

Maida Vale Area Forum
Chairman: Cllr Ian Adams
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Dear Maida Vale Area Forum Member

Thank you to all who were able to attend the recent Maida Vale 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 Thursday 16 June, four workshops were held to give you the opportunity to comment on ARK Atwood Primary Academy, High Speed Rail, crime reduction and the Parking Policy Review. If you would like more detail on the workshop or neighbourhood fund discussions contact our Area Forums team or visit www.westminster.gov.uk/neighbourhoods

ARK Atwood Primary Academy

Daniel Upfield, Head teacher designate, and Laurie Grist, from the ARK Schools Project Team, discussed how ARK Atwood Primary Academy will meet the growing need for primary places in the north of Westminster. The community schools around Amberley Road, Essendine and Edward Wilson have had three applications for every place available and are both full in the Reception year for 2011. If ARK Atwood is oversubscribed, admission will be based on distance to Amberley Road therefore drawing applications from around the permanent site of the school. The school's specialisms will be in mathematics and the performing arts and there will also be a focus on English. There will be additional provision for any children with special needs and an Inclusion Manager has already been appointed, whose role will be to help children with English as an additional language and gifted and talented pupils.

High Speed Rail Link

Graham King, Westminster City Council's Head of City Planning, gave an overview of the High Speed Two proposals. These include doubling the size of Euston station, building a tunnel from Euston to Old Oak Common and building a ventilation shaft near Kilburn Lane. Mr King stressed that the council was neither for nor against the proposals at the moment and is just gathering as much information as possible at this stage. Officers will put a report to the cabinet member in July and once this is approved the council will give the government a formal response to their consultation.

We have experience of dealing with similar projects, such as Crossrail, and understand that noise, vibrations and disruption are key concerns. The council will be making the government aware of your concerns and Mr King recommended that you should also lobby the government directly if you feel you will be affected. You can respond to the consultation at www.highspeedrail.dft.gov.uk You can also write to the council's Cabinet Member for the Built Environment, Cllr Robert Davis, so that your concerns are taken into account when the council's formal response to the government's consultation is submitted in July.

Coordinated Crime Reduction

Jim Howard, CivicWatch Liaison Officer, discussed a number of issues with you. After concerns were raised that Safer Neighbourhood Teams were not sharing information between their different areas, Mr Howard explained that there are now bi-monthly meetings to enable better communication. You were also concerned about crowd control in the Baker Street area. Mr Howard explained that the council has made efforts to manage this problem through licensing orders.

Parking Review

Barry Smith, Operational Director of City Planning and Hugh Brennan, Principal Transport Planner, discussed the Westminster Parking Policy Review 2010-11. Over the past nine months we have undertaken a major review of parking provision across the city and on 9 May the cabinet agreed a series of draft policy proposals for parking in Westminster for consultation. These proposals can be seen in full on the council website at www.westminster.gov.uk/parkingpolicyreview The consultation closed on 23 June and the responses received are being analysed and will help inform the final parking policy proposals, which will go to cabinet for approval in July.

Neighbourhood Funds – how should yours be spent?

Maida Vale, Queen's Park, Little Venice and Harrow Road

Neighbourhood Funds are dedicated funds to support local projects and priorities. They enable councillors to address the local issues that matter most to residents, and we want your suggestions on how they should be spent. This could range from improving the local environment with new trees, flowers or improved paving, to purchasing new equipment for the local sports club, or funding activities for older residents.

Suggestions were put forward at the Maida Vale Area Forum and further suggestions can be made to your ward councillors through the contact details at the bottom of this page. If you would like to find out about how neighbourhood funds were spent last year, please visit www.westminster.gov.uk/neighbourhoodfunds

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

Your next Maida Vale Forum

I look forward to welcoming you to the next South Westminster Area Forum on Thurs 17th November, Paddington Academy, 50 Marylands Road, London W9 2DR. If you have any ideas for agenda items or a place to hold the meeting in future, please do let us hear your thoughts. To get in touch or for more information, please contact the Area Forums team using the contact details on the front page of this letter.



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