

kensington news

SPECIAL EDITION

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STOP PRESS

An exhibition celebrating 10 years of success in Kensington is now taking place at St George's Hall for 10 weeks.

A future built on strong foundations

Kensington Regeneration's ten-year programme comes to an end on March 31st. Significant progress has been made over the past decade, but further regeneration work will continue in the area. This special issue of Kensington News looks back at the highlights of the Partnership's work, and ahead to the projects that will shape the future of Kensington – a future that is now being built on strong foundations.



Welcome to the final edition

Welcome to the final issue of Kensington News which looks back at the way the area has changed for the better over the last ten years.

In the following pages, we put the spotlight on the improvements that have been made with the help of Kensington Regeneration funding, and the local people who have played a key role in the Partnership's achievements.

What is clear, however, is that the area will continue to benefit from Kensington Regeneration's work long after March 31st.

The Partnership's legacy includes major new facilities like Kensington Community Sports Centre, the Academy of St Francis of Assisi and the Life Bank. All of these will be used by future generations of local people.

Similarly, the new housing projects that are currently being developed in the area are set to become vibrant new Kensington communities of the future.

In addition, many of Kensington Regeneration's successful projects and services will continue to be available to local people, including the Community Wardens and HEAT.

The area will also continue to benefit from the Partnership's work in other, less visible, ways.

For example, residents who have found work, or taken up training opportunities with the Partnership's help, will be able to carry on using their new skills and experience to compete successfully in the jobs market in the future.

Similarly, increased levels of attainment in Kensington schools will help local children and young people to aim higher as they progress through their lives.

These are all good reasons to be positive about the future of Kensington. And what's equally encouraging is the fact that a number of other major improvement projects are now in progress in the area.

They include the final stage of the Edge Lane Project and the creation of hundreds of new homes in central Edge Hill as part of the Housing Market Renewal programme.

In addition, Kensington Market is finally being redeveloped and plans are in the pipeline for the creation of the new Jubilee Park on land around Kensington Community Sports Centre and the introduction of a major new play facility at Botanic Park.

Kensington Regeneration may be coming to an end, but the regeneration of Kensington will continue. As this newsletter shows, the progress that has been made in the area over the last decade means

there is now every reason to look forward to the future with confidence.



Lynn Spencer
Chief Executive
Kensington Regeneration

A place to learn, work and do business

In 2000, unemployment and poor levels of attainment by local children were identified as two of the biggest problems facing the area. Over the past ten years Kensington Regeneration has invested heavily in projects to improve attainment levels in local schools, raise skills levels in adults, help residents into jobs and support those considering self-employment as a career option.

Kensington Regeneration's work with local schools has been one of the outstanding successes of its work in the area.

A key feature of this programme has been to improve the facilities available to local people. For example, consultation revealed widespread support for a new secondary school for Kensington. Previously, local children attended a range of schools outside the area.

Kensington Regeneration therefore helped to create the multi-award-winning Academy of St Francis of Assisi, a new £21-million school in Newsham Park which was the first City Academy in the country to focus on the environment and sustainability as its specialism.

This theme was incorporated into the design of the building which includes a

range of high-tech 'green' features.

Then Prime Minister Tony Blair was the VIP guest at the official opening of the Academy, which has achieved year-on-year improvements in its GCSE grades and SATs results.

As a result, the number of Kensington students achieving five or more A* to C grades at GCSE level is now 25 per cent higher than in 2002.

New facilities

Along similar lines, the Partnership also supported the rebuilding of Kensington Infant and Junior School and the creation of the new Field of Dreams Nursery at St Sebastian's Primary School.

One of the other key aims of Kensington Regeneration's work with schools has been to give children access to new learning opportunities and experiences.

The Music for Life project has been an outstanding example of this aspect of the programme, forging a unique link between the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra and the area's five local primary schools.

Each school has had its own RLPO musician who has taken a weekly music lesson. There have also been regular performances at the schools, for local groups and even at the Philharmonic Hall.

Funding from Kensington Regeneration has also helped to provide additional equipment and resources for schools, and to enhance family learning opportunities in the area.

Examples have ranged from providing extra laptops and white boards to funding new parents' rooms

and outdoor play areas.

The success of these and other projects is reflected in the achievements of the schools in the area. For example, all the primaries have recently recorded their best-ever SATs results in one or more subjects, and the Academy topped a Government league table as the fastest-improving school in the country at GCSE level.

Attendance levels in local schools, and post-16 staying-on rates, are now better than the Liverpool average.

And there have also been some notable successes in terms of Ofsted reports, including St Sebastian's Primary which has achieved three outstanding reports in a row – a record matched by only 20 schools in the country.

As well as working with schools, Kensington Regeneration has also been successful in helping older residents to acquire new skills.

Flexible courses

A key base for this work is Kensington Community Learning Centre (KCLC), which was recognised as one of the best centres of its type in the country in the 2008 UK Online Centres Awards.

More recently, the centre was honoured as Social Regeneration Project of the Year in the prestigious Regeneration and Renewal Awards.

KCLC has developed flexible ways of delivering computer training, as well as courses in literacy, numeracy and social skills.

Another acclaimed Partnership initiative has been its Bursary Project which has provided financial support to local residents on full-time degree courses in return for their involvement in community projects in the area.

A total of around 200 bursaries have been awarded to students aged from 18 to over 60, around a third of them from ethnic minorities.

These students have helped local community groups, voluntary organisations and schools in the area carrying out many hours of volunteer work.

“ Kensington's five primary schools have achieved some remarkable SATs results and Ofsted reports over the past few years. ”



The Academy of St Francis of Assisi

The Academy of St Francis of Assisi has received many plaudits in its short history since being officially opened by then Prime Minister Tony Blair.

The design of the eco-friendly building quickly won several awards from organisations like the prestigious Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors.

Then Government figures revealed that the Academy was the fastest-improving school in the country at GCSE level.

More recently, the Government has hailed the school's green approach as a

'shining example of education for sustainable development' in a new report from Ofsted.

The Academy was the first City Academy in the country to take the environment as its specialism and this theme permeates all aspects of life at the school.

For example, the building itself incorporates a solar atrium which brings in warmth and natural light in the winter, and solar shading to prevent overheating in summer.

Rainwater is collected for re-use to minimise water

consumption, while photo-voltaic cells convert energy from the sun into electricity for the school.

Other features include an east-west layout (to maximise solar benefits), super-insulated roofs and walls and some roofs covered with sedum plants to provide a habitat for birds.

In terms of the day-to-day running of the school an Eco Council was formed which saw the students themselves taking the lead on issues such as writing an eco-policy for the Academy, tackling litter and recycling ink cartridges and mobile phones.



Students at the Academy of St Francis of Assisi benefit from its state-of-the-art facilities.



The railway industry has been just one of the sectors targeted by the Partnership's job and training initiatives.

Kensington Regeneration has also provided funding for education and training courses run at community venues like the Life Bank and Kensington Fields Community Centre.

The Partnership has also supported basic skills training and courses in English for speakers of other languages.

It has also worked hard to improve the employability of local people through initiatives to provide residents with job and training advice, work placements and support with accessing specific sectors of the jobs market.

Employers have also been encouraged to take on Kensington residents via recruitment subsidies.

Other key factors in the Partnership's successful track record

of helping residents into jobs have included the work of JET Eastern Link – Kensington Regeneration has funded five full-time JET workers who offer specialist information, advice guidance and counselling to local people in search of jobs or training places.

The Partnership has also worked closely with Liverpool City Council to develop joint job-related projects, particularly in the retail, ICT, sport, health and construction sectors.

A Transitional Employment Programme has provided large numbers of residents with 13 weeks of on-the-job training which has often led to a permanent job.

Another project – Jobs Boost – has offered residents a flexible package of support tailored to the individual needs of each jobseeker.

This support – which has included contributions to the costs of childcare, training, transport, clothing or special equipment – has helped people move into a wide variety of jobs, from the NHS to crane driving.

A separate initiative called LIFE – the Local Initiative for Employment – has provided residents with 12-month work placements, including help with training and job search and a wage subsidy for employers.

Special programmes have also been developed to equip local people with in-demand skills, for example those that can lead to heavy goods vehicle driving jobs or a career in the railway industry, seafaring or aviation.

In total, more than 1,500 Kensington residents have found work with the Partnership's help over the last ten years.

Kensington Community Learning Centre

Kensington Community Learning Centre (KCLC) has been one of Kensington Regeneration's flagship projects.

This was underlined in 2008 when the centre was honoured as the country's Social Enterprise Project of the Year in the prestigious Regeneration and Renewal Awards.

The judges said that KCLC had achieved 'exceptional' results in terms of improving the prospects of local people of all ages, especially those from diverse and hard-to-reach backgrounds.

It has done this by offering flexible computer training opportunities, as well as

courses in literacy, numeracy and social skills.

In the year in question almost 400 residents were involved in training at the centre, around half of them from black and ethnic minority or disadvantaged backgrounds.

They gained a total of 383 qualifications, with many going on to further education, training or jobs.

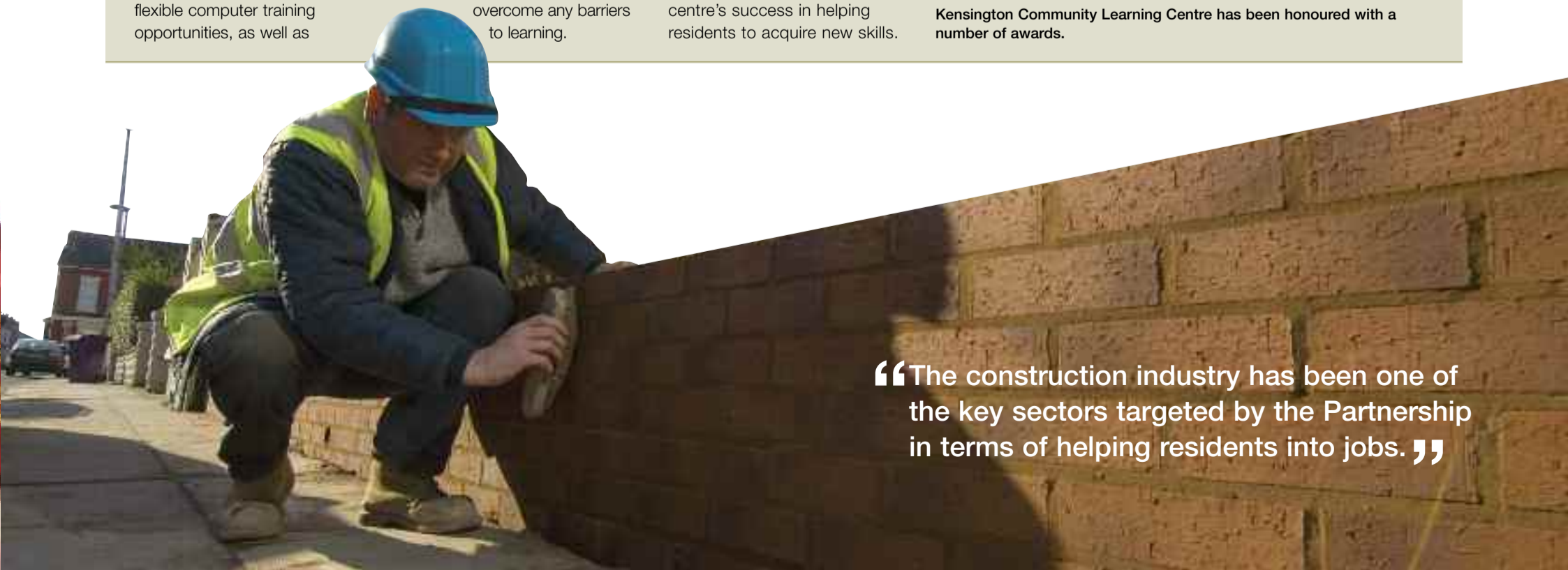
KCLC Manager, Alan Tapp, commented: "The main reason we've succeeded with our clients is by being flexible, working with students on an individual basis to help them overcome any barriers to learning."

"In 99 per cent of cases we've been able to offer students a start date within seven days, and we've also provided open sessions to help people catch up if they've missed a lesson for any reason."

The centre achieved further official recognition when it was named as one of the best centres of its type in the country in the UK Online Centres Awards. Prime Minister Gordon Brown also invited Alan Tapp to a reception at 10 Downing Street as an acknowledgement of the centre's success in helping residents to acquire new skills.



Kensington Community Learning Centre has been honoured with a number of awards.



“The construction industry has been one of the key sectors targeted by the Partnership in terms of helping residents into jobs.”

A better, smarter

In 2000 the physical fabric of Kensington was poor with a large amount of unfit housing and many areas of severe dereliction. The Partnership has therefore invested heavily in new high-quality housing developments, environmental improvements across the area and neighbourhood management projects including the creation of the Community Wardens and the Clean Team.

Four major new housing schemes have been brought forward in Kensington with the help of two Housing Focus and Issues Groups – one for Edge Hill and one for Holt Road. These groups – mainly consisting of community representatives – have played a key role in ensuring that the new

housing meets the specific needs of local residents.

In total, these schemes will eventually create more than 600 high-quality new homes in the area. They include a 126-property Bellway Homes site at Tunnel Road. At this development, the Partnership ensured that homes were offered at

affordable prices to local people affected by housing clearance, and when the properties were released for sale, these residents were given a priority purchasing period.

Nearby, around 300 homes are being built in central Edge Hill, the first phase of which is currently on site.

Environmental projects

The other schemes are at Lomond Road/Grampian Road and at Gilead Street where developers Lovell are creating 175 homes including 45 for rent, 24 for shared ownership and 106 for outright sale. Kensington Regeneration has played a big part in this project by funding environmental projects in the area to the tune of £400,000.

Another highlight of the Partnership's work over the last ten years has been a rolling programme of environmental improvements across Kensington's five neighbourhoods.

These schemes have involved improvements to public areas (for example street lighting, landscaping and traffic calming) and also to individual homes (including painting and new front walls and railings).

In Kensington Fields, an area of

traditional late nineteenth century terraced houses which was recently given conservation area status, Kensington Regeneration has helped to fund a range of sympathetic improvements including Victorian-style lighting, iron railings and renovated front walls. Similar improvements have been made to public areas in the Edge Hill conservation area.

All this work has resulted in real benefits for residents. For example, in the Fairfield and Holly Road neighbourhoods housing and environmental improvements in the Cheviot Street, Middleton Street and Lindale Street area resulted in a significant increase in local property prices.

Elsewhere in the area, Kensington Regeneration has also helped to fund a programme of improvements to retail facilities.



The two Normas played a key role in the Tunnel Road scheme.

Tunnel Road housing

The Joshua Place housing development on Tunnel Road – one of Kensington Regeneration's flagship projects – has been widely praised as an example of best practice in partnership working.

So much so, that it was honoured in the Liverpool Champion category of the 2008 Merseyside Strictly Regeneration Awards.

The judges commented: "Ongoing liaison between local residents and agencies as part of the Edge Hill Housing Focus Group ensured that local people were fully engaged in the design and development process.

"This meant that the delivery partners were fully aware of the local community's needs and aspirations.

"Kensington Regeneration funding was also used to subsidise the price of the new properties, enabling an increased number of local people to purchase a new home at a more affordable price.

"There was also close involvement with Bellway Homes throughout a pre-sale period which was agreed for local people facing clearance. Additional support from home advisors was also made available.

"Residents were also able to select homes that met their specific needs, including any necessary adaptations, and were able to choose their future neighbours to keep friends and communities together," added the judges.

Residents who have since moved into the properties at Joshua Place say they are delighted with their new homes.

They include Teresa and Brian Kent. According to Teresa, who has limited mobility, her new home has given her a new lease of life.

"I can't believe it," she explained. "I look out of my window at the huge garden and look around at my lovely bungalow and it's just a dream come true."

More than 600 high-quality new homes are being created in Kensington with the help of funding from the Partnership.



The Community Wardens

Kensington's 10-strong team of Community Wardens was formed in 2003 with the aim of acting as the 'eyes and ears' of the local community.

Patrolling the streets, the Wardens are always on the lookout for the latest problems with graffiti, litter, fly tipping, faulty street lighting, abandoned cars and stray animals.

The Wardens' job is to report these issues to the relevant authorities – usually Liverpool City Council – and to check back a few days later to ensure

that the problems have been dealt with.

Although environmental work has accounted for the largest proportion of cases handled by the Wardens, they have had two other very important roles as well.

One of these has been to support the police in tackling crime and improving community safety by reporting incidents of vandalism, anti-social behaviour and even drug dealing that they have come across while on patrol.

The other has been to engage with the local community, offering information and advice to residents and signposting them to other sources of help and support if they need it.

In the case of some vulnerable residents, the Wardens have acted almost like members of an extended family.

Team Leader Sue Tracey explained: "We have a list of all the vulnerable people in the Kensington area and we have visited them at least once a month. This has helped to give them peace of mind and, over the years, our Wardens have got to know the residents they visit very well."



The Community Wardens work closely with the police for the benefit of local residents.



High-quality new housing is being built on a number of sites across Kensington thanks to the Partnership's support.

Retail improvements

The aim has been to tackle the oversupply of small shop premises by concentrating retail facilities in specific areas, and funding improvements to these outlets.

More than 80 shops have been upgraded with new frontages and signs, new lighting and other improvements to the building facades, with some also benefiting from the introduction of customer parking areas.

Meanwhile, shops in other areas have been demolished to enable the land to be redeveloped for housing and other purposes.

Other important developments have included the creation of Birchfield Community Park. The hard work of residents in the Fairfield Environmental Group resulted in funding being obtained from the Partnership to create a multi-use games area, playground and garden.

Kensington Regeneration now has just one major physical development project still in progress.

This is the new Beech Street complex on the corner with Prescot Road. a site once

occupied by the Silver Blades ice rink, which is due for completion in the summer of this year.

The £9.5-million scheme by developers CTP – which the Partnership has invested £3.5 million in – will include a new fire station to replace the ageing Low Hill premises, 28 Riverside Housing Association apartments and new shops including an Iceland foodstore.

Over the past decade, Kensington Regeneration has also been at the forefront of local efforts to tackle litter, rubbish, fly-tipping, grotspots, vandalism and graffiti.

Community input

Local people have set the agenda for this work via the Neighbourhood Services Task Group which included two resident representatives from each of Kensington's five areas.

Kensington's team of 14 Community Wardens have played a key role in implementing this part of the programme. As well as providing information and advice to residents on their street patrols they are always on the lookout for problems of vandalism and graffiti which they then report to the relevant agencies.

Kensington Regeneration also helped to create the Kensington Clean Team as an important new resource for the area.

The team has operated across Kensington, cleaning up grotspots, removing fly-tipped rubbish and maintaining open spaces.

In just one 12-month period the team cut grass equivalent to the size of 30 football pitches, picked up litter which would have covered a further 248 pitches and removed enough rubbish to fill 821 large skips.

In addition, they removed 1,882 dumped tyres, 736 pieces of furniture, 48 gas bottles, 95 fridges, 34 cookers and 43 washing machines!

To support the work of the Clean Team the Partnership has also funded a number of community clean-ups and also community skips which have been placed in various locations around the five neighbourhoods once a month.

The Partnership has also worked closely with Liverpool City Council on measures to tackle the problem of rats, installing new litter bins in the area and ensuring that local

sewers were baited regularly to reduce the rodent population.


Kensington Regeneration has also made funding available, via an environmental grant scheme, to help community groups implement small-scale 'green' improvements at local level.

The cumulative effect of all these projects over the last ten years has been to make Kensington a more attractive place in which to live or work.



The award-winning Clean Team have improved the local environment.





The spectacular setting of Liverpool's Anglican Cathedral was the venue for the major awards event which celebrated Kensington Regeneration's Ten Years of Success. Almost 300 people attended the glittering gala occasion which was designed to honour the individuals and organisations who have helped to create change for the better in the area over the lifetime of the Partnership's programme.

“I would like to congratulate the Partnership on its many achievements over the last decade, and also praise the local community who have been the backbone of the regeneration of the area over this period.”

Colin Hilton, Chief Executive, Liverpool City Council

A huge amount of work went into making the Ten Years of Success event an evening to remember.

To make the awards particularly special, the trophies were commissioned from acclaimed sculptor Stephen Broadbent and BBC TV North West Tonight presenter Gordon Burns was engaged to act as MC for the event.

As guests assembled, they were able to view a giant timeline that was on display showing all the key developments in Kensington over the last decade.

Later, they enjoyed guest speakers including Gee Walker of the Anthony Walker Foundation

and Liverpool City Council Chief Executive Colin Hilton, who praised the Partnership's achievements over the last decade.

There was also top quality entertainment from all-girl electric violin trio String Diva.

However, the most special feature of the evening was the achievements of the award winners themselves.

The majority of categories recognised excellence around the key themes of the Partnership's programme including education and training, employment and enterprise, neighbourhood management and community safety.

However, there were also honours

for the outstanding partner agency, paid worker and Kensington Regeneration Board Member.

In addition, a 'champion of champions' award paid tribute to the most remarkable individual achievement of the programme.

Speaking at the event, Lynn Spencer said: "This evening sends out a really positive message about Kensington, both in terms of the significant progress that has been made in recent years and the opportunities that now exist for the future."

"The event is also about the spirit, belief and aspirations of local people who have worked together as a community to create a better Kensington."



BBC TV North West Tonight presenter Gordon Burns proved to be an excellent compere for the event.



Guests were entertained by the skills of a close-up magician.

The worthy winners of the Ten Years of Success Awards were:

The worthy winners of the Ten Years of Success Awards were:

Employment and Enterprise Champion – sponsored by Liverpool Vision

Dream High is a support organisation that helps east Liverpool residents to achieve their dream of running their own business. At the time of the awards ceremony the organisation had helped 31 new businesses to start trading and 54 jobs had been created as a result.

The other finalists were JET Eastern Link and Liz Scahill-Connor of the Field of Dreams Nursery.

Education and Training Champion – sponsored by Liverpool City Council

Two Kensington primary school headteachers were the joint winners of this award.

Dennis Hardiman has helped St Sebastian's Primary to achieve three outstanding Ofsted reports in a row, a feat matched by only 20 schools in the country.

Meanwhile Charles Daniels has been honoured for revitalising Sacred Heart Primary which he joined in 2004 when it was facing the threat of closure.

The other finalists were George Allen and Paula Murawski of Kensington Regeneration and Kensington Community Learning Centre.

Community Safety Champion – sponsored by Community Services, Liverpool City Council

The judges named Sgt Simon Joyce as Community Safety Champion in recognition of the

Sgt Simon Joyce

Community Safety Champion Sgt Simon Joyce was one of the most popular award winners of the evening.



outstanding achievements of the Kensington Police Team over the lifetime of the Partnership.

In terms of Sgt Joyce's personal contribution, the nomination described him as 'the driving force that has delivered consistently excellent results'.

The other finalists were the Community Safety Task Group and Pat Doyle, Chair of the Community Safety Task Group.

Community Engagement and Health Champion – sponsored by NHS Liverpool Community Health

In a category that attracted a wide range of entries, the judges honoured Siddi Majubah for his contribution to many aspects of life in Kensington.

According to the nomination, since arriving in the area in 2003, Siddi has 'worked tirelessly to break down cultural barriers' between young people from BME communities and other young people in Kensington.

The other finalists were Healing Space and Tony Mallon of Edge Hill Youth Club.

Homes and Streets Champion – sponsored by Bellway Homes Ltd

The judges decided to honour Kensington's Community Wardens with the Homes and Streets Champion Award after receiving a number of enthusiastic nominations from the local area.

According to one nomination, the Wardens 'make a massive

difference to Kensington – not only are they a reassuring presence on the streets, they also look after vulnerable residents and are very popular in the community'.

The other finalists were Janet Kelly, Chair of the Holt Road Housing Focus Group, and Norma Lee and Norma Williams of the Edge Hill Housing Focus Group.

Neighbourhood Management and Development Champion – sponsored by Inner City Solutions

The Clean Team were honoured by the judges for providing an invaluable service in terms of clearing up environmental blight throughout the Kensington area.

According to the nomination, the service has 'made a major contribution to neighbourhood management and development within Kensington'.

The other finalists were the Neighbourhood Management Task Group and Peter Yoh of Community Seven.

Resident Champion – sponsored by CTP Ltd

The large and varied selection of entries for the Resident Champion Award provided yet more evidence of the fantastic community spirit that exists in Kensington.

It also meant the judges had a very difficult job before eventually deciding to honour Kensington Fields resident Bernie Hunt in this important category.

Of the many people who took



The award winners celebrate their success with speakers and VIP guests at the event.

the time and trouble to nominate Bernie, one saluted him for his 'endless work' for the local community, which began well before the start of the Kensington Regeneration programme in the area.

The other finalists were Cath Pendleton and John Ryan.

Agency Champion – sponsored by Kensington Regeneration

HEAT – the Health Energy Advice Team – were honoured in this category after the judges agreed with a nomination that described the project as a 'model voluntary sector partner' in terms of the regeneration of Kensington.

It added that the key to the project's success had been its 'open, flexible and creative approach' and its ability to develop effective working relationships and partnership arrangements with other agencies working in the area.

The other finalists were Carol Thorpe of Liverpool City Council and Edge Hill Credit Union.

Regeneration Worker Champion – sponsored by Kaleidoscope ADM

The judges decided to honour Maria Curran with this award after receiving a large number of nominations highlighting the valuable role she has played in the regeneration of the area.

According to one nomination, Maria is 'highly regarded' by her Kensington Regeneration colleagues, by staff in other agencies and by members of the community.

The other finalists were Cathy Williams and Martin Pinder, both of Kensington Regeneration.

Board Member Champion – sponsored by Kensington Regeneration

Pat Dermott, one of the most popular figures associated with the Partnership, was honoured in this category.

One nomination praised her for her dedication and for making the regeneration of the area 'part of her

life'. It went on to point out that she has never missed a Board meeting and that she 'gives 110 per cent of her commitment to the good name of Kensington Regeneration'.

The other finalists were Enid Bristow and Tom McGuire.

Grand Champion – sponsored by Riverside

After considering a number of high-quality nominations, the judges decided that the Kensington Regeneration Grand Champion Award should go to Norma Lee and Norma Williams for their outstanding work with the Edge Hill Housing Focus Group.

As the nomination pointed out, the Normas are 'true leaders' whose 'commitment, bravery, dedication, strength and perseverance' has made a huge difference to the lives of their fellow residents.

The other finalists were Kensington Police Team and the Kensington Regeneration Task Groups.



Musical entertainment from String Diva rounded off the evening.

Chief Executive Lynn Spencer explained:

"The Community Awards were one of the highlights of our calendar for some years so it seemed very appropriate to celebrate the end of the programme in this way. Over the last decade many people in Kensington have devoted a huge amount of time and effort to helping others and improving life in their communities. The Ten Years of Success event was designed as a great way of recognising and saying thank you for their efforts."



Event recognises community support

Liverpool Town Hall was the venue for another major event organised to celebrate Kensington Regeneration's Ten Years of Success.

The Partnership said 'thank you' to around 150 residents, police officers, health workers and representatives of other agencies by treating them to afternoon tea in the magnificent surroundings of Liverpool's premier civic building.

The guests were told by Chief Executive Lynn Spencer that the many improvements in Kensington over the past decade would not have been possible without their help.

The VIP guest at the event was

the city's Lord Mayor, Councillor Mike Storey, who said: "There have been real improvements, such as reducing crime, creating jobs, planning new homes and streets and improving education. And the reason all this has worked is

because of the close involvement of the community."

During the afternoon, Lynn Spencer also delivered a presentation on Kensington Regeneration's work over the past decade, focusing on many of the successful projects and initiatives highlighted elsewhere in this newsletter.

In this presentation, Lynn referred to a new independent report on the Partnership's work produced by the European Institute for Urban Affairs at

Liverpool John Moores University.

This says that Kensington Regeneration has had 'a very positive impact' on life in the area over the past decade.

The authors of the report believe community involvement has been a key element in this success, and projects singled out for special praise include Kensington Community Learning Centre, HEAT, the Community Wardens, Kensington Police Team and Music for Life.



Partnership Chief Executive Lynn Spencer addresses guests at the event.



“ There have been real improvements, such as reducing crime, creating jobs, planning new homes and streets and improving education. And the reason all this has worked is because of the close involvement of the community. ”

Partnership Vice Chair Richie Keenan presents a souvenir Superlambanana to the Lord Mayor, Cllr Mike Storey.

Community and quality of life

Side by side with its work on enhancing the environment and the prospects of local people, Kensington Regeneration has invested heavily in projects to improve the quality of life in the area. Key features of this programme have been to generate more community involvement in Kensington, introduce measures to improve community safety and develop projects to improve the health of residents.

The issue that has united the many different elements of the Kensington Regeneration programme has been community involvement which has been at the heart of the Partnership's work.

The structure of the organisation has ensured that local people have been able to play a key role in its work. They have also had the opportunity to comment on its progress on an ongoing basis.

Key features of

Kensington Regeneration's approach to community involvement have included the organisation of Neighbourhood Assemblies, held every two months to enable residents to find out about the latest local developments and have their say on them.

Local community groups and voluntary organisations have also received extensive support for their own initiatives and events. This has included operational support,

provided by a team of community development workers, and financial support in the form of small grants from the New Communities Fund, now renamed the Community Fund. In the most recent financial year, grants totalling £111,000 were given to 56 local groups.

In recent years, Kensington Regeneration has also funded the posts of outreach workers to provide support to the New Deal area's growing number of BME residents. This aspect of the partnership's

work has resulted in some major successes including helping local African organisations to organise the Kensington African Festival each year. An annual festival of diversity, One World Week, rapidly developed into One World Month, offering a huge range of events and activities each autumn.

Two community projects in particular have proved to be outstandingly successful over the years. The first has been the annual Community Awards event, a celebration of the neighbourhood heroes who make such a difference to life in the area.

The second has been the annual Summer Fun Day. As well as being a great day out for up to 6,000 local people, this free event has helped Kensington Regeneration to get its message across to residents and also enabled community groups and voluntary organisations to showcase the services they offer in the area.

Kensington Regeneration has also funded a range of measures aimed at making Kensington a safer place in which to live and work.

In the early years of the programme this involved improving the local security infrastructure with the installation of a network of 29 CCTV cameras across the area and the development of an extensive alleygating scheme.

The partnership has also funded Kensington's own Police Team who have done an excellent job in terms of tackling crime and improving community safety in the area.

To support the efforts of the Police Team Kensington Regeneration has funded a range of other projects in the New Deal area. For example, the Community Wardens have continued to be a reassuring presence on Kensington's streets, working closely with local residents on a variety of community safety initiatives.

Crimes against local schools also reduced dramatically after the Partnership funded the installation of high-tech smoke screen and water spray security features.

The Partnership has also helped to fund Nacro's Youth Inclusion Project in the area, a diversionary initiative which targets young

Residents of all ages have benefited from better access to sports facilities.





Health and fitness initiatives have been high on the Partnership's agenda.

people at risk of slipping into anti-social or criminal activity.

Further funding has been channelled into the Kensington Crime Alert project which works to prevent crime against businesses, shops and health facilities.

Kensington Regeneration has also funded a range of initiatives aimed at improving the health of local residents via the work of its Health Task Group.

One of the Partnership's key projects in the health programme

was the creation of the £2-million Kensington Community Sports Centre which has given residents of all ages local access to state-of-the-art sports facilities.

The work of HEAT – the Health Energy Advice Team – has been another Kensington Regeneration success story. This project addresses the health needs of local people, focusing in particular on housing and benefits issues and helping vulnerable residents to access energy-related home improvements.

Support for other health-related developments in the area has ranged from funding the work of the Kensington Family Support Group, which helps the families of drug users, to distributing carbon monoxide alarms to local homes.

The Partnership has also organised health fairs and free health checks across Kensington and funded the Healing Space, the first complementary health facility in the area.

Health Energy Advice Team

Around 2,000 Kensington residents a year have benefited from the services of the Health Energy Advice Team (HEAT) which include:

- The Winter Survival Project which supports local people who are suffering the effects of social and economic exclusion. HEAT staff help residents to obtain unclaimed benefits and other entitlements which amounted to £879,537 in the last financial year.
- Kensington Community Assistance Project which supports residents affected by the Housing Market Renewal clearance programme. Residents receive help with issues such as security measures, fire safety improvements, Corgi

gas safety checks, disabled adaptations, energy efficiency work and accessing fuel assistance grants.

- Kensington Access to Training and Employment (KATE) which helps people in the area who face significant barriers in terms of accessing jobs and education and training opportunities. Such groups include long-term unemployed residents, people with disabilities, lone parents, refugees and – more recently – migrant workers. In the last financial year, 47 residents found work with the project's help and 93 people accessed new training opportunities, with 59 gaining an accredited qualification.

- Kensington Family Support Group which provides support and counselling to the families of drug users. Last year the project helped 59 families with support group sessions, alternative therapy days and day trips.
- Kensington Domestic Abuse Service, HEAT's newest project, which opened its doors in October 2007. Last year staff supported 124 victims of domestic abuse in Kensington, trained four volunteers and provided domestic violence awareness training for staff in 12 local organisations. In 2009 HEAT Manager Paula Nolan was invited by Gordon Brown to attend a reception at 10 Downing Street celebrating the country's female 'community heroes'.



Staff from HEAT help some of the most vulnerable members of the Kensington community.



Kensington Community Learning Centre gives residents local access to state-of-the-art facilities.

Kensington Community Sports Centre

Kensington Regeneration has been at the forefront of a range of measures to improve the health of local residents.

One of the most important projects in the health programme was the creation of the £2.2 million Kensington Community Sports Centre on the site of a former reservoir on Jubilee Drive.

The centre has provided local access to state-of-the-art sports facilities with subsidised fees for Kensington residents and unemployed people.

When it opened its doors for the first time in the spring of 2004 the

centre received what a spokesman described as a 'fantastic reaction' from local people.

One early visitor praised it for being 'reasonably priced and very accessible'. Another said that staff are 'very friendly' and that the centre offered 'very good value for money' compared with other similar facilities.

The centre's impressive outdoor and indoor facilities include all-weather five-a-side football pitches, a sports hall, a fitness suite and an aerobics room.

Regular activities – led by

qualified instructors – range from gym sessions, football and netball to table tennis, badminton and exercise classes. There are also Young At Heart sessions for older people.

Kensington Community Sports Centre is also home to a number of martial arts clubs and a Disabilities Sports Club. There is easy access to all facilities for disabled people.

The centre offers discounted weekly and monthly tickets, or visitors can choose to pay as they go for each session.

Kensington Police Team

One of the Partnership's flagship projects has been Kensington's own Police Team who have done an excellent job in terms of tackling crime and improving community safety in the area.

Officers have worked closely with other agencies on targeted campaigns focusing on issues such as drug crime, truancy and youth disorder, with anti-social behaviour notices having been served on some persistent offenders.

The success of the Police Team's approach is borne out by the improvement in the the crime figures for the area.

- All crime within the Kensington New Deal area has been reduced by 44 per cent since 2002.
- Violent crime has been reduced by 58 per cent since its highest level in 2004.
- Robberies have been reduced by 74 per cent since their peak in 2002.
- Burglaries have dropped by 43 per cent since their highest level in 2002.
- Theft of motor vehicles has dropped by a massive 92 per cent since 2000.
- There has been a similar 92 per cent drop in thefts from motor vehicles since 2002.
- Criminal damage has been reduced by 53 per cent since its highest level in 2003.

The success of the Kensington Police Team has been widely praised by local people and has also attracted the attention of the judges of major regional and national awards schemes.

For example, the Kensington officers were named as the Neighbourhood Team of the Year in the inaugural Merseyside Police Total Policing Awards.

More recently, the officers were also honoured in the National Justice Awards, finishing as runners-up in the category recognising outstanding contributions to engaging local communities.



The success of the Kensington Police Team has been widely praised by local residents.

What's next?

Although the Kensington Regeneration programme comes to an end on March 31st, regeneration activity will of course continue in the area.

Residents who want to play an active role in further improvement initiatives can get involved with Kensington Community Interest Company (CIC).

This was established by the Partnership as a key part of its succession plan to ensure that the regeneration of Kensington continues beyond its lifetime.

The plan – the result of extensive discussions and deliberations over a number of years – sets out how the improvements and benefits of



Jimmy Baptista, Chair of CIC.

the past decade can be capitalised on in the future.

In particular, it focuses on the arrangements for:

- Sustaining the benefits of the programme.
- Retaining community involvement.

Kensington Community Interest Company will play an important role in achieving these objectives. It is a limited company which has been established to ensure continuity of community leadership and to provide a mechanism for ensuring the Partnership's legacy continues to benefit residents and the area.

The CIC is managed by a Board of Directors who drive the strategy of the organisation. In the main the Directors are Kensington residents, with other representatives from the education and private sectors.

The Company has already played an active role in the regeneration of Kensington by managing initiatives for the Partnership including the Community Fund and the Kensington Bursary Project.

Community Interest Company Chair, local resident Jimmy Baptista, explained the role of the organisation:

"The CIC has been created to put community benefit at the heart of everything it does and to conduct activities for community purposes.

"The Company wants to see the regeneration of the area



continue and is committed to playing a key role in making that happen."

Alongside the work of the CIC a number of other major projects will further improve life in the area. They include:

- The new Beech Street complex on the former Silver Blades ice rink site, including shops, apartments and a new community fire station, which is set to open in late summer.
- The final stage of the Edge Lane Project which will include new and improved retail facilities, new employment floorspace, a new state-of-the-art health centre and new access and a much-improved setting for Kensington Community Primary School and the Life Bank.
- Linked to this scheme, a

Bellway Homes development of 300 new homes in central Edge Hill which are being created as part of the Housing Market Renewal programme.

- The demolition of the Kensington Market building on Prescott Road which was badly damaged by fire in 2005. This will pave the way for redevelopment, and it is hoped a new supermarket could be built on the site.
- The creation of a new £1-million park – including an adventure playground and sensory garden – on land around Kensington Community Sports Centre.
- The development of an exciting new play area for children at Botanic Park as part of the Government's Playbuilder scheme.



Thanks for your support

Enid Bristow, one of Kensington Regeneration's longest-serving Board Members and Chair of the Partnership's Communications Committee, writes:

With the end of the Kensington Regeneration programme now just days away, I expect that – like me – most people involved with the initiative are experiencing a mix of feelings.

There is understandably pride in what has been achieved in the area. Thanks to Partnership funding, Kensington is undeniably a better place in which to live and work than it was ten years ago.

There is also optimism about the future. Many facilities, projects and services which Kensington Regeneration has helped to create will continue to benefit local residents, and as you can read

above, a number of other exciting developments are currently under way in our area.

However, there is of course also some sadness that many relationships that have built up around the Partnership's work are now coming to an end.

Personally speaking, it has been a privilege to serve on the Board of Kensington Regeneration and I would like to take this opportunity

to thank my fellow Board Members, the members of the staff team and the representatives of our partner organisations for their hard work and commitment over the last ten years.

Most of all though, I would like to thank the local residents who have supported our work. They have been determined to make a difference, and that's what community spirit is all about.

Enid Bristow

Chair of the Partnership's Communications Committee



other languages

For further information please contact Kensington Regeneration on 233 6136.

للزيدون المعلومات يرجى الاتصال بكينغستون ريجنيريشن على رقم الهاتف 233 6136.

Pro další informace, prosím kontaktujte Kensington Regeneration na tel. čísle 233 6136.

Для получения информации, пожалуйста, свяжитесь с Kensington Regeneration по телефону 233 6136.

For further information, you'll contact Kensington Regeneration on 233 6136.

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