Southfield Ward Forum funds local improvements

Safer cycling, planting more trees and helping community groups that support local people are the focus of the local improvements to be funded by the Southfield Ward Forum.

Since May, more than 20 proposals have been received from Southfield residents and community groups on how the wards’ annual budget of £40,000 could be spent this year.

The forum, led by your ward councillors, Gary Malcolm, Harvey Rose and Andrew Steed discussed these proposals with residents attending the three public meetings held in July, September and November.

With the agreement of residents, councillors have decided to fund the following projects, so far:

- Cycle training for children and adults to be held in Southfield Primary School.
- Bicycle maintenance and health check events during school holidays in Acton Park Estate.
- Kerb improvements around the ward to improve access for wheelchair and mobility scooter users.
- Cyclist warning signs to alert pedestrians in various alleyways.
- Parking schemes to paint or remove yellow lines (Berrymede Road, Acton Lane, Beaumont Road and The Avenue).
- Planting improvements in Southfield Recreation Ground.
- Forty-one new street trees to be planted around the ward.
- Purchase of activity equipment for local youth group, W4 Youth.
- Support for a senior citizen social club in Acton Green Church Hall.

The councillors have sought to ensure the recommended projects would provide value for money while meeting the needs of the community by dealing with local issues.

If you have an idea of how further improvements could be made in Southfield, come along to next ward forum on Wednesday 9 February 2011, to put forward your suggestions or contact your ward councillors or neighbourhood coordinator.

Further information on ward budgets can be found on the council web site, www.ealing.gov.uk/wardforum.

Supporting those who support others

The ward forum gave its support and more than £10,000 to W4 Youth, a youth project for 11-19 year olds in the Southfield area.

W4 Youth currently host a youth club, boxing training and drama clubs in St Peter’s Church Hall in Southfield Road, manage football teams for under-13s, 14s and 15s, and are about to set up a dance club.

Sally Chacatté, who founded the group in 2009, said: “This is our first funding for the group and we are very excited about the opportunity this creates for us to really get a number of different activities going for the young people in the area”.

Councillor Gary Malcolm said: “Of all the money that the ward forum spends, this will have a real long-term positive effect on many teenagers in Chiswick. This project is something that can really give youngsters a chance to put their energies into positive things.”

Anyone interested in further information about the youth project, can contact W4youth@yahoo.co.uk.

Go to www.ealing.gov.uk/wardforum for meeting dates
Q What inspired you to become a Councillor?
A The chance to use my influence to solve the many problems that residents have to deal with each year.

Q What do you like about living in Ealing?
A I have never wanted to move away since I moved here many years ago. I love the parks and the variety of food and cultures in the area.

Q Why are ward forums important?
A Because it puts residents and those running local businesses, in front of Councillors who can give advice and help out on local matters.

Q What council committee posts do you hold?
A Chair of my local ward forum, Southfield covering parts of Chiswick and Acton. Employment Committee and the Value for Money Specialist Scrutiny Panel.

Q What one thing will you change in your ward?
A Ensure that more residents have their say in getting the things they need such as local community groups finding money they need to support their causes.

Q Name one person who has influenced you in your life and how?
A My dad - who has shown me that if you put in the effort, you will succeed at the task in hand.
The ward with the highest proportion of households recycling, as well as the three wards with the greatest improvement in recycling rates will each be awarded £20,000 for environmental improvements in their local area, such as revamping a playground or installing new benches (possibly even made from recycled materials).

Southfield is currently ranked thirteenth out of the 23 wards in its recycling rate, recording an overall rate of 54.4% in September.

Instead of rewarding individuals, the scheme will benefit whole communities, meaning neighbours will be working together to do something positive for their area. Everyone living in the winning wards can have their say on how the money should be spent.

Almost all households in Ealing can recycle a wide range of materials on their doorstep, which include food waste, plastics, cardboard and glass. It is hoped the reward scheme will educate and encourage residents to make use of the wide range of recycling services available, in order to minimise the amount of waste we send to landfill.

To find out more about how the Recycling Reward Scheme works, as well as information on what you can recycle and tips on how to minimise the amount of waste you produce and of neighbouring wards in the borough, visit www.ealing.gov.uk/recycling.
Next Ward Forum Meeting
9 February 2011
Acton Green Church,
Cunnington Street,
Acton Green, W4 5ER
Remember to keep the map of your ward for future reference. The map also has contact details for your councillors and the co-ordinator.
You can send in your topics for discussion or local concerns to the neighbourhood co-ordinator before the meeting.
We will do our best to respond to questions on the night but if necessary we will seek more information and respond later.

news in brief
Foxes are not officially regarded as posing a direct threat to public health. Therefore, local authorities do not trap or destroy foxes.
If there are foxes in your garden, or if they are using it as a travel route, contact the following agencies for further advice:
- The Fox Project: Deterrence advice line 01892 826222 or www.foxproject.org.uk
- National Fox Welfare Society: 01933 411 996 or www.nfws.org.uk

The Sun Flower Seniors’ Club is held every second Tuesday of the month, from 2pm to 4pm at Acton Green Church Hall, Cunnington Street.
Membership is open to local residents from the age of 60 years old to take part in activities, including quiz sessions, painting and keep-fit.

Coming up
A new Grimebusters hotline service is now available. Residents can call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to report fly-tipping, graffiti and emergency cleansing problems. Action will be taken within 24 hours. Phone Grimebusters on: 020 8825 8825.

Safer Neighbourhood Team
Southfield
www.met.police.uk/teams/ealing
Tel: 020 8721 2946
In an emergency always dial 999.
In a non emergency call 0300 1212.

Envirocrime
Tel: 020 8825 6000 Mon-Fri, 9am-5pm Report it online at www.ealing.gov.uk Email: customers@ealing.gov.uk for litter, abandoned vehicles flytipping, graffitti removal, and flyposting.

Gary Malcolm (LD)
07813 205218
gary.malcolm@ealing.gov.uk

Andrew Steed (LD)
07736 649 664
andrew.steed@ealing.gov.uk

Harvey Rose (LD)
(020) 8995 9455
harvey.rose@ealing.gov.uk

SURGERIES
First Saturday of month, 10am–12noon, St Alban’s Church Hall, South Parade.
(to be held on 8 January 2011 instead of 1 January)

Your Neighbourhood Co-ordinator
Kofi Nyamah
Tel: 020 8825 5818
E: mywardmatters@ealing.gov.uk
www.ealing.gov.uk/wardforum

What is a ward forum?
Ward forums are public meetings where councillors and residents discuss local issues. They were set up in 2009, replacing the council’s area committees, and are supported by neighbourhood coordinators - council officers who follow up the business discussed at each meeting.

Each ward holds three forums a year where a wide range of issues and concerns are raised. Examples are improving parks and open spaces, traffic congestion and parking, crime and anti-social behaviour.

Ward forums are now an important part of the council’s dialogue with its residents.

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