

THE ROYAL BOROUGH OF KENSINGTON AND CHELSEA

CABINET - 26 OCTOBER 2006

REPORT BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF TRANSPORT, ENVIRONMENT AND LEISURE SERVICES

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENTS IN NORTH KENSINGTON

In this report I provide background information to support the allocation of £150,000 to the improvement of neglected sites in North Kensington. This allocation can be met from projected under spending in Transport, Environment and Leisure Services (TELS) in the current financial year. This is reflected in the main Quarter 2 Budget Monitoring report for TELS elsewhere on the agenda for this meeting.

FOR INFORMATION

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 While the Royal Borough has several beautiful parks and open spaces there are over twenty parcels of land in North Kensington that are either neglected or capable of significant improvement. These range in size and are owned by a variety of bodies including the Council, the TMO, community organisations, and private individuals and businesses. These are listed in Appendix A.
- 1.2 Pressure to improve these sites comes from a number of sources. The Community Strategy is perhaps the main driver. Aim 1 in the Environment and Transport section is 'To protect and improve the borough's environment by protecting and enhancing the borough's residential and historic character, services and amenities, trees, parks and open space'. This is reflected in the Council's Local Area Agreement, which is, in effect the delivery mechanism for the Community Strategy:
 - in outcome 11 - to further improve street cleanliness, particularly in all wards north of Notting Hill Gate, and
 - in outcome 13 - to improve the safety and attractiveness of social housing estates in all wards north of Notting Hill Gate.

1.3 In addition such improvements support the aims of the Parks Strategy, the Environment Strategy, the North Kensington Environment Project and the Cleaner Greener initiative.

2.0 DELIVERING THE IMPROVEMENTS

2.1 I propose to deliver these improvements through the existing North Kensington Environment Project. Members may recall that this project was originally set up in 2004 with an allocation from Neighbourhood Renewal Fund for a two-year period. The aim of the project was to undertake environmental improvements at that time in St Charles and Golborne wards and crucially, to do so, with the support and involvement of the local community. The Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Environmental Management and Leisure, Councillor Paget-Brown, and Celia Rees-Jenkins, the resident representative of the Kensington and Chelsea Partnership provided direction for this project through a steering group. The project has since been funded through local growth in TELS for a further three-year period and has been expanded to a wider area in North Kensington. This funding has allowed for the appointment of a new North Kensington Environment Manager, Mr Terry Oliver, who has been in post since August 29th 2006. The steering group has also been enlarged to include Cllr Dez O'Neill, and Cllr Dr Iain Hanham.

2.2 The project has succeeded in delivering a number of innovative environmental improvements since it was set up and has the capacity to achieve as much as possible with the additional funding in the current year. The main focus will be to improve those sites that have already been prioritised by the Steering Group for action and use the funding to make visible, sustainable improvements that will be valued by local people. It is expected that this will comprise a mixture of landscaping works and other environmental improvements. Those sites that have been prioritised are annotated in Appendix A.

3.0 COMMENTS OF GROUP FINANCE OFFICER

3.1 This initiative can be funded by virement from general business group underspendings. The anticipated underspendings are identified and the recommendations included in the Quarter 2 Budget Monitoring report elsewhere on this agenda.

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APPENDIX A

	Site Location	Top priority	Ward
1.	Longlands Court		Pembridge
2.	Portobello Court		Colville
3.	1-13 Colville Sq		Colville
4.	Acklam Rd junction with Blagrove Rd next to number 1		Colville
5.	Acklam Rd opp Muslim Cultural Heritage site	✓	Golborne
6.	Munro Mews between sheds 1 -20	✓	Golborne
7.	Elkstone Rd Junction with Golborne Rd	✓	Golborne
8.	Kensal New Town Hazelwood Tower	✓	Golborne
9.	Kensal Rise junction with Ladbroke Grove	✓	Golborne
10.	Oxford Gardens adjacent to number 51		Colville
11.	Malton Mews side of 59 Cambridge Gardens		Colville
12.	Malton Rd opp Nu line workshops	✓	Colville
13.	St. Marks Rd opp MRC (under Westway)	✓	Notting Barns
14.	115 St Helens Gdns		Norland
15.	Girton Villas, 115 Cambridge Gardens		Notting Barns
16.	Kingsdown Close		Notting Barns
17.	Silchester Rd next to 5 aside pitches	✓	Notting Barns
18.	Stable Way	✓	Notting Barns
19.	Freston Rd		Notting Barns
20.	Bard Rd - end of Road		Notting Barns
21.	Bard Rd – Private car park		Norland
22.	1-11 Norland Rd	✓	Norland
23.	Portobello Rd Railway Bridge -	✓	Colville

	railings		
24.	Acklam Rd, close to St Ervans Rd	✓	Golborne
25.	Trellick Tower – public space at the front		Golborne
26.	Jct Malton Rd/St Marks Rd		Notting Barns
27.	Kingsdown Close		Notting Barns