local residents, no funding was claimed.
  - Councillors worked with the sports unit to ensure improved publicity and preparation for future events.
  
- **Bike maintenance workshops (Funding year 1) (A2 Dominion, Beethoven Centre); Total ward budget funding: £2,000**

  - A bike maintenance workshop was held at the Queen's Park summer festival on the 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2009. 30 bikes were fixed during the festival and over 150 free reflectors were given out to encourage safe cycling.
  - 5 bike maintenance workshops were delivered during August for the over 11's. 14 young people attended the workshops, 5 of which attended all 5 sessions and received a graduation certificate, bike manual, lock, helmet and lights to encourage safer cycling.
  - 5 bike maintenance workshops were delivered during September and October for adults. 16 people attended these sessions, most of which attended all 5 sessions. 11 received a graduation certificate, lights and a bike lock or helmet.
  
- **Basketball summer school (Westminster Sports Unit); Total ward budget funding: £2,444**

  - A Basketball summer camp, delivered by local club Westminster Warriors, took place at the Paddington Academy from 4<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> August 2008.
  - Sessions ran from 9.30am – 4.30pm each day and were open to boys and girls aged 11-16.
  
- **Community WiFi project with Paddington Academy (Westminster Council - Internal); Total ward budget funding: £0 – Mainstream funding leveraged**

  - This project was devised in support of recent government policy to aim for all school age children to have access to the Internet from their homes.
  - The project provided internet access to 30 students attending Paddington Academy. The Principal at Paddington Academy identified students from Year 8 and Year 10 that were suitable candidates for this pilot.
  - 30 low cost laptops were purchased and loaned out to students with in-built wireless connectivity for a 6 month period from 2008-09, allowing them to access the internet in their homes and support their education.
  - The project was successful in fostering good relations between Academy staff and the council throughout the project, and the laptops remain property of the Academy for continued use by the students when required.
  - The £6,160 cost of the project was leveraged from the Idea Development Fund and resulted in no ward budget funds being claimed.
  - The project has subsequently been superseded by the 2009 Central Government Home Access scheme to ensure all students have access to laptops and Wi-Fi connectivity for educational purposes.



- **Basketball camp at Moberly Sports Centre during February 09 Half Term (Westminster Sports Unit); Total ward budget funding: £2,000**

  - A basketball camp was delivered in partnership with Westminster Warriors at the Moberly Sports Centre for 5 days from 16<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> February 2009.
  - A total of 67 young people attended the camp (30 of whom were from Queens Park). The camp was open to both boys and girls ranging in age from 5-17.
  - The half term camp gave young people the opportunity to get involved in an activity that they may not have tried before as well as giving those that already enjoyed the sport the opportunity to develop their skills.
  
- **School trip to Woburn Safari Park for Foundation years at Queen's Park Primary School (Queen's Park Primary School), Total ward budget funding: £1,609**

  - Foundation year children at Queen's Park primary school went on a trip to Woburn Safari Park on the 7<sup>th</sup> July 2009.
  - Just under 100 children benefited from the trip, which parents were also able to attend to share in the learning experience with their child.
  - The trip supported the learning of the children who drew pictures of their favourite animals from the trip.
  
- **School trip to Woburn Safari Park for Foundation years at St Luke's Primary School (St Luke's Primary School), Total ward budget funding: £937**

  - A day trip took place to Woburn Safari Park near Milton Keynes for the younger years in St Luke's Primary School on the 14<sup>th</sup> October 2009.
  - 50 children attended the trip accompanied by 30 parents and staff.
  
- **Weekly family sports activities session at Moberly Sports and Education Centre (Westminster Sports Unit), Total ward budget funding: £5,025 (July – December 2009), additional funding of £3,000 (Jan-March 2010).**

  - The project was targeted at young people and their families living in Queen's Park offering them an opportunity to benefit from their local sports facilities at the Moberly Sports & Education Centre.
  - Sessions were held at the Moberly Sports Centre every Sunday between 12-3pm, from July 2009 until March 2010.
  - The outdoor football pitch, sports hall and gym were available for use, free of charge to Queen's Park residents, at these times. Queen's Park Rangers provided a football coach to supervise 5-a-side sessions and supervisors were in place to help residents use the gym facilities.
  - From a slow start over the summer months in 2009 the attendance on the Sundays increased to 59 people attending during November. From September 2009 to March 2010 the average monthly attendance was 37 people.
  - There were some teething problems with the project in the early few months, as the football coaches from QPR did not attend regularly. These problems were resolved by September, and the improved outputs in the later months reflect this.

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- **Contribution to Avenues FM 2010 broadcast (Paddington Development Trust), Total ward budget funding: £5,000**
  - Avenues broadcasted on 87.7fm from the 15<sup>th</sup> February to 14<sup>th</sup> March.
  - The programme was delivered in slots of 2 hours. Each slot was hosted by a young person (in between school, college, or work).
  - Local organisations were either offered a slot to deliver their own show or asked to come in for interviews. Those coming for interviews were asked to bring a brief about their work and a selection of their favourite music tracks. The young presenters would then ask questions about the topics and about the music choices. They would ask for a response from the public by way of phone calls, e-mails, text or msn.
  - Over sixty young people aged 11-21 took part in the broadcast.
  - Young people designed the flyers, produced adverts and jingles, presented shows, handled telephone requests, responded to texts, msn, etc.
  - The project culminated in a live debate on stop and search, broadcasted with panel members both for and against the policy. There were over 70 local people in the audience and there were several phone calls to the studio number with questions to the panel.
  
- **Junior Football Organisers Course (Westminster Sports Unit with QPR FC), Total ward budget funding: £0**
  - The FA Junior Football Organisers course is designed to support young people aged 14 to 18 with the skills to lead groups of young people aged between 6 and 11 years in safe football activities under the supervision of an FA qualified coach. The JFO course is a stepping stone towards enrolling on the FA Level 1 Certificate in Coaching Football course that is open to people aged 16+.
  - The JFO course was planned to run during the Easter Holidays 2010 however the course did not go ahead due to lack of take up.
  - The sports unit will work with the provider to look at remarketing the course later in the year.
  
- **Film making project for young residents (Contaminant Media), Total ward budget funding: £5,000**
  - This project ran for 5 weeks from 10<sup>th</sup> February to 4<sup>th</sup> March. The core objective of the 5 x 2 hour practical filmmaking course was to teach its group of young members of the Avenues Youth Project how to make a short 'viral' style commercial about their local area. Each of the 5 core sessions featured instruction followed by practical hands on assistance in the story boarding, pre-production, planning, filming, editing and presentation of a short film.
  - 17 young people were initially engaged in the project for the first few sessions. As the course progressed, it was apparent that not all young people were as receptive as others to the course with some turning up late, and/or being disruptive.
  - The actual filming process proved the most popular session; however the young people had little involvement in the final editing of their films.
  - 3 short 30-second films have been produced.
  
- **Trips for young people (Queen's Park Bangladeshi Association); Total ward budget funding: £3,959**
  - 7 trips took place during the early months of 2010.
  - Activities included rock climbing, water skiing and the London Dungeon.
  - 78 young people aged 13-19 benefited from the activities (including 21 females).



- **Bike maintenance workshops and purchase of Smoothie Bike (Funding year 2) (Queen's Park Neighbourhood Forum); *Total ward budget funding: £2,205***
  - A bike maintenance surgery was held on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> March from 2-5pm. A total of 28 bikes were serviced by 2 Cycle Confident mechanics and a local apprentice, 14 year old Haroon Hanafi.
  - A bike maintenance workshop was held for 11-18 year olds on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> March from 1-6pm. 7 local children attended the workshop learning key bike maintenance skills such as replacing brake pads and fixing a puncture.
  - A bike maintenance workshop was held for adults on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> March from 1.30-6pm. 8 people attended the workshop and learnt key bike maintenance skills such as puncture repair and brake pad replacement and adjustment.
  - All participants received tyre levers, a puncture repair kit and a water bottle.
  - Funding was also used to enable to purchase of a smoothie bike for use at community events and festivals in Queen's Park. Smoothie Bikes have proved a very popular and effective way of engaging residents and encouraging them to consume more fruit and exercise in a fun way.

### **Priority 5. Developing ward-based advice services for residents**

- **Welfare benefits advice service (Funding for year 1 and 2) (A2 Dominion, Beethoven Centre), *Total ward budget funding: £20,000***
  - Sessions were held, at the Beethoven Centre, on Monday afternoons from June 2009 until March 2010. The sessions gave welfare benefits advice and Arabic and Bengali translation services.
  - The benefits advice with Arabic translation service visits were over target across the year with an average of 23 people attending on a monthly basis.
  - The benefits advice with Bengali translation service visits were on target across the year with on average 12 people attending on a monthly basis.
  - The CHAS benefits welfare advice session visits were over target across the year with on average 34 people attending on a monthly basis.
  - The feedback received from users was very positive, examples being "excellent service", "its a good place to come and seek advice" and "the CHAS adviser was very helpful".
  
- **Smoking Cessation sessions for residents with mental health issues (Central and North Westminster London Mental Health Service); *Total ward budget funding: £0 – leverage funding of £6,040***
  - Project start date has been delayed. Project required significant amount of preparatory work in order to ensure key partners were to be involved.
  - The provider has worked closely with the PCT in particular to ensure this project will be successful. It is now expected that the PCT will allow the Mental Health Service to use local GP space free of charge, which will keep costs to a minimum.
  - Project was yet to officially start as of 31<sup>st</sup> March 2010, when ward budget funding ceased and as a result no funding will be claimed. The provider however had agreed to match fund the ward budget contribution and will therefore ensure the project goes ahead at their own cost – with courses starting in May 2010.



- **Welcome Packs for new residents (Residents 'Bright Idea' 2009)**  
**(Queen's Park Neighbourhood Forum); Total ward budget funding: £1,525**
  - 300 welcome packs designed and produced aimed at new residents moving into Queen's Park ward. The packs are full of useful information about local services such as community services, young people and education, health, services for older people and council services.
  - The pack is housed in an eco friendly oversized A5 folder made from recycled card with a ring binder. The pack is designed as an easy to access quick reference point and can store additional information as it becomes available.
  - 250 packs will be delivered to new residents arriving in Queen's Park via the key social housing providers covering the ward. The additional 50 packs will be distributed by the Queen's Park Forum.

#### **Priority 6. Developing and promoting the 'active citizen'**

- **Variety of consultation and engagement activities (allocated up to £7,500 from 2008-10)**  
**(Westminster Neighbourhoods Team); Total ward budget funding: £6,096.19**
  - **Survey to all households on priorities for ward budget spending 2008**  
**Total ward budget funding: £1,645**
    - A mail-out was delivered to every household in Queen's Park in May 2008, requesting that residents submit their suggestions for ward budget priorities.
    - Residents were also given the opportunity to submit a 'Bright Idea' for how some of the funds could be spent.
    - 85 responses were received
  - **Consultation with residents of Kilburn Lane 2008**  
**Total ward budget funding: £63.01**
    - All residents of Kilburn Lane were sent an invitation to a meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> September 2008.
    - The meeting held discussed a number of key issues for residents including traffic claming measures and tree planting.
    - 40 residents attended.
    - All residents received a follow up letter advising of the action to be taken as a result of the meeting.
  - **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.

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- **Survey to all households on priorities for ward budget spending 2009**  
**Total ward budget funding: £3,511.63**
  - A second mail-out was delivered to every household in Queen's Park in May 2009. This was in a newsletter format advising residents on projects funded so far as well as asking residents for their priorities for spending in the new financial year.
  - Residents were also given another opportunity to submit a 'Bright Idea' for how some of the funds could be spent.
  - 63 responses were received.
  - Large display boards were also purchased for use at the accountability event in May 2009 and at future consultations.
  
- **Accountability event - feedback on 2008-09 projects**  
**Total ward budget funding: £433.80**
  - An accountability event was held on the 20<sup>th</sup> May 2009 at the Beethoven Centre. This gave residents an opportunity to hear how the ward budget was allocated in 2008-09 and to give their ideas for how it should be allocated in 2009-10.
  
- **Establishment of a Residents 'Bright Ideas' Fund (up to £10,000 for 2008-09)**  
**Projects funded:**
  - **Monthly discussion group for outreach workers**  
**(Queen's Park Neighbourhood Forum); Total ward budget funding: £1,990**
    - 11 monthly networking lunches held between February 2009 and March 2010.
    - An average of 16 outreach workers attended each session.
    - Attendees were asked to complete feedback forms, with key findings being:
      - All thought the lunches were useful or very useful.
      - All had made contacts that were useful in their job
      - 75% had made referrals as a result of the lunches
      - All would like to see the forum continue.
  
  - **Intergenerational Time-bank Scheme – skill sharing and activities**  
**(St Peter's & St Mary Magdalene's Parish); Total ward budget funding: £2,500**
    - Funding was allocated to support the development of a Timebank scheme which works across Queen's Park, Harrow Road and Westbourne.
    - Residents are encouraged to sign up to the Timebank and are asked to list the skills they can offer and the skills they would like to receive. Each hour of volunteered time earns the individual an hour of credit which can then be exchanged for a voluntary service, free access to a local facility, or time based rewards like trips or social events.
    - To date the Timebank scheme has seen 13 local organisations exchange over 500 hours of their time. 47 individuals are currently signed up to the scheme and have exchanged 307 hours of their time.
    - Locally based youth organisations have also agreed to join the youth participation scheme whereby young people can 'earn' specific rewards such as access to Volunteering Abroad programme, photography workshops and local recording studio time.
    - 19 young people are currently signed up to the youth scheme and have to date exchanged 248 hours of their time.



- **Development of an online directory of existing services available to Queen's Park residents**  
(Queen's Park Neighbourhood Forum); **Total ward budget funding: £2,990**
  - The online directory went live in January 2010 and can be viewed at the following link: [www.northpaddingtonguide.org.uk](http://www.northpaddingtonguide.org.uk).
  - In March 2010 over 2,300 people had visited the site.
  
- **Establishment of a Residents 'Bright Ideas' Fund (up to £10,000 for 2009-10)**  
**Projects funded:**
  - **Focussed Talk: Community empowerment workshops**  
(Queen's Park Neighbourhood Forum in partnership with WCC); **Total ward budget funding: £2,381**
    - A series of 4 focus group sessions took place during March 2010 at the Beethoven Centre on Third Avenue.
    - The two key discussion areas were 'how safe do you feel in your neighbourhood?' and 'how can we as parents keep our communities safe?'
    - A total of 34 people attended the workshops.
    - Discussions lasted for 2-3 hours, covering a range of issues. A number of crime surveys were also completed which will feed into the council's wider 'fear of crime' project.
    - A follow up letter was sent to all those attending, inviting them to attend future ward panel meetings. A follow up meeting is also being planned to consider a plan of action to address points discussed.
  
  - **Other projects including 'resident welcome packs' and 'enterprise support and business development', listed under different priorities.**
  
- **Community Capacity Training workshops**  
(Queen's Park Neighbourhood Forum); **Total ward budget funding: £2,390**  
(Joint funded with Westbourne)
  - 2 free workshops were delivered during March 2010 for residents of Queen's Park and Westbourne.
  - The first workshop titled 'build confidence and communication skills' was held on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> March from 2-6pm at Great Western Studios, W2. 3 professional development coaches delivered the session which covered confidence building, improving stage presence and assertiveness and public speaking skills.
  - The second workshop titled 'citizen power and local campaigning' was held on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> March from 10am – 4.30pm at Great Western Studios. The session was delivered by community capacity building specialists, covering practical skills for residents to effectively engage in decision making in their neighbourhoods.
  - 24 residents attended the first workshop and 19 residents attended the second workshop.
  
- **Purchase of 20 newsletter holders to display ward information**  
(Westminster Neighbourhoods Team); **Total ward budget funding: £68.74**
  - 20 holders purchase in March 2010.
  - Newsletter holders will be distributed at key local venues across the ward, to display information and updates on ward budget projects and spend.

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## Priority 7. Assisting residents during the economic downturn

- **Enterprise support and business development services for Queen's Park residents (developed in response to a residents' Bright Idea' from May 2009) (Paddington Development Trust – Neighbourhood Centre),**

**Total ward budget funding: £4,058.35 (Joint funded with Westbourne)**

- A launch event was held at the Beethoven Centre in February with 12 people attending.
- 6 seminars were held during February and March offering formal business coaching and basic business planning training to any prospective entrepreneur living in Queen's Park and Westbourne. Take up for the service was low initially, however it increased to an average of 8 towards the later stages.
- Whilst the number of people benefiting from the seminars was lower than expected, the Neighbourhood Enterprise Centre (NEC) has been successful in working with 4 residents to develop business plans. Once plans are completed they will be assisted to apply for grants, start up loans and the self employment registration process. The NEC expects this process to take a further 4-6 months and will continue to monitor and update WCC on their progress.

- End -



City of Westminster