

Annual Report 2013

CITY LIVING
LOCAL LIFE

KENSINGTON
AND CHELSEA

citylivinglocallife.org



THE ROYAL BOROUGH OF
KENSINGTON
AND CHELSEA



Foreword



When I became Leader of the Council in May this year, I committed us to continue to listen to our residents from all parts of the borough and try to keep in mind what residents want, but it is not always easy.

In these challenging economic times, our focus remains on working with our residents and we are fortunate to have a variety of talent, skills and knowledge in the people who live and work here. We remain committed to tapping into this, to encourage those who want, to become actively involved in their local community.

Part of my commitment as Leader of the Council is to invest in getting alongside residents and community groups to understand your views and ideas and encourage my fellow councillors to work

together with communities across our wards to improve quality of life in the Royal Borough.

There is no better way of translating these words into action than via 'City Living, Local Life' – a programme where local people, other community members and councillors work together to identify local issues that matter and find practical ways to make a difference. It gives small amounts of money to the best ideas generated by you.

I commend the work of my fellow councillors, officers and active participation of residents and local groups who continue to bring alive the aspirations behind the initiative.

Cllr Nick Paget-Brown
Leader, Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea

Introduction to the Annual Report, 2013

It gives me great pleasure to introduce the second, public annual report of City Living, Local Life.



This report marks the mid-point in an initial four-year programme for the initiative and includes information on what has been undertaken in the past year; a snapshot of activities across wards; some case studies to show the difference being made in communities; and looks to the future of the initiative over the next two years.

The strength of the initiative is that it is designed to encourage us, as councillors, to work with residents and community groups to take forward ideas at a ward level in order to develop projects which suit local circumstances.

The range of projects, ideas and initiatives contained within this annual report is testimony to this and I am delighted that City Living, Local Life continues to flourish, and most importantly, is having an impact on residents across the Royal Borough.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Gerard Hargreaves'.

Cllr Gerard Hargreaves
Cabinet Member for Voluntary Organisations and Resident Engagement



What is City Living, Local Life?

Launched in September 2011, City Living, Local Life is committed to building stronger connections between people in local areas. It enables residents and community groups to take a lead role in bringing about practical, positive change in their neighbourhoods.

Ward councillors in the borough are at the heart of this work with residents and local community groups. The aim is to build on what is already going on in communities, encouraging local people to come forward with their experiences of neighbourhood issues and working with ward councillors to come up with solutions. The objective is to offer opportunities for local people to interact with one and other which could pave the way forward for improved local resilience.



Simple
ideas
start
something
good



598 4622

How does it work?

Each ward that has joined City Living, Local Life has access to support from a Council officer who works with ward councillors and funding of up to £20,000 each financial year.

Once ideas for activities and projects are received, ward councillors must decide which ideas get taken forward based on their ward priorities, and the aims of City Living, Local Life, which are to:

- enhance understanding of local areas (including history, geography, demography, local assets and community resources);
- build stronger connections and relationships within communities (networking within and beyond ward boundaries);
- help to identify, assess and prioritise improvements in local areas;
- devise practical solutions that engage and involve local people; and
- work with local people and organisations to deliver those solutions.

So what's been happening in 2013?

This year, City Living, Local Life has:

- funded a total of **141** projects across **17** wards;
- contributed around **£195,000** towards a range of projects including some which have improved neighbourliness, brought generations together through creative arts, and offered life skills and social activities to improve well being and to reduce social isolation;
- to date signed up **1300** residents and community members to City Living, Local Life news;
- published over **350** articles about local activities in the City Living, Local Life newsletter and;
- supported over **15** local events where residents have had the opportunity to get involved in City Living, Local Life.

Details of ward projects across the borough, can be found on pages **8-17**

A quick glance across the borough....

The information below is a snapshot of activities and is not intended to be a full account of everything that councillors and residents have been supporting in their wards. For further information and to know what councillors are prioritising for their wards in 2014 please get in touch with us or visit www.citylivinglocallife.org. Expenditure included in this report covers from 1 January 2013 to 1 December 2013.

Abingdon ward councillors focused attention on supporting small improvements to the local area that would achieve high impact. With this in mind, they contributed towards a review of Abingdon's Conservation Area Policy via the Edwardes Square and Scarsdale Abingdon Association by funding an architectural historian to assist in the review. Councillors have also funded a volunteer maintained weather station in Pembroke Square and

match funded the enhancement of gardens surrounding Chatsworth Court Garden by the Earl's Court Road. Councillors also committed to coordinating the promotion of uniformed youth organisations and other activities for young people, both in the ward and in the borough. Total spend for the calendar year in Abingdon ward is **£13,580.38**
www.rbkc.gov.uk/abingdon



Brompton ward councillors have retained their focus on supporting residents to improve the built environment around them and funded the Brompton and Thurloe Residents' Associations to begin preparations to develop the green space on which the Yalta Memorial is situated – opposite the V&A. Councillors have been communicating with residents on the results of the ward survey that was carried out last year. Residents and councillors are considering improving the cycle route beside the Brompton Oratory. Councillors also agreed a contribution towards the production of a uniformed organisations' leaflet. To date councillors have agreed **£7,934.41** for local projects

www.rbkc.gov.uk/brompton

In **Campden** ward councillors prioritised loneliness and isolation amongst older residents. Open Age and Kensington & Chelsea Forum for Older Residents received approval for their proposal to offer weekly

social activity at St George's Church and develop a group of volunteers. Volunteers act as ambassadors by also doing outreach to identify isolated older people. Open Age was funded £9,631 and The Forum was funded £6,698 in January 2013 (read more on page 20). Councillors have allocated **£17,493.36**
www.rbkc.gov.uk/campden

Colville ward councillors continued their engagement with the Colville Forum and its members to identify local issues and inform ward projects. This year funding has been awarded for making a short film titled "Once upon a time at All Saints Road" by the London Film Foundation as well as to Portobello Dance School to help local children take up dance. Councillors are actively seeking out projects and ideas through direct contact with residents and to date have allocated **£19,965.00**

www.rbkc.gov.uk/colville

In **Cremorne** ward, councillors prioritised projects for young people and efforts to identify the needs of older residents. This resulted in funding a range of different activities with support from the Chelsea Theatre, the Chelsea Youth Club and other local organisations. Young people were supported to take part in a series of 'open mic' sessions at the Theatre. Councillors met with local older residents in Chelsea over afternoon tea to hear from them about their concerns. Officers from the Council's Adult Social Care service will support councillors to achieve resolution to residents issues wherever possible. Cremorne Residents' Association was funded to organise the installation of a historical information board in Westfield Park. Councillors have awarded **£8,013.55**
www.rbkc.gov.uk/mycremorne



In **Earl's Court** ward, councillors have supported Solidarity Sport to provide sporting equipment for after school clubs and a new local community newspaper called "The Court". Projects to encourage neighbourliness and interaction are currently being developed as well as activities for older people and environmental projects. This year, councillors have allocated **£5,125.29**

www.rbkc.gov.uk/myearlscourt

The priorities in **Golborne** ward include bringing local people together and creating a sense of community through events and celebrations; supporting unemployed people with training and developing skills for employment; and arts and cultural activities for all the community. Ward councillors have funded a number of projects to address these priorities ranging from IT training for Moroccan women, gardening equipment for a community kitchen garden to a theatre project targeted at young people, and support to the



Golborne Forum. Councillors have allocated a total of **£19,367.30**

www.rbkc.gov.uk/golborne

In **Hans Town** ward, councillors commissioned a ward-wide survey earlier in the year and followed this up with a public meeting to discuss these priorities with local residents. Councillors agreed funding towards

a blue plaque to commemorate former US Statesman, abolitionist, orator and former local resident, Frederick Douglass. They have also funded the restoration of a World War I memorial in Holy Trinity Church, Sloane Square and have supported the Chelsea Society with their 'Chelsea in the Great War' exhibition. Total spend is **£7,470.17**

www.rbkc.gov.uk/hanstown

Councillors in **Holland** ward have been focussing on getting in touch with their residents through a ward newsletter which was distributed in early September. The newsletter called for new ideas and highlighted some local organisations of interest including the newly formed Kensington and Chelsea Circle, a community based membership organisation open to anyone over the age of 50 and the Kensington and Chelsea Foundation. Councillors are working to involve young people in local life and received support from



volunteers to help promote uniformed youth organisations in the ward. Councillors have spent **£3,407.95**

www.rbkc.gov.uk/holland

Norland ward councillors wanted to ensure local people could access local information online and have funded the Pavlova Diaries (now known as The Notting Hill Post) to host information about local events, activities, promotions etc. They have also funded another project, Aspire 2 inspire to help young

people become job ready and gain access to mentors. Norland ward has also prioritised support to older residents, by setting up regular lunch clubs facilitated by AgeUK Kensington and Chelsea. Working alongside local amenity groups and the council's Community Garden Team, councillors also supported the improvement to planters along Holland Park Avenue. Total spend to date in Norland ward is **£12,745.00**

www.rbkc.gov.uk/norland

In **Notting Barns** ward, councillors have instigated a range of community projects to improve life for local people. A number of community events were funded including the St. Helen's Festival – a large event which attracted hundreds of local residents. Smaller community events such as Lancaster West Estate fun day and Silchester Estate summer party were assisted. An IT support programme for travellers' children at Stable Way is being



provided, and an adult employment programme run by the Clement James Centre has also been supported. So far in 2013, councillors have spent **£11,790.60**

www.rbkc.gov.uk/nottingbarns

Pembridge ward councillors wanted to find out more from local residents about what would help make the ward a better place. A survey was developed and this revealed that outreach work with older and isolated residents was a strong priority with nearly fifty percent of people indicating this issue. The majority of comments related to traffic and road safety. Other suggestions included better

management of rubbish clearance, trees/greenery and dogs. There was support for community events and projects for children and young people. Councillors have allocated **£8,325.21**

www.rbkc.gov.uk/pembridge

Older people's isolation is a significant priority in **Queen's Gate** ward – the ward survey identified this as one of the top three priorities in the area. Christ Church Kensington has been funded to offer support to isolated older residents in the ward. Eighteen residents are being supported on a regular basis with outings or home visits and other social



gatherings. Councillors have also supported the promotion of uniformed organisations in the borough. Total expenditure to date is **£9,302.40**

www.rbkc.gov.uk/queensgate

Redcliffe ward councillors commissioned a ward-wide survey and identified a number of issues such as tackling isolation amongst older people, supporting local youth projects and environmental improvements.

Councillors have also funded a leaflet that details provision of uniformed organisations for young people and an installation performance in Brompton Cemetery. Total spend this year is **£4,304.11**

www.rbkc.gov.uk/redcliffe



Royal Hospital ward councillors funded a number of projects over the summer. These included funding for a new washing machine for the Chelsea Methodist Church to support local homeless people (read more on page 22) and a garden and environmental improvement scheme. Councillors are considering how best to gather further information to prioritise support to local projects and ideas and are considering a ward-wide survey. Councillors have allocated **£16,774.24**

www.rbkc.gov.uk/royalhospital

Saint Charles ward councillors prioritised support to a range of projects from a life coaching project (see page 18) to the street party organised by Dalgano residents, an intergenerational play, and the children's carnival by the Children's and Parents' Carnival Association. Councillors will continue

to focus on bringing communities together and have agreed to fund a local winter festival which will bring together different communities. In 2013, and over the two financial years, councillors have allocated **£27,319.00**

www.rbkc.gov.uk/stcharles

Stanley ward councillors wanted to involve residents in their ward to help identify local issues to help produce a survey which has been sent out to all households in the ward. The results of this survey will help councillors make decisions about what kinds of activities to support in the future. Stanley ward councillors also supported the production of a leaflet for young peoples' uniformed organisations. To date, this year, councillors have allocated **£302.41**

www.rbkc.gov.uk/stanley





Some local stories...

St. Charles ward: Improving local people's life chances

Life coaching is being increasingly explored as a way of tackling issues such as worklessness, loss of confidence, disengagement, family difficulties and more. It involves looking at each individual's needs and allowing them to set out what they want to achieve. Trained and qualified coaches then provide personal support to each individual and guide them to access appropriate services.

City Living. Local Life is currently in its second year of funding a life coaching project in St Charles Ward. Tara Kennedy, Project Development Manager at the Dalgarno Centre said: *"It has exceeded our expectations in the success and change it has brought to our coachees"*

Ward Councillors agreed to fund life coaching in St. Charles, for two years with a grant of £20,000, which is being provided by the

Clement James Centre. Following an introductory session, eight residents from St. Charles ward have each received six one to one coaching sessions.

Over the two years, thirty two residents in total will have received life coaching. In addition, the programme offers the opportunity for the coachees and other local residents to attend a two day accredited life coaching course to help them consider seeking further training to become coaches themselves.

The project is reporting positive results for some of the coachees including career changes, signing up for leadership courses and gaining new employment. One of the coachees is now receiving counselling for issues that arose during the coaching sessions. Another coachee has started up her own business as a life coach and is offering her services for free to other residents who feel they may benefit from it.



Councillor Pat Healy of St Charles ward says:
"I am delighted that the life coaching project has proved such a success, not just in helping the St Charles residents who have been through the process to begin to fulfil their own potential, but as we hoped, some of them are already giving back by using their experience to offer support to others who might otherwise have fallen by the wayside."

Adam's Story



Local resident, Adam, says life coaching has made a significant difference in his life. He was drawn to the programme as a way of helping him focus on his aspiration of becoming a chef.

"I work Thursdays to Sundays on a construction site. But the life coaching allowed me to achieve certain ambitions. Rather than just earning quick cash, I've now learnt skills which have helped me to focus on my goals, like personal management, design skills for a logo for some biscuits and cakes I'm making, and overall confidence as well"

For more information, please contact Tara Kennedy at tara@dalgarnotrust.org.uk or visit www.dalgarnotrust.org.uk

Campden ward: Tackling isolation amongst older people

Ward councillors in Camden have prioritised addressing loneliness and isolation amongst older residents as a priority and have funded a project that aims to identify and support older people living in the ward. Following contact with older people the project works to support them to take part in social activities and interaction with others in their local area.

The project is delivered by two organisations, Open Age and Kensington and Chelsea Forum for Older Residents. Open Age provides a weekly social activity at St George's Church on Wednesday afternoons. Kensington and Chelsea Forum for Older Residents has established the Campden Ward Society and negotiated free meeting space at the Dryland Business Centre for the group. Extensive

outreach and publicity work involving local public services and others has resulted in sixteen older residents receiving regular access to opportunities to socialise and interact. This includes a programme of talks and visits out based on themes such as art, history and opera, wine tasting, lunches and upcoming trip to Houses of Parliament. The project aims to create a pool of local volunteers who can host activities in the future and facilitate ongoing interaction between older residents.

Councillor Robert Freeman, of Campden ward said: *"Isolation and loneliness is a serious problem in Campden Ward as it is in much of London. I am delighted that we have been able to provide older residents with a programme of planned activities and meetings that has helped to address this and to foster new friendships"*.



B's Story

B* is in her 60s and has lived in Campden ward for all of her life. She lives in social housing on Peel Street and used to live there with her twin, who sadly passed away two years ago. Although B often appears quite confident, she has found it difficult since her bereavement as she was so close to her twin. B started attending the group when it was established at the beginning of the year and has been a regular ever since. She has even given a talk to the rest of the group on Campden's local history, as she is a long term resident in the area, and has a family history here. Since coming to the Campden Ward social group B has found out more about the other opportunities and activities available in the borough. She has also started to attend a lunch group in the north of borough *"[I] like the fact that people are more or less the same age. At the end of the day we are on the same boat. It is nice to have company"*.

*B is a pseudonym

For more information visit,
www.openage.org.uk and www.ageuk.org.uk

Royal Hospital ward: Supporting vulnerable people

West London Churches Homeless Concern (WLCHC), in partnership with churches of different denominations across West London, work together to help relieve poverty among street homeless people by providing accommodation, advice and support.

Chelsea Methodist Church on the Kings Road provides a night shelter and a range of year-round support services including a laundry, clothing and washing facilities. A casework service including offering advice, advocacy and practical support to help find solutions to homelessness, is also offered.

Royal Hospital councillors decided to support the work of this local charity and the service it provides via a one-off capital grant for the purchase of a new washing machine. A grant was awarded in August 2013, for £5,000.

Councillor Emma Will, said *"I am delighted we have the ward money to invest in an important local charity and to use this funding to help support those that – for whatever reason – find themselves homeless in the borough"*.

Geoff Ball, a project manager at WLCHC said: *"The ethos of WLCHC has always been that we are open to all. Our charity is one of the few that maintains an open-door policy, welcoming all who come rather than only those who have been referred to us. The grant from the Royal Hospital City Living, Local Life fund has been invaluable to us in continuing our most needed services to local people"*.

For further information about the work of WLCHC visit: www.wlchc.org



Communicating information

City Living, Local Life has a range of ways to engage with and communicate information to residents and interested parties.

This includes the website, www.citylivinglocallife.org, which acts as the main online communication tool for the initiative. The website provides a host of information such as information about projects, contact details for Councillors, financial reports, 'How To' guides and specific ward by ward updates and news. There is also a Community Noticeboard blog, a twitter account and monthly 'Community Cuppa' e-newsletter, which all offer residents and subscribers a variety of ways to both gain and



provide local information. This year City Living Local Life has seen an increase in its online channels of communication.

City Living, Local Life has also continued to support a number of other local websites, such as 'Love Golborne', 'The Notting Hill Post' (previously Pavlova Diaries), and 'Notting Barns Live'. In addition to this, Councillors in Earl's Court have also provided funding towards a new website:

www.welovethecourt.com

Meeting residents face to face

A key part of City Living, Local Life has been to maintain a consistent presence at public events and around the borough. This helps raise awareness of the initiative, encourages ownership of local activities by residents, and helps councillors hear about local issues from residents themselves.



This year, City Living, Local Life has supported around 15 local events. These have ranged from volunteer events to a Health Fair for older people and a local Christmas street fete. There have also been several stand alone events around the borough, providing opportunities to local people to find out more and share their ideas.

City Living, Local Life uses a variety of materials to inform and engage residents. These usually include information leaflets, postcards, ideas slips with ballot boxes, oyster card holders with a fold out information leaflet, pens, balloons and stickers. This year, a collaboration with Teapigs saw a 'Have a Cuppa on us' card – working with Teapigs to provide a free teabag within a card detailing how to sign up to the City Living, Local Life 'Community Cuppa' monthly e-bulletin.



Looking ahead to 2014 and beyond....

City Living, Local Life is now mid-way through its initial four-year life span and it will be important to learn from the past two years' delivery to ensure that the next two years reflect growth, demonstrate evidence of impact in local areas, and support local leadership amongst ward councillors.

Some of the priorities for City Living, Local Life moving forward include:

- effective support to ward councillors will remain a top priority, so that the initiative maintains its identity as a councillor-led programme;
- officers and councillors will continue to offer a variety of ways for residents to engage so that local issues can come to the surface;
- attracting and retaining interest and involvement from local people and partners is key to how successful City Living, Local Life is, so continuing to follow up contact and maintaining a regular link with all stakeholders will remain important;
- each ward is different and the priorities within them will reflect this. Local projects will therefore look different from ward to ward and it will be important to allow this to flourish to maintain the individuality within each ward; and
- local ward councillors and residents know their areas best and officers will continue to rely on this understanding when supporting local priorities.



My ideas I
want to share

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For further information about City Living,
Local Life or our other projects and activities:

Write to us: **Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea,**
Community Engagement Team, Town Hall, Hornton Street, W8 7NX
Call us: **020 7598 4633** Email us: **locallife@rbkc.gov.uk**
Visit us: **citylivinglocallife.org** Follow us: **@KClocallife**

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Questions? Need this guide in another format?

Contact the Community Engagement Team on **020 7598 4633**
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