

	<p style="text-align: right;">West End Area Forum Chairman: Cllr Tim Mitchell (020) 7641 3916 areaforums@westminster.gov.uk</p> <p style="text-align: right;">18 March 2010</p>
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Dear Resident,

Thank you to all who were able to attend the recent West End 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.

Your Views on Street Management.

The City Planning Delivery Unit presented the Westminster Way Strategy, a draft guide on the design, layout and strategy for the public realm. The strategy outlines how pavements and other walking areas can be improved to promote an increase in their use. There was strong support from you to put 'people movement' first.

Flood risk in Westminster

Environment Agency officers gave a short presentation on the risk of flooding from the River Thames. Nearly one-fifth of the properties in Westminster are within the floodplain. Although London is defended to a very high level of protection, we can never fully prevent flooding. As such, there are simple steps which we encourage people who live or work in flood risk areas to take to be prepared:

- Find out from the Environment Agency if your property lies in the floodplain by phoning Floodline on 0845 988 1188 or from their website www.environment-agency.gov.uk/floodline.
- If you are at risk, you can sign up to our free flood warning service (Floodline Warnings Direct). You will then be able to receive advance warnings of flood risk to your area via telephone, text, fax, email or pager.
- Make an emergency plan and have an emergency kit ready for you, your family or your business. This includes checking your insurance cover, making a list of important phone numbers, and having essential items such as medication, wind-up radio and bottled water available.

Recycling

The key issues you raised were the recycling of tetra paks and mixed plastics, the location of factories segregating recycled waste and noise generation from street cleansing depots in the early mornings. Factories are currently located in Greenwich, Rainham and Erith. A new factory will open in Wandsworth this summer. The council hopes to be in a position to increase the range of materials collected for recycling over the next two years.

You also requested on-street recycling units, and we asked you to provide proposed locations for recycling locations to our recycling officers –via recycling@westminster.gov.uk. Complaints about noise can be made to the noise team at www.westminster.gov.uk/noise.

Mayors Transport Policy

Following publication of the Mayor's Transport Strategy in spring this year, we will begin to develop the Local Implementation Plan (LIP). The LIP will set out Westminster's transport needs over a five year period beginning 2011/12.

To ensure that the broad needs of residents, businesses, visitors and transport users are fully appreciated, Officers sought advice from West End Area Forum attendees on a range of concerns and challenges. . The key concerns you raised at the forum included: the behaviour of cyclists and their safety on the road; measures to control pedicabs; parking policy and management of roadworks. Officers also briefed you on the proposed project to restore two-way working in Piccadilly. We will ensure that such needs are fully considered when the work commences on the development of the Westminster LIP. For more information please contact the LIP team on lip@westminster.gov.uk

£100,000 for your Area – Ward Budget Updates

St James's ward members are funding a range of projects including continuation of the proactive Noise Officer, greening projects, a minibus for use by local community organisations, a befriending project for older people and supporting improvements to the public realm.

West End ward members are funding a range of projects including activities for older people, English language courses, a companionship project for older people, support for local tailors, the creation of a local history website and a range of greening projects across the ward.

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

Your next West End Area Forum

If you would like to raise a topic at the next West End Area Forum on Monday June 7th 2010, or for further information, please contact the Area Forums team using the contact details on the front page of this letter.



Cllr Tim Mitchell
Chairman of the West End Area Forum

Contact your ward councillors by calling 020 7641 7750 or email:
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