

**West End Area Forum**  
Chairman: Cllr Tim Mitchell  
(020) 7641 3916  
areaforums@westminster.gov.uk  
3 November 2010

Dear West End Area Forum Member

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

If you would like more detail on the workshop discussions and ward budget spending visit [www.westminster.gov.uk/neighbourhoods](http://www.westminster.gov.uk/neighbourhoods) or contact our Area Forum Team.

At our last area forum meeting on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> October, two workshops were held in order to give you the opportunity to comment on the new Westminster Wardens scheme and learn about the likely impact of the 2012 Olympics.

### **Westminster Wardens**

Allan Auchterlonie, Westminster Warden for the West End, explained that each ward now has a dedicated 'Westminster Warden' and showed a Westminster Warden presentation (visit [www.westminster.gov.uk/westminsterwardens](http://www.westminster.gov.uk/westminsterwardens) to watch the video). Francisco Franco-Mendes and Patrick O'Connor were introduced as the Senior Wardens for the West End and St James's Wards. They explained that by having ownership of their areas, the Westminster Wardens can effectively address the concerns of residents, businesses and visitors.

The Westminster Wardens will be working closely with key partners such as: Police Safer Neighbourhoods Teams, Westminster Neighbourhood Crime Reduction Officers and business and residents' groups. Allan explained that the Wardens would be looking for everyone's assistance to make the West End a cleaner and safer place to live, work and visit. He said that communities must work together to take responsibility for and encourage pride in their areas. He hoped that this pride would self-perpetuate; reducing crime, anti-social behaviour and environmental issues.

Responding to a question from a resident about the change from City Guardians and City Inspectors and a reduction in overall staff numbers, Allan explained that Westminster Wardens are fully trained and have enforcement powers and so are more effective and cost efficient.

### **Olympics Workshop**

Martin Low, City Commissioner of Transportation, and 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 the interests of residents and businesses 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 unusual 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 as a source of information and would like the opportunity to sign up for email updates. Information is now available at [www.westminster.gov.uk/olympics](http://www.westminster.gov.uk/olympics)

### **Ward Budget Discussions**

Cllrs Glenys Roberts and Tim Mitchell outlined the ward budget scheme and asked you if you had any further suggestions on how to use the £50,000 budget.

If you would like to find out about how ward budgets were spent last year, please go to [www.westminster.gov.uk/wardbudgets](http://www.westminster.gov.uk/wardbudgets)

To find out which electoral ward you are in, please visit [www.westminster.gov.uk/wardfinder](http://www.westminster.gov.uk/wardfinder) or contact the team.

### **West End Ward**

Projects currently being funded are the West End Timebank Companionship Plus scheme, the West End Community Network, radio equipment for the Soho Business Crime Reduction Partnership, Complementary Therapies for Older People and Street Trees.

Further projects being considered are Summer Schools to encourage talented but disadvantaged pupils into University and a trip to Highclere Castle for primary school children. You felt that these were good suggestions.

### **St James's Ward**

You were given information about projects already approved, such as the additional Noise Team resource, Christmas lunches and exercise classes for older people.

Suggestions made during the discussions ranged from an increase in black bins in certain areas of the ward to more carbon friendly greenery.

### **Your next West End Area Forum**

If you would like to raise a topic at the next West End Area Forum on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> February 2011, from 6.30-8.30pm (agenda and venue to be confirmed) or for more 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 3916 or email:  
[westend@westminster.gov.uk](mailto:westend@westminster.gov.uk)  
[stjames@westminster.gov.uk](mailto:stjames@westminster.gov.uk)