



Little Venice

2008-10 Ward Budget Monitoring Report

Councillors: Ian Adams, Melvyn Caplan, Margaret Doyle

Summary

Ward Members identified 4 priorities to allocate their ward budget from April 2008-March 2010. A total of 14 of projects were funded over the two years in the Little Venice ward. The key outputs/achievements of each project funded have been highlighted under the priority headings in this document.

Ward Members were given £200,000 ward budget funding to allocate over the two year pilot programme. £155,219.37 of this budget was allocated, with the remaining budget being returned to the council's reserves.

Key Highlights of Projects Funded

Priority: Improving the Local Environment

Second Weekly Recycling Scheme for Eligible Streets

Provider: Recycling Service

Total ward budget funding: £44,716.26 (4,764.26 plus one year extension of £39,952)

- This funding offered additional doorstep recycling collections in 35 streets. Approximately 5,000 properties were offered a second recycling collection.

Period One: February-March 2009

- A total of 16.28 tonnes was collected on Saturdays in this period. As expected, there was a decrease in the amount of recycling collected on Mondays and Tuesdays but the overall amount collected per week increased slightly following the introduction of the service.



Period Two: April 2009-March 2010

- The amount of recycling collected on Saturdays steadily increased from the service launch reaching a peak in October and November 2009. However, the overall amount of recycling collection in the Ward has not increased during the trial showing that there has been no overall increase in recycling in Little Venice.
- 66% of residents said the introduction of the second collection is good - 52% of residents are using both collections and 32% are using one collection. In response to feedback from residents, the collection day is being moved from Saturday to Friday at the end of May 2010.

Greening at St Mary's Terrace

Provider: Parks

Total ward budget funding: £5,732.69

- The Parks Department completed a greening project on the land South East of St Mary's Terrace where they installed a range of plants.
- They also created a thicker border of plants at the North edge of the grassland near St Mary's Terrace.

before



after



Christmas Lights on Clifton Road

Provider: Abraxus

Total ward budget funding: £3,777.88

- This project funded the supply and installation of 16 warm white star-shaped lights.
- The lights were suspended in two trees on the pavement outside Tesco on Clifton Road, near the junction with Randolph Avenue.



Priority: Activities for Children and Young People

Trip to Sayer's Croft for Young People

Provider: Sports Unit

Total ward budget funding: £4,880

- The trip to Sayer's Croft was aimed at taking 20 young people from the ward. 19 young people registered for the trip, ultimately 12 attended.
- Participants had the opportunity to explore the outdoors as well as make friends with young people from different areas, as the trip covered five wards. Activities included orienteering, search and rescue, shelter building, clay modelling and archery.
- Feedback from the young people was very positive. Some had never been away from home before, others had never had to make their own bed, so it was a good experience for them.

Trips for Young People

Provider: The Play Service

Total ward budget funding: £664.65

- This project funded children from St Joseph's primary school along with the Play Service to take part in activity trips.
- Two trips to the Dinosaur Exhibition were funded for children from the Paddington Green Play Centre. A total of 22 children and 4 staff attend. The younger children (under 8's) enjoyed the trip more than the older ones, they said it was scary and fun. They learned a lot about dinosaurs around their natural habitat, which they enjoyed. Staff and children commented on the quality of the staff who showed them around the exhibition, saying that they were very child focused and engaged with the children in an exciting and informative manner.

Boxercise Classes for Young People

Provider: Street Management

Total ward budget funding: £292.00

- This project was initially to fund the delivery of 22 weekly boxercise classes to up to 20 young people aged 12 to 21 at the Little Venice Sports Centre, with the aim of reducing the incidence of youth anti social behaviour.
- Funding was signed off to cover hall hire and the purchase of lockers to store the equipment. However, alternative funding was sourced by Street Management to cover the hall hire so the ward budget funding was used only for the purchase of the lockers.
- Feedback from one session showed that 15 young people attended and another 3 watched who wanted to participate the next week. The youngest member was 7 years old and the oldest 28. The members were from all different backgrounds and communities.

Priority: Supporting Older People in the Ward

Complementary Therapies for Older People

Provider: Munro Health Co-operative

Total ward budget funding: £4,108.39



- This project provided complementary therapies such as reflexology and massage to residents with a low income and who were aged over 50 at a cost of £2 per treatment, or £1 if aged over 60.
- A total of 25 clients were seen by the therapists and only 3 did not complete their course of treatment, which took place in 4 week blocks. (The target for the project was 20 clients.) The blocks were reduced from 6 to 4 weeks due to the delay to the start of the project.

- Client feedback reported greater mobility, an appreciation of social interaction, reduced pain and a more positive attitude. One client particularly reported an improvement in pain ranging from several hours to several days after treatment; her visiting district nurse noted the improvement in her condition.

Silver Surfer Sessions

Provider: Library Service

Total ward budget funding: £5,082

- This project provided 7 blocks of 6 weekly 2-hour computer training sessions for ward residents aged over 50, as per the target.
- The classes took place in Maida Vale library. As per the target, 42 people signed up for the courses and of these, 38 completed their course, exceeding the target of 34. A graduation event was held on 8 May for participants to celebrate their success.
- Feedback from participants was uniformly positive, with comments such as “excellent and informative course, well tutored” and “excellent tutor, very helpful, thank you”.
- Library staff reported that ward boundaries were an issue for them, as the library is close to the boundaries of several other wards. Many of the people who expressed an interest in Seniors Online were resident in neighbouring wards.

Older People’s Advocacy Service

Provider: Westminster Advocacy Service for Senior Residents

Total ward budget funding: £2,250

- This project funded independent advocacy for 10 disadvantaged older residents from the ward to access the welfare benefits, housing, health and social care they need through 3 days of outreach (1 per month) and advocacy support (3 days per month total), between January and March 2010.
- Outreach days included networking, presentations and material displayed at an Age Concern lunch club with 30 attendees and Little Venice Leisure Centre/Open Age open day with 18 attendees.
- The project engaged on a one to one basis with 15 people; unfortunately only three of these were from the Little Venice ward. This has been raised with the provider who replied that the advocates did a substantial amount of outreach in the ward so that many older people who may previously not have been aware of the service now have their information and will be able to make contact when they need to.

English Lessons for Isolated Ethnic Minority Individuals

Provider: Westminster Adult Education Service

Total ward budget funding: £4,568

- This project firstly delivered 4 two-hour taster sessions at Paddington Green Children Centre. All attendees were informally assessed and directed on to further courses within the ward.

- In addition, 2 ten-week courses were run for 2 hours a week over a ten week period between September and March 2010. One course was English and IT focused, where basic computer skills were taught with embedded English.
- The courses were aimed to engage with 75 individuals but ultimately engaged with 26. The reasons for this were that a high level of interest was received from residents outside the ward, poor weather conditions in January which saw reduced attendance and because demand for course was not as great as first initially thought.

Priority: Community Safety

Provision of Speed Gun for use by the Safer Neighbourhoods Team

Provider: Unipar

Total ward budget funding: £4,070

- This equipment was purchased in response to residents' concerns around road safety in the ward, in particular speeding.
- The Little Venice Safer Neighbourhoods Team will carry out at least one speed check per month for 6 months aiming to reduce speeding in Little Venice ward by 10%.
- Monitoring information will be reported in the coming months.

Joint Funding of a Police Car to Patrol in Little Venice and Maida Vale

Provider: Street Management/Metropolitan Police

Total ward budget funding: £9,627.50

- In this joint project, the ward budget was used to sponsor a police car to patrol in Little Venice and Maida Vale in order to provide a visible, reassuring police presence.
- Delivery of the car will be taken in mid May 2010 and monitoring information will be reported subsequently.

Installation of Fixed Speed Signs

Provider: Transportation Commissioning

Total ward budget funding: £30,000

- This project is to fund the installation of five vehicle activated speed signs at Sutherland Avenue (2 signs), Warwick Avenue (2 signs) and Shirland Road (1 sign).
- The signs have been manufactured and officers from Transportation Commissioning are currently in the process of agreeing the exact locations of the speed signs with members, taking into account the boundary road issues.

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