

London Probation Community Payback Mayoral Projects 2007

This is a National Offender Management Service initiative and Probation Areas were asked to invite local Mayors to adopt projects, which will help to improve the local environment and attract media attention.

National Probation Service London chose the boroughs of Brent and Islington to develop this initiative in 2007

Brent Mayoral Project

On 18th July 2007 an event was held to mark the Mayor's adoption of a Community Payback project. Brent's project was at Church Path, Brownlow Road, London NW10. The path, which is used regularly by residents to access local shops, suffers heavily from graffiti. However Community Payback work groups painted over the graffiti and will return to remove repeat graffiti if required.

Councillor Harshadbhai B Patel, Mayor of Brent, and Julie Dent, London Probation's Board Chair gave speeches. Both were very enthusiastic about the benefits of Community Payback and saw it as a four-way partnership, which includes the offenders as the fourth partner. They were keen to point out that the work done by offenders is an important factor in the success of Community Payback. The Mayor of Brent, London Probation representatives and Harlsden Safer Neighbourhoods team are pictured in Church Path



Islington Mayoral Project

Islington's Mayoral project was Children's Playgrounds and 10 playgrounds were selected for renovation and improvement works.

The Mayors celebration event was held in the Mayville Estate, Mayville Playground, Woodville Road, and N16 on the 3rd of October 2007.

Mayville playground was the tenth in a series of community payback driven playground renovations completed under the banner of the Islington Mayor's Project 2007. It was chosen as the location for the Mayor's Project celebration event as it is an ideal example of partnership working. Stakeholders include: Islington Council (Street Environment Services/Greenspace), London Probation, Metropolitan Police, Homes for Islington, the local TRA, Arsenal Premier League Creating Chances scheme, residents.

Pupils from Newington Green Primary School attended the event. A group of forty children, broke into groups of 10, and rotated around activities at half hour intervals as follows:

- 1) Basketball coaching session
- 2) Recycling bag painting
- 3) Making creatures from grass seed (Courtesy of Groundworks)
- 4) Playing on the newly painted equipment

One resident wrote:

"I really enjoyed the opening of the park. it was a brilliant idea of yours to get everyone involved. The whole build up to the occasion was a great success. I wish there were more projects in our area to spruce up our entire estate. I'm glad that you took the time to listen to my ideas and to include them in the final plan. The children who live on the estate can also feel that they belong, someone cares enough to do some thing especially for them. I cannot say how happy we all were. A big thank you to all, may all your future projects be a great success. Thank you."