

CONNECT SK

ISSUE 9 APRIL 2011



A New Beginning for South Kilburn



Children, Young People and Families Page 9



Community Safety Page 8



A Better Place to Live Page 12

South Kilburn 'alive with opportunity!'

Welcome



I am very pleased to have this opportunity to write the editorial for this NDC end of programme edition.

The Council actively canvassed government ten years ago to designate South Kilburn as a New Deal for Communities area and we were rewarded for our efforts by designation as an NDC in 2001 and £50m additional funding for the area.

South Kilburn has changed a lot over the last ten years and is now a much more diverse community with nearly half the

residents not having English as their first language. One of the most significant improvements over the last ten years has been the reduction in crime and fear of crime; the details of the MORI survey on the following pages show this and other changes over the ten year period. Most of you will have seen the cranes in South Kilburn which are a welcome sign and the start of the major housing redevelopment programme – around 340 new homes in this first phase.

A feature of the NDC programme was the high level of resident involvement and many people gave up their time to be involved in boards and sub-committees and to manage a large number of community projects. Going to NDC meetings and running projects became a large part of many people's lives and I would like to thank everyone who gave their time to making South Kilburn a better place to live. THANK YOU!

There are challenging times ahead and much work remains to be done, particularly on jobs and employment where large numbers of young people are finding it difficult to get a job. I am confident that partners will continue to work together with the Council to continue the good work of the NDC and build on your achievements over the last ten years to make South Kilburn a great place to live.

Cllr Ann John OBE

Leader of Brent Council

French

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Urdu

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Farsi

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A New Beginning



Mike Wilson, former Chief Executive, South Kilburn Partnership

The New Deal for the Communities (NDC) regeneration funding ended in South Kilburn at the end of March, but the work will go on – led by the South Kilburn Neighbourhood Trust (SKNT).

The ten year Government funded programme started in 2001 and was the result of a bid for funds by Brent Council and the South Kilburn community. The successful bid totalled £50 million. The South Kilburn Partnership (SKP) team finished work at the end of March – one or two of them may move across to SKNT, which will take over the SKP office at William Dunbar House.

During its course the programme bought significant benefits and changes in South Kilburn. It funded hundreds of projects, ranging widely in scale and value. As the programme ends many of those projects have moved to other organisations, some have drawn to a natural end and others closed. Their collective impact is affirmative and demonstrable.

A walk around South Kilburn will reveal some significant visible changes. Improvements to facilities include the OK Club, the Marion Centre and the Salvation Army. New homes have been built at Thames Court and Granville. Other improvements include better facilities for local primary schools, a Multi-use Games Area at St. Mary's school, the creation of local play areas, the redesign of

Chippenham Gardens and St. Augustine's Sports Centre. Alpha, Gorefield and Carlton Houses have been given a major facelift. Currently major housing works are taking place along Albert Road, two sites on Carlton Vale and in Malvern Road. However this is only one side of the story. The Programme has funded significant activity on Community Safety, Education & Youth activities, Employment and Health.

There have also been a large variety of community projects, from small grants to local voluntary sector groups, to capacity building and fundraising support. Many of these grants produced events, such as the Older Peoples Festivals, Youth Festival, and Pensioner club trips, led by and for the local community. Community leadership training has given the area local ambassadors who can make real positive step-changes in their personal lives and for their community.

There is still much to be done and there will be challenges going forward. Unemployment, poor health indicators and inter-area, territorial conflict among some young people still pose some serious problems.

The NDC funding is going but the commitment to the area is not. Statutory partners like the Police, the Primary Care Trust, Job Centre Plus and the Council - along with housing developers and the community - will continue to work together to build on the good work and achievements of the NDC. All partners will continue to rise to the remaining challenges in order to achieve the key objective of making South Kilburn an 'area of opportunity'.

Key Partnerships



Jackie Sadek, Chair, South Kilburn Neighbourhood Trust

The South Kilburn Partnership Board was the successor to the original new deal for communities board and took over the role of oversight of the NDC programme in 2008/9.

It was set up as an unincorporated body to act in a similar way to a mini local strategic partnership, and has brought together representatives from the local statutory, voluntary, community and private sectors to address local problems, allocate NDC funding, and discuss strategies and initiatives. With an Independent Chair, the Partnership has included representatives of the key statutory agencies, including

the voluntary sector, and four residents, one of whom is vice chair.

South Kilburn Neighbourhood Trust will provide support to the South Kilburn Partnership Board and its sub-committees. While the Partnership Board will be kept under review, it is likely to continue to take forward the ongoing consideration of the needs of the area, be the primary consultative organisation for SKNT, and to provide an opportunity for the community to be involved through the SKP and its subgroups. SKP has four sub-committees covering housing & infrastructure, health & wellbeing, employment & skills, and children & families. The Partnership will have a neighbourhood management group that will be supported alongside the four theme sub-committees.

How Have Things Changed?

The research company Ipsos MORI has been conducting two-yearly household surveys in South Kilburn since 2002. The surveys were commissioned by the government – the forerunner to the Department of Communities & Local Government – and by Sheffield Hallam University.

They gather feedback from people on their experiences and perceptions of life in the area. This is then compared with that of other areas which – like South Kilburn – have been the subject of a New Deal for Communities (NDC) funding programme and also with some national results.

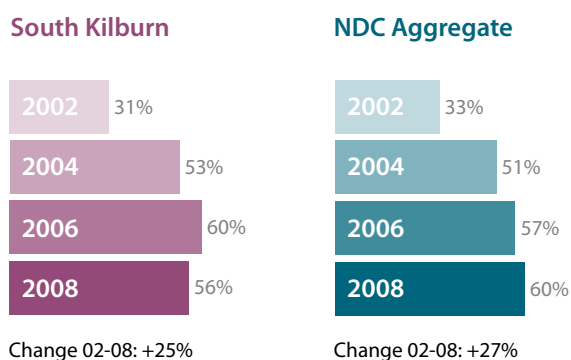
It's a very extensive survey involving hundreds of participants. The latest comprised interviews with 400 South Kilburn residents and the organisers of the survey say a sample size of this magnitude produces results that are both highly reliable and reflective of what you as residents feel. So what are they looking for? They want to know how things have changed since the NDC came into being. Have things got better, worse, or remained much the same in respect of housing, quality of life in the area, crime, education and health to name but a few?

Here are some of the results...

Has the NDC improved the area?

People were asked 'how much, if at all, do you think the activities of South Kilburn NDC have improved this area as a place to live?' In the most recent survey 56% of people felt they had improved the area "a great deal or a fair amount". That's a 25% increase since surveys began in 2002. Fewer residents felt they had an ability to influence decisions that affect the area. But the level of trust in South Kilburn NDC – and also in Brent Council – has grown.

% Great Deal / Fair Amount



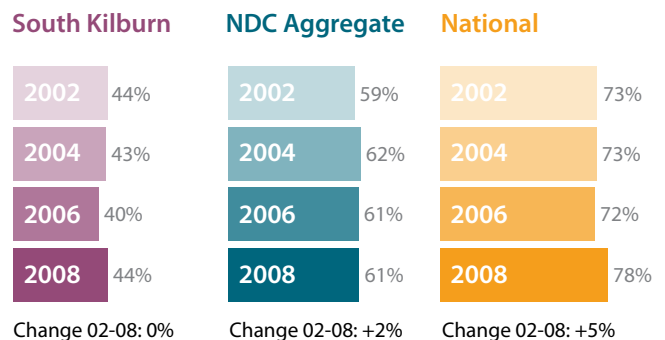
Base: All heard of NDC: South Kilburn 296 (2002), 372 (2004), 321 (2006), 275 (2008); NDC Aggregate 12661 (2002), 15749 (2004), 13008 (2006), 12699 (2008)

Looking out for neighbours

When asked if South Kilburn was seen as a place where people looked out for their neighbours 44% responded "yes".

This level is the same as that of 2002. But it represents a return to that level, having fallen back slightly in intervening years to 43% and then 40%.

% Yes



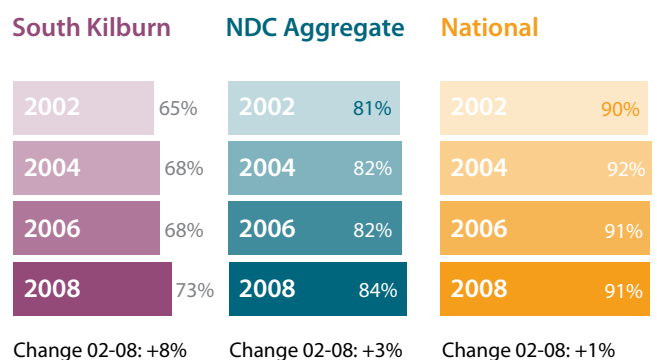
Base: All respondents: South Kilburn 501 (2002), 497 (2004), 402 (2006), 400 (2008); NDC Aggregate 19574 (2002), 19633 (2004), 15792 (2006), 15840 (2008); National: General Household Survey 2000, Ipsos MORI Omnibus 2004 (2,032 adults aged 16+), 2006 (1,989 adults aged 16+), 2008 (2,032 adults aged 16+)

Satisfaction with homes

Respondents were asked: 'Taking everything into account, how satisfied are you with this accommodation?'

The result showed 73% to be either very or fairly satisfied. Over the lifetime of the NDC there has been a steady increase in satisfaction levels. The gap has also narrowed between South Kilburn and both the NDC average and national satisfaction levels.

% Very / Fairly Satisfied

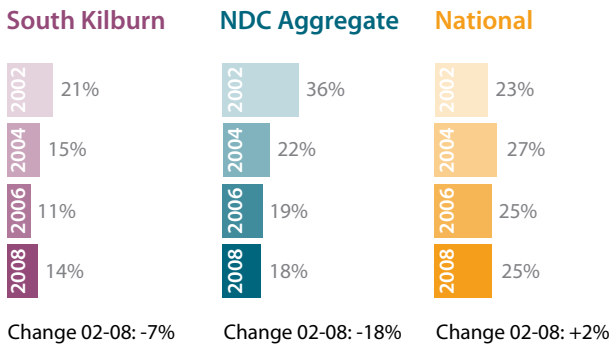


Base: All respondents: South Kilburn 501 (2002), 497 (2004), 402 (2006), 400 (2008); NDC Aggregate 19574 (2002), 19633 (2004), 15792 (2006), 15840 (2008); National: Survey of English Housing

Change in the area

Residents were asked to evaluate how the area had changed over the previous two years. Had it got better or worse to live in? Or had it remained pretty much the same? This revealed a slight increase in the percentage who thought things had deteriorated compared to the previous survey – 14% this time compared to 11%. But there has been a significant improvement of some 7% in satisfaction levels since the surveys began in 2002. At that time 21% thought the area was getting worse. When asked to say whether or not they felt certain issues were a problem in the area, teenagers hanging around on streets and drug dealing and use emerged as the two greatest worries.

% Much / Slightly Worse

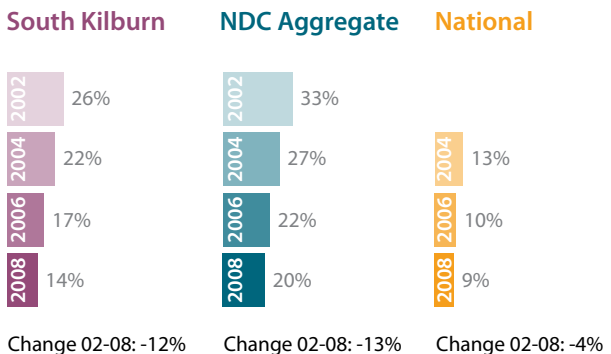


Base: All lived in area 2+ years: South Kilburn 440 (2002), 426 (2004), 350 (2006), 324 (2008); NDC Aggregate 16663 (2002), 16175 (2004), 13221 (2006), 13096 (2008); National: Survey of English Housing (figures re-based to exclude those who have lived in the area less than two years)

Safety

Several results indicated that fear of crime is becoming less of an issue to South Kilburn residents. For example, when asked how safe people felt walking in the area after dark just 14% replied “very unsafe”. This continues a downward trend since surveys began when 26% said they felt that way. Also 58% do not fear crime “very much or at all”. Crimes that worry people most are the fear of vandalism to the home or car and being attacked by strangers.

% Much / Slightly Worse

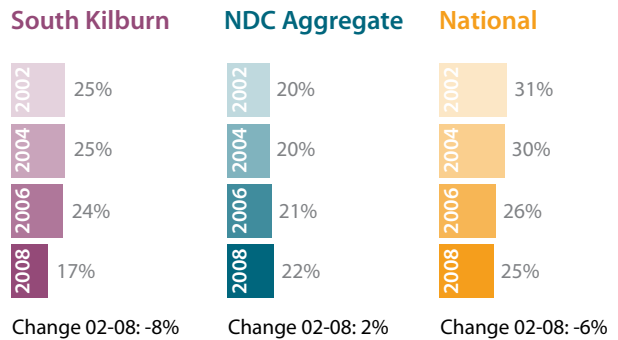


Base: All respondents: South Kilburn 501 (2002), 497 (2004), 402 (2006), 400 (2008); NDC Aggregate 19574 (2002), 19633 (2004), 15792 (2006), 15840 (2008); National: British Crime Survey

Participation in training

Results suggest a dip in the level of people taking part in education or training. Previous surveys revealed the proportion of those involved in one or the other remaining at a fairly consistent 25%. But the most recent survey showed a decline of 8% – to just 17% – in those who said that within the last year they had or still were taking part in education or training. However, high proportions said they were keen to improve their literacy and mathematical skills – 34% and 25% respectively.

% Yes

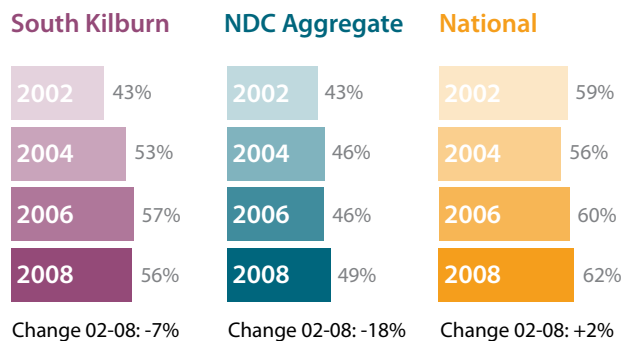


Base: All except in full time education: South Kilburn 474 (2002), 462 (2004), 382 (2006), 382 (2008); NDC Aggregate 18635 (2002), 18739 (2004), 15072 (2006), 15115 (2008); National: Ipsos MORI Omnibus 2002 (2,068 adults aged 16+), 2004 (2,032 adults aged 16+), 2006 (1,989 adults aged 16+), 2008 (2,032 adults aged 16+)

Health status

Responses to questions about health indicate a general improvement. Residents were asked if, over the preceding year, their health had been ‘good, fairly good or not good’. In reply 56% said it had been good. This is 1% lower than in 2006 but it represents a 13% increase compared to 2002 when just 43% described their health as good. The number of smokers declined only very slightly over the last decade and, at 29% of residents, remain higher than national levels. The services provided by local doctors in South Kilburn continue to be quite highly rated with 89% stating they are satisfied with their GP and 76% saying they generally have no problems in getting to see their doctor.

% Good



Base: All respondents: South Kilburn 501 (2002), 497 (2004), 402 (2006), 400 (2008); NDC Aggregate 19574 (2002), 19633 (2004), 15792 (2006), 15840 (2008); National: General Household Survey

Housing and Infrastructure

The drive to improve the poor housing stock in South Kilburn has been a major focus of the 10 year New Deal for Communities (NDC) investment programme.

The original goals remain in place. These are: the provision of high quality, affordable and well maintained housing to meet the needs of the whole population; to increase choice of tenure for residents while maintaining the level of social housing; and to increase satisfaction with the quality of housing services and the quality of the environment.

Given their ambitious nature, especially in the current economic climate, meeting them has been difficult. The problems in the economy have resulted in funding shortfalls and delays. The goal to provide all the new housing within the original timeframe has not been met.

Significant improvements have happened, and will continue to in the next few years. Refurbishment of properties to "Decent Homes Standards" – Carlton, Alpha and Gorefield Houses for example – has produced noticeable improvements. A new masterplan, the document which outlines where investments will be made, has been put in place to cover most of the estate up until 2025.

The aim of improving the tenure mix and a commitment that every South Kilburn tenant is re-housed in their area remains a key objective. The dual aims of reducing dissatisfaction with the area and the housing have been moving in the right direction. The quality of the environment is now more in line with the borough average, and is part of an ongoing improvement process. There remains a significant 'churn' to the local population but this is common in London. Continued investment and improvement to the housing stock may help to reduce this in the future.

Several individual projects have made their mark. One of them was the first new housing development in South Kilburn – Thames Court - giving a sign of the new housing stock to come. Its communal gardens went on to win an award. This scheme – along with Granville New Homes (also a multi-award winner) – showed what can be achieved in terms of community involvement in new housing development. GNH set very high standards and saw residents involved in selecting architects for the scheme and throughout the whole design process.

Physically altering aspects of the estate - better lighting, controlling access and developing safer routes - have also helped to reduce crime and improve the quality

of the area. A number of other projects also delivered enhanced community facilities with the renovation and establishment of tenant halls, youth centres, schools and play areas. Other successful projects have been less to do with bricks and mortar. The "Good Neighbours Charter" created co-operation between housing providers, police and residents on various safety issues. Other initiatives - such as Resident Champions - also targeted problems of noise, dumping and vandalism.

Currently construction work is underway on Albert Road, Malvern Road, the Texaco site on Carlton Vale and the Carlton Vale Roundabout site. These developments should be complete by early 2012 and will provide a significant number of new homes.

New housing – "Really positive"



Tanya Samuel is former chair of the South Kilburn New Deal for Communities (SKNDC)

Vital as the current physical regeneration work is, Tanya stresses the equally important need to address systemic social issues. That new housing is coming forward, despite the economic climate, is "really positive, really good" she says. That it is being addressed is the single most major achievement of the NDC.

"But we still need to ensure the mental, physical and social health of the community is not forgotten and is also being addressed."

To that end, Tanya points to new channels of communication that have been opened up. NDC money was seen as "calling card" – enabling it to bring in funds from other organisations and "bring people to the table". The NDC also gave residents a vehicle with which to engage with other partners – the local authority, police, employment agencies, health providers and youth services among them. "We are now in a stronger position to ensure that dialogue remains open," she stresses.

Access to Jobs and Skills

Three main goals for tackling issues of income and employment remain in place. The ambitions are to: reduce unemployment in South Kilburn to below London average levels; increase employment levels to the average for the capital; and to increase to 90% the number of households on an average income.

This whole area has been the target of significant NDC investment and work and is still very much a work in progress - reducing unemployment and increasing employment have proved to be particularly challenging. There are a large number of reasons, including population growth in South Kilburn, and the difficulties the whole country is facing. However, there has been progress.

Self employment rates have increased to the average for the borough, and a considerable number of projects have helped to ensure that the decline has not continued.

NDC investment has, therefore, been instrumental in applying the brakes to what had historically been worsening conditions. Business support, Enterprise Days and Encouraging Entrepreneur schemes were, meanwhile, all aimed at increasing and supporting self employment and business start-ups. Over 300 residents have gained employment through a variety of schemes funded by NDC money and located in South Kilburn.

Through projects such as 'Brent in 2 Work' and Community Careers help has been given in a wide number of areas

– job brokerage, interview techniques and allowances, childcare support and one stop shop advice to guide residents through the complexities of official systems.

Equally, another raft of initiatives have helped to improve overall income levels in the area. Benefits advisors, debt management support and – most notably – the launch of South Kilburn’s own Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) provided financial advice and support to residents.

The CAB increased numerous household incomes, guided people through the benefits system and gave support on loans. In its lifetime – it closed in 2010 – over 60 households were prevented from homelessness and over 100 individuals were helped toward employment.

Much to build on



Mary Arnold, local councillor for the Kilburn Ward on Brent Council, is also lead member for children and families

Looking back over the lifetime of the NDC Mary Arnold declares: "It was a phenomenal programme and a phenomenal opportunity. A lot of people – activists and community organisations – rolled up their sleeves and got involved in projects. Going forward, SKNT has some very good work to build on."

Mary highlights a number of achievements, among them the work of the SKP board in co-ordinating opportunities for work and training. Support for community organisations in delivering services for older people and youth groups has been another success story she believes.

The work of the OK Club, Granville Youth Centre, Salvation Army, Granville Children’s Centre, Concrete Canvas Arts and the Talbot Centre, amongst others, are all part of the legacy of the NDC. And in housing, where four major developments are underway – with much community involvement – plans are ambitious but there are "definitely more plusses than negatives" says Mary.



Crime and Community Safety

Two very clear objectives were identified at the beginning of the NDC programme – to reduce all recorded crime rates and those entering the criminal justice system and to reduce the proportion of residents who live in fear of crime.

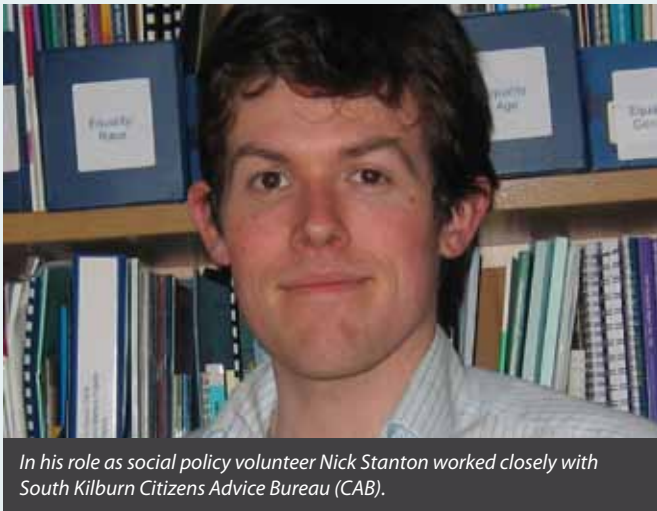
Through a whole raft of initiatives the first objective has been achieved with some significant improvements. The area is now at or below the average for the borough of Brent on most crime indicators. The scope of the work has also been widened during the course of the programme and specific objectives in relation to drugs and violence were introduced at later stages. In tackling the number of people who fear crime, the original target of bringing this down to 10% was seen as unrealistic – particularly in light of national fear levels that have grown at a much faster rate than crime itself. Today, fear levels in South Kilburn are in line with the borough average. Several key initiatives have helped to drive an improvement in conditions. One



Francis Kabia, one of the "boys in blue"

of the most effective projects to be launched has been that of a Police "Safer Neighbourhood Team" based at Kilburn police station. South Kilburn estate falls under the "capture area" of two of the boroughs Safer Neighbourhood Teams – Kilburn & Queens Park. However NDC funding allowed for additional officers (on top of the ward officers) looking after the South Kilburn area. At its peak the funding was used to fund an extra four PCs; and while this finished in 2010, there remains a good visibility of police staff in the area, and some of the NDC funded PCs have stayed.

Positive Experience of Collaboration



In his role as social policy volunteer Nick Stanton worked closely with South Kilburn Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB).

In his role as social policy volunteer Nick Stanton worked closely with South Kilburn Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB). He highlights several areas in which the service, which ran for four years from 2006, was particularly successful. Operated by the Camden service and funded by South Kilburn Partnership, it achieved much in terms of volunteers, clients and engaging with local agencies, says Nick.

"Volunteer recruitment, as with many CABs, was of paramount importance," he explains. "It is a considerable success that whenever there was a shortfall in skills, free outside training could usually be found." In terms of clients, French, Somali, Farsi and Arabic could all be offered to those for whom English was not their first language. And the service developed links with local agencies – particularly successful was its work with CamdenPlus Credit Union.

An important part of their role is to listen and learn from residents about what worries them. The team is seen as having made an impact on several areas – community relationships, improved trust between police and young people, quick responses to emerging issues and general sense of reassurance. Another initiative – "Neighbourhood Wardens" run by Brent Housing Partnership – was funded by the NDC to provide four estate wardens giving out-of-hours response to residents' calls, now from 3pm to midnight every day of the week. The other "boys in blue" are a well-recognised reassurance team who have significantly reduced anti-social behaviour tackling problems such as graffiti, noise nuisance, neighbour disputes, and more. It's a role that often involves going the extra mile, One South Kilburn neighbourhood warden, Francis Kabia, who has done the job since 2002, has won awards for his contribution.

While NDC funding has ended, BHP continue to run their Neighbourhoods Wardens team of 12 officers across South Kilburn and other priority areas in the borough. Other projects have included: "safe and sound" – a large community safety programme run by nationwide charity Crime Concern (now part of Catch 22) which provided a one-stop shop for community safety advice, referrals, victim support and reporting; "youth diversion" providing support to youth groups to allow longer operating hours; the "drugs market initiative" and work with the charity crime reduction initiative (CRI) has provided outreach to drug users and family support.

Children, Young People and Families

In the vital work of providing the best possible life chances for young people it was recognised there were three main goals.

Identified as priorities were the need to: raise the level of educational attainment to the national average; raise the proportion of those staying in education after age 16 to the national average; improve and increase facilities for young people. Educationally, a focus was made in Maths as South Kilburn attainment lagged behind the borough and national average. Programmes such as the Out of Office Study Centres at local schools, and on the estate have helped to raise success rates in that subject area. Attainment at GCSE level generally – while below borough and national averages – has improved significantly.

A range of education based projects have been working towards the goals of the NDC. On the estate, out of school study centres have provided study support at weekends



for students from any education authority or school – therefore providing a co-ordinated level of service.

A Time of Plenty



Young people, he says, are likely to look back on the last 10 years as a “time of plenty”. Some may feel it has boosted expectations unrealistically but, he says, it’s hoped young people – empowered by their positive experiences – will be resourceful enough to keep good things going.

Keith believes the longer term projects were the biggest successes – the Youth Development & Support Programme, for example, and the Youth Strategy. “SKP work has been particularly successful to the extent that it has realised the benefit of supporting agencies likely to be in the area for years to come,” he says. And he has welcomed partnership working with a “like-minded team”.

“We will miss the often fresh energy that SKP has brought into the area and not least its conscientious staff.”

The School Transition Programme has been particularly successful. It works during the Easter and summer holiday periods between primary school and secondary school to help with the handover process and provide vital support to students during what can be a very difficult time. Work of the programme has also been extended to a later period to give support during the transfer from GCSE to college or the workplace.

NDC funding has also supported a network of family liaison officers who are based in each primary school on the estate. It’s their job to support children at risk or who have achievement concerns. They work with the children in class as well as the family on wider needs and the support system has been well received.

Funding has also supported a whole range of activities provided by South Kilburn’s strong network of youth activity providers – including Brent Council youth service team at the Granville Centre, home grown charities such as Concrete Canvas Arts and independent charities such as the OK Club and Kilburn Youth Centre. A variety of focussed youth activity organisations have also worked in the South Kilburn area, funded by NDC funding over the 10 year programme. All the youth activities and support have been aimed at particular objectives, in recognition of the large youth population in South Kilburn - to reduce community concerns about young people ‘hanging around’ with nothing to do, to divert opportunities for youth crime, and to turn youth ‘time’ into accredited learning (such as training leading to recognised qualification), putting on events (such as the hugely popular Youth Festivals and Bloc Parties) and social support (confidence, self esteem, counselling).

Health & Well Being



The Portakabin on Canterbury Road, a possible site for a new Healthy Living Centre

The key original aims of the NDC programme in terms of health and well-being were five in number. These were to: improve life expectancy to borough average; reduce the number of households with long term illnesses; reduce infant mortality, reduce teenage pregnancy; and finally, to reduce numbers admitted for care who were suffering from emotional and mental health problems.

There were, however, significant changes to these goals over time. This was due to national government policies being developed around certain key areas meaning some NDC priorities were no longer required.

Meanwhile, the 10 year programme concentrated on tackling long term illness. And the percentage of residents suffering long term debilitating conditions has remained consistently lower than that of other NDC areas.

There has also been a narrowing in the gap between South Kilburn and the borough-wide figures for those suffering from emotional and mental health problems.

New priorities that came into play concentrated on an increase in the ease with which people could see their GP and an increase in access to and take-up of fitness activities. Among the projects that worked towards these goals was Active South Kilburn which provided subsidised activities at local gyms and swimming pools.

There was also the Healthy Living Initiatives programme – an extensive project that lasted five years. Working with Big Lottery and Primary Care Trust (PCT) partners this programme delivered a range of health related activities.

These included a local health shop for information and advice, exercise clubs, healthy eating and stress management programmes.

At a celebratory farewell event awards were given to the many organisations that took part in the initiative including Elders Voice and Kilburn Youth Centre, both

of whom planned to continue their activities. Another programme was Jigsaw, an emotional health project established to give support to refugee groups that were new to the area.

Challenges for the future remain, including important work in the area of breaking down the barrier between drugs and mental health – work started by the NDC.

Also, there is long awaited and much anticipated Healthy Living Centre. Works to make this a reality have been delayed by on-going financial pressures on the PCT. However, there is light at the end of the tunnel.

A partnership that was formed between local GPs, South Kilburn Partnership, Brent Council and the PCT suggested this may now be just around the corner with a business case being prepared and development work being planned for an identified site.

Quality Homes Help Health



Dr Tamara Joffe has been working as GP at Kilburn Park Medical Centre for over 10 years and she is all too aware of how poor housing can affect people's health.

Stress from overcrowding and problems with damp conditions are among the worries her patients living in South Kilburn have talked to her about.

"It is therefore hugely encouraging to see cranes soaring over the local area - starting the process of bringing decent housing to residents," she says.

Tamara admires the quality of the accommodation at Granville New Homes – one of the first completed projects – and she says: "This series of re-building projects is the work of SKP and it looks set to continue with a far-reaching programme in place." Hope remains too for a health centre, she says, that will be "at the heart of this new civic planning".

Widening Participation



A Crafties fashion show event, one of the groups supported by the fusion fund

Through a raft of initiatives it was hoped a knowledge of the South Kilburn New Deal for Communities (SKNDC) programme and an understanding of what it did would become almost universal throughout the area – with 90% of local households being aware of SKNDC.

A specially commissioned household survey from MORI revealed a slight reduction in such awareness but this may be due to the large turnover in residents – 20% in two years. Another goal was to see 50% of households participating in the SKNDC programme. Again, such participation has reduced since 2006 but it has improved on the national average for participation levels.

To aid the whole process of widening participation, various facilities for small grants to be given to local community groups have existing over the years of the NDC programme – in its most recent form as the Fusion Fund. The purpose of the Fusion Fund has been to help develop sustainable groups over the next few years - a vitally important task given the current economic climate. Fusion has also been particularly interested in projects which engage new members of the community.

Many group have been helped with grants of up to £5,000. Among them are Carlton Children’s Club, Crafties, the Older People’s Consortium, the Salvation Army, Seed of Hope and South Kilburn Football Club. These contributions have supported a wide range of activities from educational trips for children, dress making workshops and an elders dance project to the development of a wildlife garden, an intra-faith cultural event and football training for youngsters.

Through another initiative, ICT in the Home, financial support has been instrumental in providing affordable IT facilities to households on benefits, including equipment, internet subscriptions, training and particular support for families with children doing homework. Then there are the Walking Talkers – a group of local residents who have been employed to spread local NDC project information

and raise awareness within the community. It has been recognised that the early days did create an over-reliance on NDC funds and more recently an emphasis has been placed on support for fund raising opportunities. And on-going participation by residents is seen as a priority for the future.

Standing on Our Own Two Feet



Phil Howe, an officer at Kilburn Salvation Army, is also acting chair of the Older People’s Consortium and a board member of SKNT.

During the NDC’s lifetime its language changed Phil says – from talk of ‘community development’ to ‘legacy strategies’ – but the work remained that of caring for local people and building lasting relationships.

After years of the benefits of “spoon-feeding” grants and training, he believes thanks need to go to SKP staff.

“They fronted a good deal of frustration and helped local people to look ahead and take steps to stand on our own two feet.” For Phil, a personal highlight was the launch of the Older People’s Consortium in early 2010. Grants from the Knowles Trust and the Co-operative Fund were matched funded by SKP’s Fusion fund, enabling the consortium to organise intergenerational projects for two-way learning between younger and older generations.

A Better Place to Live

Over the ten years of the NDC, there have been a number of improvements in the buildings and homes in South Kilburn



Granville New Homes, built on open land near Peel Precinct, has provided award-winning family homes



Alpha House, one of several to have been refurbished and reclad



Pocket Park turned an unused area into a place to relax



Thames Court, built on open land on Albert Road



St Augustine's sports hall is a new place to play



The Albert Road development, where Denne Construction are building 153 new homes for London & Quadrant Housing on the site of Marshall House



The Texaco site, the former petrol station where Fortunegate and Wilmott Dixon are building 50 new homes



Chippenham Gardens has been given a lift with new paving, planters, and other landscaping, which has much improved the public space



Removing the Carlton Vale roundabout has created a sizeable space which is being prepared by London & Quadrant for building to blocks containing 133 new homes



Network Housing and Rydon Homes are making progress where Gordon House used to be. McDonald House will contain 26 new homes for social rent, including family-sized units with private gardens and terraces

South Kilburn 'alive with opportunity!'

Public Art Programme Update

South Kilburn's Public Art Programme has gathered pace through the winter months with a huge range of projects involving over 300 local residents to date.

Evolve01

“This is like Assassin's Creed, no it's better”

(Evolve01 workshop participant)

Local young people have been learning parkour (also known as free-running) and filming skills with Brent-based filmmaker and freerunner, Karen Palmer. Participants braved the rain and cold for six free Saturday workshops in January and February, exploring the landscape of South Kilburn with new eyes and recording their experiences on film.

Their work is online at www.evolve01.com, and selected videos were recently showcased at the Tricycle Theatre alongside a new interactive film commission by Karen.



“When I look at a wall I don't see it as a wall anymore I see it as an obstacle to get over.” (Kryshna)



“When I videoed myself doing the parkour it was like I was in the middle of the action.”

(credit Isabelle Plasschaert)

South Kilburn Speaks



(credit Dan Thompson)

Poets Aoife Mannix, Niall O'Sullivan and Simon Mole celebrated the end of two months of work in South Kilburn at an event at Workshop 24 on 5th March.

Aoife, Niall and Simon worked with local young people and the elderly community to document and create stories and memories – as well as hopes for the future - of the South Kilburn area. All the writing from the project is up on the blog: www.southkilburnspeaks.wordpress.com.

Poet, Simon Mole was particularly impressed by the quality of the young people's work from Kilburn Park School – ‘These children are from years five and six and have written almost certainly some of, if not the best poems I've ever read by children that age.’

The three poets are now working with public artist Andy Edwards to turn the stories and poems into a series of temporary and permanent works of text-based public art that will be installed in hoardings and pavements. South Kilburn Speaks was devised by the Poetry School and literature collective Out of Print.

Workshop 24

Workshop 24, in unit 24 Peel Precinct, has been a splash of bright yellow, a friendly space where residents have found a never-ending supply of fresh tea, things to make and do and a place to share local stories, news and ideas.

Filled with poets and photographers, gardeners and graphic designers, free runners and free thinkers, this previously empty shop has brought life and lots of laughs to Peel Precinct. Highlights have included:

- afternoon tea every Wednesday, with lots of people telling the history of South Kilburn since the first blocks went up after the Second World War
- a series of sessions led by the BACES Carlton Centre saw people having a go at jewelry, stained glass, watercolour, feltmaking and other activities; with a group of boys making recycled jewelry in the run-up to Valentine's Day
- flowerbeds and planters being cleared of rubbish, new plants put in and over 500 red tulips given away and planted across the estate



(credit Dan Thompson)

South Kilburn Studios

2a Canterbury Road, the former home of South Kilburn Partnership, is being transformed into South Kilburn Studios. The project will provide rent-free working studio space for promising craftspeople, artists, and designers. Each studio will offer a traineeship to a local young person.

We are looking for young people (aged 18-25) who live in Brent to become trainees. Trainees will receive 5 months training (two afternoons a week), develop a strong portfolio and gain a written reference from your trainer. We will hold a trainee open day at the end of April and are open for applications until 1 May. Please visit www.southkilburnstudios.org/trainees or call 020 7084 6767 for more information.

You are also warmly invited to celebrate the opening of South Kilburn Studios on 13 April 2011.

6:30 - 8:00pm - Meet the Tenants Pecha Kucha
This gives you the chance to meet the tenants of South Kilburn Studios as they each give a short 5 minute presentation about their work.

8:00 - 10:00pm - Drinks and music

Rsvp to events@architecturefoundation.org.uk (please put South Kilburn Studios in the subject line) or ring 020 7084 6767

South Kilburn Studios will open in April and run through until 15 September. www.southkilburnstudios.org

Building the outside from inside

Brent Arts Therapies Service, in partnership with Emergence, have led an Arts in Health project as part of the South Kilburn Public Art programme. They commissioned two artists, Julie Bagwash and Tamar Whyte – who identify with Personality Disorder – to create a new artwork in collaboration with South Kilburn residents experiencing mental health difficulties.



(credit Mike Massaro)

Over 25 persons were invited to take part in the workshops and create unique handmade glass tiles that celebrated their creativity and aimed to increase self-esteem by teaching them a new skill. Participants worked with a range of exciting and colourful materials that have produced some stunning work. One participant, who felt that the limitations of her illness meant that she couldn't learn a technique to manipulate wire, was delighted when she overcame this and produced a tile that incorporated a design in copper.

The final artwork will incorporate individual tiles made by participants in the workshops and aims to reflect positive values about living in South Kilburn, whilst making reference to the internal and external use of architectural spaces. The finished work will be displayed at the Salvation Army building from April 2011.

A big thank you to everyone who has got involved in the programme, from all the artists working on the project. We hope this is just the beginning of many years of creative work linked to the regeneration of South Kilburn.

Greening South Kilburn



Canterbury Gardens could use some tender care

South Kilburn Partnership have funded Brent Council Landscape Team to deliver a range of environmental improvements projects across the estate, focussing on the areas of South Kilburn not expected to benefit from major redevelopment.

An estate wide project is the planting of 100 new trees, in streets and public spaces, replacing those lost to development. We already have most of the planting locations decided, if anyone would like to nominate a place where we could plant more trees please contact Lawrence Usherwood, Tree Officer, on 0208 937 5247

Another project is the restoration of Cambridge Gardens to its original Victorian design. This work will be carried out over the next 12 months helped by additional Planning

Gain funding from new developments in the area. We are very interested to hear from anyone who has information on the history of Cambridge Gardens or old photographs showing the area, please contact Martin Page, Landscape Architect, on 0208 937 5551

We are also working on a new design for Canterbury Terrace to create a shared surface street with new trees, and well defined car parking spaces. Nearby Cathedral Walk will benefit from a 'makeover' with new tree and shrub planting.

In the Stafford Close and Stuart Road area we are planting new street trees, installing the latest LED white street lights and creating a shared community garden. To improve security we are replacing old boundary fences and working with local police on gating alleyways.



South Kilburn Partnership

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Next Issue

Published June – look out for it.

If you've got anything to tell the rest of South Kilburn about, or if you want to write a letter, get in touch with the Editor, Jacqui Clarke, on 020 7328 1199, or at info@skpartnership.net

We also have a text number which you can use – **07783 948950** - get in touch!