



Project 2: Basire St Playground

Project 2, the playground in Basire Street, was a mammoth task. The playground was so heavily covered with graffiti that it had become a virtual no go area for the children it was intended for.



The project took six full days to complete, carried out over a six-week period. In that time, offenders:

- ✓ Painted out almost 1000 square metres of graffiti
- ✓ Painted 75 square metres of railings and play equipment
- ✓ Removed and recycled 1.35 tonnes of green waste

Islington's Clean Team were on hand to help the offenders out, removing hard-to-reach graffiti from high-up areas and repairing the benches using parts from old seats - the ultimate in recycling!

Prior to the project, graffiti was not only on the walls and railings of the playground, but also on every single piece of play equipment and the ground. The area has been transformed through the offenders' hard work, providing a great place for kids to enjoy!



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Feedback from the Residents and Stakeholders

The Project Team chose Basire Street Playground as the official launch of the Islington Community Payback scheme. This presented an opportunity to gain a wider cross section of feedback from the community. The launch involved not only representatives from the services, but the local children who were the end users and intended beneficiaries of the scheme who cast a critical but approving eye over the work done, with comments as follows:

I think...

"that it is much better because it has been painted and there is no more spray paint"

"this playground is nice now"

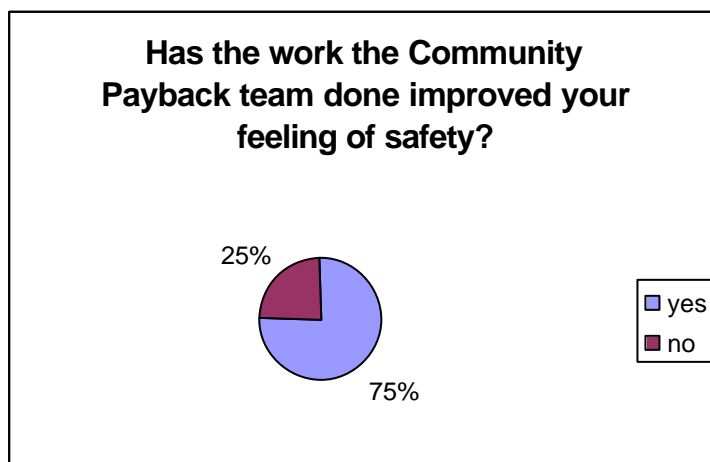
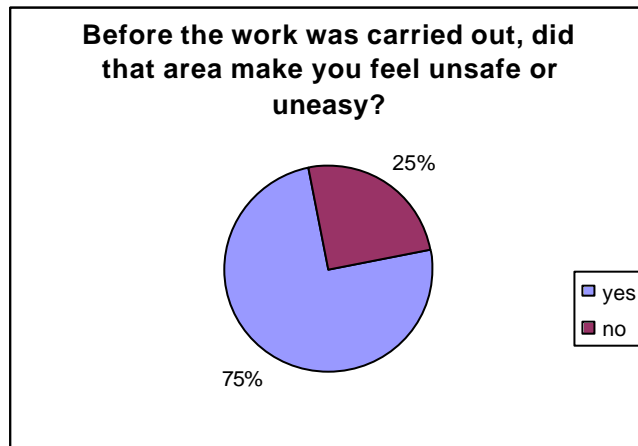
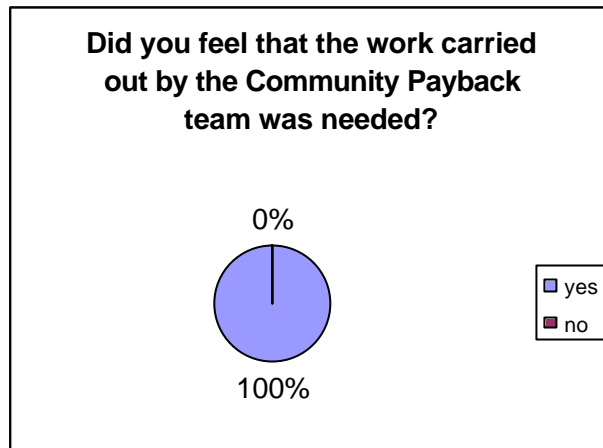
"the park is very good because there is no spray paint every where"



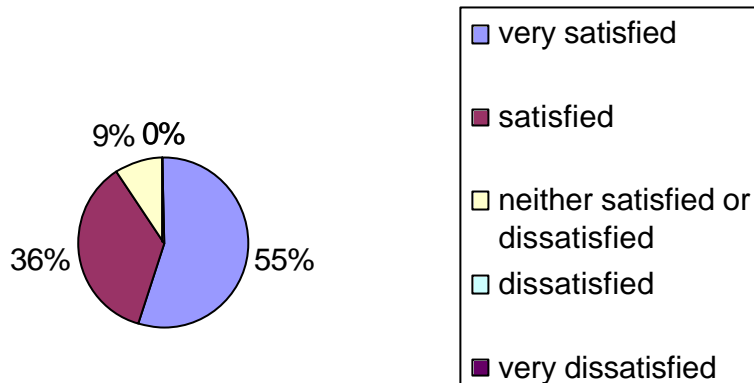
Basire Street Playground swings before and after Community Payback



Questionnaire results: Basire Street Playground



How satisfied are you with the quality of work of the Community Payback Team?



As part of the questionnaire residents were asked for:

1) '*...suggestions or comments on the scheme or how we can improve it in the future*'

Responses included:

- Where the grass is could you put gate back or stop dog fouling on the grass where children play?
- Some way to encourage people to clean up after their dogs and clean up stuff already there.
- New River Walk.
- Cleaning the New River.
- Keep up the good work.
- Regular organised usage of area; bring and buy etc.
- Make a programme that enables the workers on the scheme to get a qualification or credit towards an award, for the work they complete.
- Graffiti wall, more activities, more bins, regular park keeper.
- A permanent park keeper to stop the graffiti painters. Gates being locked at the right time and not left open all night. More supervision.
- I have often seen boys playing football in the area around the seesaw, roundabout and playground keeper's building. The ball is often kicked over the Basire Street wall and into traffic. A fence, similar to the one enclosing the football area, might help.

2) ‘...have you any other areas that a Community Payback scheme would be suitable for?’

Responses included:

- Improve the playing pitch, basketball hoops, entrance into the park.
- Do you cut tree branches, if yes, they are blocking our vision and need pruning.
- Morton Park.
- Graham Street Park.
- Morton Park Cannobury Park.
- CCTV cameras.



Above: Children celebrating with the Deputy Mayor of Islington at the restored Basire Street Playground

Next page: ‘In Partnership’ is an example of the publicity generated for the scheme through the official launch at Basire Street Playground.

Payback praised at launch



Community Payback was officially launched in Islington on 18 July at the Basire Street Playground, N1. The play area was the second project to be tackled under the Community Payback banner and, prior to the offenders' work, was so heavily covered with graffiti that it had become a virtual no go area for the local children.

The project took six full days to complete, carried out over a six-week period.

In that time, offenders:

- ✓ painted out 1000 square metres of graffiti
- ✓ painted 75 square metres of railings and play equipment
- ✓ removed and recycled 1.35 tonnes green waste

The launch was a huge success with almost two hundred attendees over the course of the day. Street Environment Services, the Metropolitan Police and London Probation provided stalls while Children from the local Rotherfield School painted recycling bags and filled in comments cards on the work carried out:

'I think... the park is very good because there is no spray paint everywhere'.

Adults too were encouraged to fill in feedback forms, with a 100% positive response rate.

Bram Kainth introduced the Deputy Mayor Councillor Barbara Smith and Andrew Hillas of London Probation who, after speeches, presented Elaine Adams, headmistress of Rotherfield School, with a certificate to mark the occasion.



Top left:
Headmistress Elaine Adams, Deputy Mayor Cllr Barbara Smith, Andrew Hillas of London Probation

Above:
The Deputy Mayor with the children of Rotherfield Primary School