

NORTH PADDINGTON NEWS



City of Westminster

FAIRER
WESTMINSTER

QUEEN'S PARK WARD
HARROW ROAD WARD
WESTBOURNE WARD

Issue 2 • Spring 2024

**DIGITAL DASH
GOES TO
PARLIAMENT**

**COST OF LIVING SUPPORT
AND GRANT FUNDING**

**MEET OUR NORTH
PADDINGTON
COMMUNITY TEAM**

**GET INVOLVED WITH YOUR
COMMUNITY CHAMPIONS**



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 Community Notice Board – what's coming up



TECH TITANS SUPPORT NORTH PADDINGTON YOUTH

In a finale hosted at the Houses of Parliament, Westminster City Council's Digital Dash programme concluded with a celebration of young talent and industry collaboration in North Paddington.

Against the backdrop of the majestic Palace of Westminster, major corporations, including Visa, Goldman Sachs, PA Media, and Bloomberg Associates, gathered to applaud the initiative's resounding success.

The initiative, in partnership with Bloomberg Associates and the Paddington Development Trust, facilitated mentorship opportunities for talented youth, connecting them with leading tech firms.

The goal is to provide training opportunities for local talent, fostering a bridge that enables residents to access the promising prospects presented by nearby private enterprises. "Their confidence in me to lead the team meant that I very quickly learnt how to take on a leadership role," commented Tiye Sako who was in Visa's cohort.

The competitive showcase culminated in Cognizant emerging as the victorious team.

"I'm planning on going to university this year to study Engineering," says Nathan Fairclough, a resident and participant, "I know the teamwork skills I have developed will be invaluable and they will become more useful as I move into the workplace".

The full list of Digital Dash participants and notable attendees reads like a who's who of industry leaders and community advocates including Cllr Barraclough.

MEET THE NORTH PADDINGTON COMMUNITIES TEAM

To improve our relationships with our North Paddington communities, Westminster has appointed a dedicated team of officers – each working in the North Paddington area – to offer support, presence and to get to know and understand our residents needs and priorities better.



Farah Mahmood
Queen's Park – Senior Community Officer
✉ fmahmood@westminster.gov.uk



Kevin Fray
Harrow Road – Senior Community Officer
✉ kfray@westminster.gov.uk



Stella Hales
Westbourne – Senior Community Officer
✉ shales@westminster.gov.uk



Sarah Crampton
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✉ scrampton@westminster.gov.uk



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North Paddington Engagement Lead
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North Paddington Place Based Manager
✉ cnweke@westminster.gov.uk



Helena Corcoran
North Paddington Communities Manager
✉ hcorcoran@westminster.gov.uk

If you would like to get in touch or speak with any of the officers, please contact
✉ northpaddingtonprogramme@westminster.gov.uk
Alternately you can meet officers in person at our Harrow Road office
📍 2 Fernhead Road, W9 3ET

COST OF LIVING SUPPORT

The cost of living crisis has had a huge impact on millions of people across the country. In North Paddington, we know thousands of residents and families face a serious reduction in living standards due to rising costs, such as fuel, energy bills and food. To support residents, we have created a Cost of Living Support Hub that includes different initiatives from help with rising energy bills to support for organisations, all designed to help people who may be struggling. For more information, please visit www.westminster.gov.uk/cost-of-living-support or get in touch with our North Paddington Community Officers, who are here to help you. Examples of support include:

THE WESTMINSTER HOME ENERGY

provides free home visits from an independent "Green Doctor" energy advisor who can:

- Review your energy bills, property and circumstances
- Fit energy-saving devices such as energy-efficient lightbulbs and radiator panels
- Give energy-saving tips and advice to control heating and cooling settings
- Provide support with energy-related debts including applying for grants
- Give guidance on home retrofit schemes you may be eligible for.

To arrange a telephone consultation or home visit:

- 🌐 www.westminster.gov.uk/home-energy-savings
- ☎ 0300 365 3005

HELP WITH FINANCIAL MATTERS

If you are worried about finances, there are a range of advice services that can help:

The Westminster Citizens Advice Bureau is an independent charity providing free, confidential advice on debt and benefits, family, immigration and housing.

☎ 0808 2787 834

Age UK offers free confidential advice and support to older people on a range of issues from debt to fraud and Pension credit.

☎ 0203 3004 5610

To find out about other services:

- 🌐 www.westminster.gov.uk/cost-of-living-support/help-financial-matters

WESTMINSTER RENT SUPPORT FUND

Westminster Council have launched a Rent Support Fund to help our council (secure) tenants struggling with rent payments during the cost of living crisis. We have set aside the sum of £1m to support our tenants. The money will be used to cover some or all of the upcoming rent increases for households who are not entitled to full housing benefits.

🌐 www.westminster.gov.uk/rent-support-fund

☎ 0800 358 3783 (option 1, then option 2) 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday

✉ housing.enquiries@westminster.gov.uk

Dear North Paddington resident,
We are delighted to share our second North Paddington community newsletter, which celebrates the young people who participated in our Digital Dash competition.

This issue also introduces you to our new North Paddington Communities team, who are working in the North Paddington area, to offer more visible support and build better relationships with local residents. Please do get in touch or come and visit them at 2 Fernhead Road.

We have more information from the Community Champions, who work tirelessly to connect and support local people, and we hear from some of the amazing community organisations that are organising a host of great activities in the coming months.

If you are interested in learning more, please get in touch with the Communities team. Our hopes are to work closer with local residents to ensure they have a greater say in everyday decisions which affect their lives.

Concia Albert
Harrow Road Ward Councillor



North Paddington News is published by Westminster City Council. If you encounter delivery problems, please call

☎ 020 7641 6000

For general enquiries about the council, call our switchboard 020 7641 6000.

To contact us on any of the content in this issue:

✉ northpaddingtonprogramme@westminster.gov.uk or write to

📍 North Paddington News
Westminster City Council, Westminster City Hall
64 Victoria Street, London, SW1E 6QP

PHASE 2

MAIDA HILL MARKET

This month we have started the second phase of works on the Maida Hill Market project, part funded from the Mayor of London's Good Growth Fund

By carrying out these works, we hope to deliver to our Harrow Road residents a physically improved public space, with new paving, greening, seating and toilets.

In advance of works finishing, we are keen to continue working with the local communities and partners to plan how the space is both managed and used.

If you have any questions about the works, please get in touch:

Kevin Fray
Harrow Road – Senior Community Officer
✉ kfray@westminster.gov.uk
📍 2 Fernhead Road



300 HARROW ROAD COMPLETED

The 300 Harrow Road scheme launched in November 2023 and concluded its communities consultation phase in February 2024.

77 homes have been built for social rent, with 35 at London Living Rent levels, making this scheme 100% affordable homes for the community.

The project also benefits from improved landscaping as part of the Harrow Road place plan. A new canal-side landscape area will enhance the space, making it a more inviting place for people to come and relax.



HARROW ROAD CONSULTATION

The North Paddington High Streets Programme recently concluded, a delicate effort to fortify local businesses and enhance community life.

Launched in November and concluding in February, the initiative sought the perspectives of over 300 residents and businesses intimately connected to this evolving urban landscape. Your reflections and insights will soon be published. The High Street programme is supported by the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.

INCLUSIVE PLAY AT ALFRED ROAD

Part of being a Fairer Westminster is increasing the number of inclusive play spaces in local places.

The redevelopment of the Alfred Road playground is a community-led initiative bought to the council by residents who want to see the unused playground not only bought back into use, but also made inclusive so children of all abilities can play alongside each other. In turn this will create a community hub, further engagement and increase outdoor activities in the community.

To hear from local residents, we have hosted coffee mornings in local schools and are keen to come out and meet the local community more, hearing and learning directly from those who might use the playground in the future. We would love to hear from the local community on your experience and hopes for the playground.

Scan me and have your say!



For further information or if you would like to get involved, please contact Christine Powell
✉ cpowell@westminster.gov.uk
🌐 qrco.de/alfred-road



INTRODUCING N-POP!

North Paddington Opportunities Project is a support hub serving Westbourne, Harrow Road, and Queen's Park. N-POP! offers personalised advisors, CV workshops, benefits guidance, IT training, job clubs, and more, empowering you to thrive. Join our skill-building sessions across North Paddington. Book an appointment:

🌐 www.pdt.org.uk/north-paddington-support
☎ 020 7266 8253
✉ pdtsocial@pdt.org.uk



GRANT FUND: £200,000

Calling all Global Majority (BAME) led organisations who can deliver great activities to improve health and/or wellbeing of residents in North Paddington. You can apply up to £20,000 to make a positive impact in your community on a rolling basis, decisions weekly until the fund is spent. Contact Vanessa Guthrie for details:
✉ GMgrant@westminster.gov.uk

DO YOU HAVE AN IDEA FOR A GREENING PROJECT IN WESTMINSTER?



If so, make an application for the Greening Westminster Grant Funding Programme via the website:

🌐 www.westminster.gov.uk/place-shaping/greening-westminster

We look forward to learning about your project!

ERNEST HARRIS HOUSE COMMUNITY HUB

The Community Hubs programme will create community-led spaces that help local people access the right services and support in their area.

We want each hub to be designed with local North Paddington people because we know they know their needs and priorities best.

The first two hubs in the north of Westminster will be based at Bayswater Children's Centre and Ernest Harris House. If you live near either of these, your opinions are important to us and your participation will directly shape each hub, what it offers and how it runs.

The first co-design workshops ran on 19 February and will continue until 22 April.



Ernest Harris House
61 Elgin Avenue
North Paddington
W9 2BX

Bayswater Children's Centre
Shrewsbury Road
W2 5PR

WHAT'S GOING ON

QUEEN'S PARK COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Queen's Park Community Council (QPCC) is London's first and only Community parish council, representing more than 14,000 residents in Queen's Park Westminster.

QPCC, regularly host community events and activities and this month they have teamed up to screen the new Cassius X Becoming Ali documentary. The film followed Cassius clay from his early years to becoming Muhammed Ali. Feedback so far has been extremely positive.



NEW HAPPY HUB

just opened on Third Avenue (Queen's Park), which creates new internal community hub space for small organisations and Queen's Park residents to use. For further information on what the hub is being used for and how to get involved, please contact Happy Lizzy:

hlepnow@gmail.com

23 Third Avenue, Queen's Park, W10 4RS

JOIN US FOR AFTERNOON TEA

with a little more excitement! Come along to enjoy:

- Teas, Coffee, Fruits, Lunch
- Chair Based Exercises and Music and Dance
- Games and Quizzes and Chat and Socialise

12pm - 2pm
19 March
23 April

Juniper House, Droop Street
W10 4QX
0208 9605 644

LET'S GET DIGITAL!

MICROGRANT TEASER

In our commitment to improving the digital divide, we're excited to announce the upcoming launch of microgrants, paving the way for different projects enhancing digital literacy and connectivity in North Paddington. Whether you're an individual resident, a charitable organisation, or a community group, we welcome all to get involved. As we're in the design phase, we want to keep you informed! Be among the first to know when microgrants are ready by signing up for email updates on our website. Don't miss out on the chance to be part of this transformative initiative! Join us in paving the way for a digitally empowered North Paddington. Together, let's build a connected and inclusive community for all!

Register your interest:

digitalinclusion@westminster.gov.uk with the subject line "Digital Inclusion Microgrants".

DIGITAL AMBASSADOR RECRUITMENT DRIVE

Westminster City Council, in partnership with Community Fibre, is determined to improve the digital divide in targeted wards—Westbourne, Queens Park, Harrow Road, Church Street, and Pimlico. Can you spare just 2 hours weekly to assist at local hubs? Do you want to share your skills in using a laptop or everyday software? Are you good with people? If so, you could be the perfect fit!

Volunteers will be provided full training, a certificate and invited to a mayor's reception at City Hall this year!

Register your interest:

digitalinclusion@westminster.gov.uk with the subject line "Digital Ambassador Westminster".



NORTH PADDINGTON COMMUNITY CHAMPIONS

Community champions are community members and local residents who volunteer to promote health and wellbeing or improve conditions in their local community. They are led by extremely friendly local leaders, who would love to hear from you.

QUEEN'S PARK (MOZART) CHAMPIONS

Do you live in Queen's Park? How would you like to give back to your local community and become a Queen's Park Community Champion? Not only would this give you the opportunity to do something incredible for local people, but you'll meet fantastic people along the way, receive excellent training and learn lots of great things.

The Queen's Park Champions are a wonderful and engaging group, who provide invaluable support. If you are interested in getting involved please contact the lead:

Kimberley Durrance
kimberley@pdt.org.uk

WESTBOURNE CHAMPIONS

Lets Grow Westbourne is a free local community group for the Westbourne community.

Woodchester Square, W2 5SW

Wednesday 10am to 12pm

Sundays 11am to 1pm

Contact Lina
lina@pdt.org.uk

HARROW ROAD CHAMPIONS

Community choir - The choir leader is Julie Isaac - has led a music group sessions with parents and children for 12 years.

WECH Community Centre
Selbourne House
36A Elgin Avenue, London W9 3AZ

Every Monday during term time
12.30pm to 1.30pm

Free coffee, nibbles and chat

WECH Community Centre
Selbourne House
36A Elgin Avenue, London W9 3AZ

Every Monday during term time
12.30pm to 1.30pm

Donation call: Children's winter coats needed. For more information, please call Maria

07990 637 059

Julie Bundy
julie@wech.org.uk

MAIDA HILL MARKET Coffee with the cops

2 Fernhead Road, Maida Hill, W9 3ET

2pm - 3pm

Monday 26 February

Wednesday 27 March

Kevin Fray
kfray@westminster.gov.uk

LOCAL COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

GRAND JUNCTION

📍 Rowington Close, W2 5TF
🌐 www.grandjunction.org.uk
✉ info@grandjunction.org.uk
☎ 020 7266 8258

Grand Junction is a venue for arts, culture, and community, based at St Mary Magdalene Church. Staff at Grand Junction create and present an eclectic programme of music, arts, and heritage for young people, families, and adults. We also have a café serving food overlooking the canal, as well as meeting and event spaces available for hire.

Middle Eastern and North African Art Workshop: Are you of Middle Eastern or North African Heritage? Join Grand Junctions FREE art workshop. Led by visual artist Alaa Alsaraji, this relaxed and friendly workshop is open to all levels - no prior art experience is needed. If this feels like it could be for you, come give it a try!

🕒 Every Tuesday (term time), from 1pm - 3pm.
🌐 www.grandjunction.org.uk/events/stories-of-the-middle-east-and-north-africa

Draw and Discuss

FREE evening art class to learn new art techniques, meet and talk with new people over tea, biscuits and art. This class is taught by an Art and ESOL teacher making it particularly beneficial for those learning English as a second language, but all are welcome.

🕒 Every Tuesday, 6pm - 7.30pm
🌐 www.grandjunction.org.uk/events/draw-and-discuss



ACCESS TO YOGA

Tell it Parents are running the following calm and connected yoga sessions.

🕒 Thursday, 6-8pm (until 18 April)
📍 Jubilee Community Leisure centre
Lancefield Street, W10 4NW

THE AVENUES

📍 3-7 Third Avenues, W10 4RS
🌐 www.avenues.org.uk
✉ hello@avenues.org.uk
☎ 020 8969 9552



The Zone: Free after-school club (and free snacks) for ages 8-11, with indoor sports, games, art, cooking and more.

🕒 Monday-Friday (term-time) 3.30 to 6.00pm

Secondary Zone: Free after-school club (and free food) for ages 11-13. Games room, radio and podcasting, cooking club and more.

🕒 Monday-Friday (term-time), 4.00 to 6.00pm

Girls Hub: Inspiring girls-only sessions. Socialise, exercise, eat, chat, try new skills. Free minibus home locally.

🕒 Tuesdays (term-time) 6.30 to 8.30pm

Sporty Saturdays: every Saturday with free cooked meal at end of session.

Girls football 11.30 to 12.30pm

Judo beginners (red belt) 12pm to 1pm

Judo intermediates (yellow belt) 1pm to 2pm

Dance 2pm to 3pm

Football 2pm to 4pm

Healthy cooking 2pm to 4pm

Easter holidays: Everyone loves holidays at Avenues. Activities grouped by age (8-16) – try sports, cooking, art, music production, podcasting, trips and outings. Free breakfast and lunch. Book ahead.

🕒 Tuesday 2 April to Friday 12 April (weekdays)
10am to 4pm

Friday nights: Action-packed evenings with music production, cooking, music studio, podcasting, design. Free meal and minibus home locally.

🕒 Every Friday 7.30pm to 9.30pm



THE FLOATING CLASSROOM

Have you heard of the Floating Classroom? Alongside others, WCC work in partnership with the Floating Classroom to offer creative, engaging and fun learning experiences, inspired by London's canals and green spaces.

The Floating classroom works with a diverse range of people, including children and those from underrepresented backgrounds, to encourage curiosity, discovery and create a sense of connection with the natural world for people living in the city. To get involved and find out more please contact

🌐 www.communityforall.co.uk

