

# Southall Green Ward Forum: 12 February 2014

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## Agenda item 7

### Ward projects 2010-2014 – review of projects and achievements

As this will be the last meeting before the local government elections in May, it is appropriate to review Southall Green ward's projects and achievements since the council's current administration was elected in 2010.

#### Introduction

Ward forums have been held three times per year at a central venue – The Dominion Centre, The Green. During this year, the Dominion Centre has undergone a transformation – accommodating the re-sited Southall library – and the ward has met at the Manor House, opposite.

Meeting attendance has averaged 18 residents throughout the period, and this has been recently on an upward trend. Attendance during this year has averaged 27, which is particularly encouraging as fewer than 16 people attended each of the 2010/11 meetings.

#### Ward projects

The ward has continued to receive a council budget, to be spent on local projects determined by the ward councillors in discussion with residents. This has totalled £40,000 a year – reduced in 2012 to £37,500. Since 2010, 35 projects have been supported, costing a total of £210,030.

Examples are:

2010 - 2011

Regina Road	removing street benches	1,500
Regina Road	six new street litter bins	4,500
Southall Rec'n Ground	Public exercise equipment	4,000
ditto	canopies for park benches	14,000
Montague Rd / The Green	CCTV camera – move from The Green to Montague Road	1,000
Brent Road	residents alley gating scheme	1,000

## 2011 - 2012

Dagmar Mews	parking restrictions	3,500
The Common	remodel parking, to help traffic flow	3,000
Western Road	improvements to grassed area by Priory Road junction	5,000
Southall Rec'n Ground	New footpaths, tree planting, remodel tennis court for cricket practices, more public exercise machines	84,500
Leamington Rd / Scotts Rd	new street trees	880
Havelock Family Centre	contribution towards building improvements – from all Southall wards	5,000

## 2012 - 2013

Age Link	contribution to older people's support group – all Southall wards contributed	1,000
Featherstone Terrace	parking restrictions outside social club	1,000
Norwood Road	pedestrian crossing feasibility study	2,000
Southall Rec' Ground	further improvement work: inc. more exercise machines	12,000
PRSSV	Pandit Ram Sahai Sangit Vidyalaya – contribution to music charity – all Southall wards contributed	1,000
Diamond Jubilee celebrations	street party in Adelaide Road	1,000

### Projects in progress

The ward's most successful project has undoubtedly been the work to improve Southall Recreation Ground – where to date £114,500 of ward funds has been spent. In addition, Featherstone High School contributed as further £10,000 towards the cost of an artificial cricket pitch. This significant expenditure has been possible by the ward 'saving up' its budget over a number of years, while an overall renovation plan was developed. This included the resolution of long standing difficulties – such as anti-social behaviour around the Rec's disused and derelict pavilion, which was subsequently demolished.

Not all the approved ward projects have been brought to a successful conclusion. For example, the £13,000 budget allocated in 2011/12 for installing CCTV in Southall Recreation Ground has not been possible to date because of technical difficulties.

### **Ward Issues**

Ward forums discuss much more than local projects. Regular reports from the Police's Safer Neighbourhoods team and the Council's Envirocrime officers have kept residents updated on the work of other departments and agencies.

Wider initiatives for the improvement of Southall, such as the Broadway Boulevard project, Crossrail and redevelopment of the old Gas Works – have been discussed extensively at the ward forum. These will collectively transform old Southall over the coming years.

Occasionally, other organisations have attended meetings to make presentations, or provided information leaflets for distribution.

Individual issues raised by residents have been taken up by councillors and their supporting officers in the council's Neighbourhood Governance department.

### **Conclusion**

Ward forums have continued to meet the needs of Southall Green residents, to discuss important local issues with their elected representatives.

The council's Scrutiny function has been charged this year with reviewing the progress of Neighbourhood Governance. Scrutiny last examined the work of ward forums in 2009 and concluded that the then one-year pilot of ward forums should be made permanent.

Scrutiny held their assessment meeting last November, which was preceded by a call from the public for comments about ward forums. The responses received were overwhelmingly positive and Scrutiny's preliminary conclusions are that ward forums should continue to develop their role of enhancing local democracy and improving residents' awareness of council activity.

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