

February 2026 newsletter from StQW and SHRA

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**St Helens Residents Association**

**St Quintin and Woodlands Neighbourhood Forum**



### **NCIL bids for the 2026 round – a proposal for the disused public toilet block in Memorial Park (St Marks Park)**

Details of the allocations of NCIL funds for each ward in RBKC, available for bids from local community organisations, were included in our [January newsletter](#). In this 2026 funding round, the sums for St Helens ward and for the extra StQW allocation are small at under £10,000 in each case.

The allocation for Dalgarno ward is a more substantial £52,418. Councillor Eva Jedut has suggested it would be worth the StQW Forum/St Helens RA putting in a bid to convert the disused public toilets at Memorial Park into a shelter for users of the park.

This idea goes back to the 2020 RBKC project to replace the original café/kiosk and to build changing rooms by the sports pitches in the park. The project group of local residents involved at that time were keen to see this small building retained in some form. It is the last of the original buildings to survive, with its tiled 'pagoda' roof. Taking out parts of the walls and installing some seating would create a useful shelter of the kind which is often seen in London parks. The outdoor area at the new café building offers little shade in summer.



*CGI image from competition entry by Bernadette DeGale architects*

This part of the overall project never happened, as the available budget was overspent on other buildings. The old toilet block remains unused and boarded up. An original estimate for the refurbishment on the lines above was £50,000. NCIL funds now offer scope for a scheme which may need a contribution from the RBKC Parks budget, but seems worth a try. Other NCIL projects may come forward for Dalgarno ward and final decisions on priorities lie in the hand of ward councillors, following assessment by officers.

The deadline for [NCIL applications](#) is **March 11<sup>th</sup>**. If anything is known of other applications being prepared for this round, for either Dalgarno or St Helens ward, please email [sthelensassn@aol.com](mailto:sthelensassn@aol.com).

## **RBKC Climate Resilience Training in Notting Dale and North Kensington**

There is an opportunity to join a free training programme which will be running over the next few months, and which may prove attractive to the younger generation in the neighbourhood.

This training is available as part of the Notting Dale Future Neighbourhoods Programme and brings together expertise from Groundwork London, Communities Prepared, RBKC, and the Mayor of London. The programme is designed to support people who want to help strengthen their community in the face of climate-related risks such as heatwaves, flooding, and other emergencies.

More details can be found via these two contact points:

- Ian Morris  
Community Programme Manager, Groundwork London  
[ian.morris@groundwork.org.uk](mailto:ian.morris@groundwork.org.uk)
- Josie Kendall  
Future Neighbourhoods Project Manager, RBKC  
[josie.kendall@rbkc.gov.uk](mailto:josie.kendall@rbkc.gov.uk)

The course is aimed at those aged 18 or over, and live, work or study in Notting Dale or North Kensington, and are interested in helping the community prepare for climate impacts and emergencies. There are 20 places available on the programme which involves a total of 6 x 2 hour sessions and will run between March and April 2026, with a mix of in-person workshops in the local area and online sessions on topics such as flooding and heatwaves. Sessions are typically around two hours each and are designed to be practical, interactive, and relevant to local needs.

The Community Climate Action training will follow in May–June 2026 for selected participants and will focus on understanding climate change and local impacts, community engagement, and developing and planning climate action projects. **Registration ends on 1<sup>st</sup> March** so there is little time left to apply. The application form for the course is at [this link](#). After weeks of incessant rain, and flooding becoming a growing issue in many parts of the country (as well as locally) some 'resilient' and trained neighbours would be welcome.

**The RBKC cyber attack – when will systems return to normal?**

There were hopes that some of the Council's IT systems would be restored by the middle of February, including those which deal with planning applications, planning appeals, and Land Charge searches. This has not happened and the RBKC website continues to display this bleak message *The Council is still facing weeks of disruption, and it may take months to get all services back up and running.*

Meanwhile the Council remains unable to submit its 'Stage 2' referral to the Mayor of London on the Ballymore/Sainsbury's scheme at Kensal Canalside. Online campaigns asking the Mayor to intervene gather strength (see at [KeepKensalGreen](#) | [Support Sustainable Development](#)). While house prices in this neighbourhood have been falling back modestly, the Financial Times has reported that flat prices in RBKC have fallen by as much as 12.4%. There are many reasons why housebuyers are now wary of buying flats in residential towers such as those proposed in the Ballymore development.

The StQW Forum continues to work closely with members of the Old Oak Neighbourhood Forum to our west. Local residents waiting for the outcome of the HS2 'reset' and a revised timeline for the opening of the HS2 and Elizabeth Line platforms at Old Oak Common station (now half built on the northern boundary of Wormwood Scrubs).

Assertions by HS2 and the Old Oak and Park Royal Development Corporation that the neighbourhoods in this part of inner West London are 'well connected' to public transport continue to be challenged by local people.

The Hammersmith & City Line at Latimer Road has become a lot more regular and useful in recent years. But with construction of the Imperial underpass to Wood Lane postponed again to mid 2026, the reality remains that we are not that well served with public transport options.

It may be 10-15 years before we have good access to the Elizabeth Line, whereas this east/west transport link has made a huge difference the lives of Londoners living near the 41 stations already in operation along the line.

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