

# soho

CLARION



THE FREE MAGAZINE OF THE SOHO SOCIETY

# £100,000 for Soho

**T**HE WEST END ward debate took place on 6th May 2008 and is part of a £2 million two year programme.

The Council has introduced a Ward Budgets programme that provides £100,000 to each ward in the city to support local projects and priorities. The guidance states that projects should: be locally derived; meet an identified need; improve local social, economic or environmental well-being; not undermine council or partners' policies or service delivery; and be lawful.

Ward budgets are being introduced to help Ward Councillors tackle specific local issues and priorities. Ward budgets will be used to commission new or additional projects, services or facilities and each ward will receive £100,000 in both 2008/9 and 2009/10.

The West End Councillors presented their proposals to tackle the issue of late night noise. It was suggested that the majority of the money be spent on



the employment of a night time officer who would patrol the streets to gather evidence of late night noise from midnight to 5am. The work of the late night officer would be complemented by a daytime planning and licence appeal officer who would support residents in their objections to late night licences and any intrusive planning applications. Council officers agreed to work up job descriptions and consider whether the two officers needed to be full time. The funding for this would be in the region of £80,000. The Councillors then

listened to the views of their local community as residents and local organisations went round the table with their thoughts and ideas. Other ideas which were supported were: a West End Time Bank (£10,000) match funded by Soho Caring Agencies Forum and Soho Housing Association; a Community Table and Seating at St Anne's (£7,000); a Summer Play Scheme for families (up to £10,000); activities for older people with dementia (£5,000); London Fire Brigade Rehabilitation Scheme for young people (£2,000).

The proposals were agreed in principle and the officers are now preparing a report for agreement by the Cabinet Member for Customer and Community Services by 30th June. Shortly after this the decision on allocation of the budget will be known.

Please contact Neil Drinkwater at the Soho Caring Agencies Forum (SCAF) for any further details [admin@sohocaf.org.uk](mailto:admin@sohocaf.org.uk) tel 0207 434 1708 or Chris Best, Chair of SCAF on [chris@sohoha.org.uk](mailto:chris@sohoha.org.uk)

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