

# They've got it covered

Southall Green ward forum has spent more than £100,000 over the past three years improving Southall Recreation Ground – its local park.

The extensive programme of work has included new gravel footpaths, more trees and flower beds, installing public exercise machines and a new arched entrance gate leading from The Common on the south side of the park.

It was funded by the forum, thanks to input from the local people who attend its meetings and helped decide how to spend the money. The site's dilapidated and long-closed pavilion has been demolished and the mound on which it once stood grassed over and planted. The area is now reached by steps made from old railway sleepers.

An underused tennis court has been transformed into a cricket practice area, surrounded with new high quality perimeter netting. This has been a popular decision with local young people who have packed the two-pitch facility throughout the summer. The nearby Featherstone High School paid for a welcome new artificial cricket

pitch, which is used throughout the day by both students and the public.

Older Southall residents have been particularly pleased with the two new seating areas, covered by canopies shielding people from sun and rain while they watch the world go by. For some, these are a nostalgic reminder of similar public facilities in the Middle East and the Indian sub-continent.

However, for council officers, finding a suitable and durable canopy design was quite a challenge. Most manufacturers could only suggest something adapted from other uses such as a bus shelter, a cycle store or a covered walkway – and these included fragile polycarbonate sheeting. But Drayton Fencing, which is one of the council's approved suppliers, came up with an all-metal shelter which did the trick. Word of these new canopies has got around and more are planned for other Southall parks – also supported by ward forum funds. 

## Get involved:

### GO TO A MEETING

**Cleveland** 24 October, 7.30pm, Gurnell Grove Community Centre

**Ealing Broadway** 23 October, 7.30pm, Ealing Town Hall

**Ealing Common** 22 October, 7.30pm, London Ealing Hotel, Hanger Lane

**East Acton** 8 October, 7.30pm, John Perryn Primary School

**Elthorne** 10 October, 7.30pm, Oaklands Primary School

**Greenford Broadway** 8 October, 7pm, Ealing Education Centre, Mansell Road

**Greenford Green** 28 October, 7pm, Ken Acock Centre, Carr Road

**Lady Margaret** 8 October, 7pm, Lady Margaret Primary School

**North Greenford** 9 October, 7pm, Horsenden Primary School

**Northfield** 9 October, 7.30pm, St Pauls Church Hall

**Northolt Mandeville** 23 October, 7pm, Islip Manor Community Centre

**Northolt West End** 24 October, 7pm, Viking Primary School

**Norwood Green** 10 October, 7pm, Havelock Primary School

**South Acton** 23 October, 7.30pm, Centre for Armenian Information and Advice, Mill Hill Road

**Southfield** 6 November, 7.30pm, Scout Hut, Rugby Road

**Walpole** 8 October, 7pm, Room 0.10, Perceval House, Ealing

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