

South Westminster Area Forum

Chairman: Cllr Angela Harvey

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Dear Sir / Madam

Thank you to all who were able to attend the recent South Westminster Area Forum and help us to make decisions that affect your local area. Your views are important to us, so I'd like to take this opportunity to let you know what we are planning to do in response to your feedback.

At our last meeting on Wednesday 13th October, five workshops were held to give you the opportunity to comment on the impact of the 2012 Olympics, changes to the Street Management service, the Living City conversation, road safety and arts and cultural activities in Westminster. If you would like more detail on the workshop and ward budget discussions contact our Area Forums Team or visit www.westminster.gov.uk/neighbourhoods

Olympics

Tim Owen, Events and Contingency Planning Assistant Director, explained the likely impact of the London Olympic Games on Westminster. The council is used to hosting large scale events and is working with Olympic partners including the Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA), LOCOG, Transport for London and Visit London to ensure your interests are represented.

Roads and other services will be affected before and during the Games but the city will continue to operate on a business as usual basis. We will make sure you are informed of developments and you said you would like printed materials to be available in libraries and One Stop Services, which are now in place. You also said you would use the website for information and would like the opportunity to sign up for email updates. Information is available at www.westminster.gov.uk/olympics

Street Management

A short video was shown which described the role of the new Westminster Wardens (visit www.westminster.gov.uk/westminsterwardens to watch the video). Tom Spencer, Engagement Manager, explained that this new service is an amalgamation of the City Guardian and City Inspector roles, which gives the new Wardens additional enforcement powers whilst keeping the role community focused.

You also made very helpful suggestions about how the new role could be communicated to residents across the city, including stalls at local markets, local notice boards, providing a translation service for those who need it and putting articles in local papers, such as the Pimlico Eye. Other issues discussed included dumped waste on the highway and near large black bins as well as anti-social behaviour.

The Westminster Wardens in the South Westminster area are James Shanks (Churchill), Ravi Kumar (Knightsbridge and Belgravia), Claire Hardy (Tachbrook), Joao Moraes (Vincent Square) and Katazyna Pawalec (Warwick). If you have any issues you wish to report, such as dumped waste, graffiti, street trading or problems with the highway please call the Environmental Action Line on 020 7641 2000.

Living City

I put the Living City programme in context, explaining how reductions in public spending would give you the opportunity to play a more active role in your local community. We are keen to hear any further ideas and suggestions. Please visit www.westminster.gov.uk/theconversation and send us your thoughts.

Road Safety

A road safety education service is available to all communities within Westminster to help reduce road accidents. Our work in schools includes training for best practice for road safety practitioners. The service offers advice and literature on in-car safety, child pedestrian safety, cycle training, motorcycling, drink/drug driving and general driving. We work with police officers on speeding and other traffic offences and would like to be more involved with local community groups who could be the catalyst for disseminating this vital message. For more information, please contact Peter Wilson at pwilson@westminster.gov.uk

Arts and Culture

Charlotte Fergusson, Arts & Cultural Services Officer, gave out information on arts activities in the area, as well as a directory of museums in Westminster, brochures on courses with Westminster Adult Education Service and the Culture Shox leaflet about free cultural venues in central London. The discussion focused on how people get information on arts and cultural activities and how this could be improved. If you have a query or want to know which activities are available, go to <http://www.westminster.gov.uk/services/leisureandculture> or visit your local library to pick up leaflets or ask the library staff.

£50,000 for your Ward – Ward Budget Updates

Churchill, Knightsbridge & Belgravia, Tachbrook, Vincent Square and Warwick

Councillors are currently seeking ideas about how to spend this year's ward budgets. You made some suggestions at the Area Forum and further suggestions can be made through the contact details at the bottom of this page. If you would like to find out about how ward budgets were spent last year, please go to www.westminster.gov.uk/wardbudgets To find out which electoral ward you are in, please visit www.westminster.gov.uk/wardfinder or contact the team.

Your next South Area Forum

I look forward to welcoming you to the next South Westminster Area Forum on Wednesday 9th February 2011, from 6.30-8.30pm, at Pimlico Academy, Lupus Street, SW1V 3AT. For more information, please contact the Area Forums team using the contact details on the front page of this letter.



Cllr Angela Harvey

Chairman of the South Westminster Area Forum

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

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