Welcome to Cross River Partnership’s March Newsletter

Contingency planning

CRP is working with its partners and funders to make sure that all partnership services continue to be delivered (adjusted as appropriate), and that face-to-face meetings are largely replaced by virtual, technology-enhanced interactions. We are following our lead accountable body Westminster City Council’s Coronavirus Guidance to keep all of our partners, colleagues and team members as safe and well as possible. All of the CRP team is equipped to work on a fully agile basis.

If there are any queries at any time, please do not hesitate to contact either myself or a member of the CRP team in the usual way, either via email or phone in the first instance: susannahwilks@crossriverpartnership.org M. 0771 444 7465. Stay safe!

New CRP contact numbers

As part of Westminster City Council’s digital enhancement programme, the majority
of the CRP team have been issued with new mobile telephone numbers to replace previous landline numbers. These new numbers are displayed within CRP team member email footers. Please update your contact detail records accordingly. Any queries, please contact CRP’s Joshua West.

London businesses and local authorities meet to tackle air quality crisis

Inner and outer London councils, businesses improvement districts (BIDs), and healthcare industry specialists have come together to share knowledge and solutions to London’s air quality crisis - currently responsible for thousands of premature deaths each year in the capital.

With air quality improvement projects already taking place and increasing pressure for both public and private sectors to take more action, the ‘Clean Air Future’ event on 27th February 2020, hosted by London Councils, London Environment Directors Network (LEDNet), the Association of Directors of Public Health London (ADPH London), and Cross River Partnership at Westminster City Hall, was a welcome opportunity to share successful initiatives and how targets should be translating into actions in some of London’s most polluted areas.

New funding opportunity - round 2 of Clean Air Thames

After a successful first round of funding awarded for the retrofit of GPS Marine and Port of London Authority (PLA) vessels, CRP is pleased to announce that the second round of funding will be open for applications in Spring 2020. The Clean Air Thames project is being delivered in collaboration with the Greater
London Authority, PLA, and the City of London Corporation to retrofit a number of vessels along the river to reduce exhaust particulates and improve air quality.

Clean Air Thames funding is open to operators running vessels on the Tidal Thames within Greater London. We are excited to review the second round of applications, which will be open until September 2020.

Brixton shared electric vehicle success!

Since launching in December 2019, as part of CRP’s Defra-funded Clean Air Villages programme, the Brixton shared electric van (EV) scheme has been going strong. Brixton businesses have so far driven the London Borough of Lambeth funded vehicle more than 2,000 miles! All of those miles would have been otherwise driven by a tailpipe polluting equivalent. Utilisation of the EV has grown from 30% to 60% in the few months since its launch with a steady number of local businesses signing up to the behaviour change initiative.

Healthy Streets Everyday steering group outcomes

CRP held a Steering Group meeting with the 17 Healthy Streets Everyday Local Authority partners, plus Cadogan Estates, University of Westminster, Sustrans and Transport for London on 3rd March 2020. Many thanks to London Borough of Hackney for hosting us! Guidance was offered to project partners on Clean Air Day 2020, which will take place on Thursday 18th June. This is a fantastic opportunity for boroughs and their communities to trial Play Streets and / or School Streets.
Collaboration to develop a framework for appraising and monitoring parking initiatives

The Central London Sub-Regional Transport Partnership, managed by Cross River Partnership on behalf of TfL, is working with ITP to develop and appraisal and evaluation framework for parking management schemes in central London, following on from recommendations in a recent London Councils’ report on the benefits of parking management. This new appraisal framework will support councils to develop a clear evidence base for demonstrating the important role parking management plays as a public service, and will facilitate exemplar practice in scheme design and evaluation.

CAV on track - cargo bikes, telematic dongles, and constructive feedback workshops

It is a busy time of the year for the Clean Air Villages team, but we are making sure that all the villages are on track with their local solution to improving local air quality! We have held over 10 workshops across the villages to get feedback from businesses on how they can get involved in a local solution which will lead to behaviour change around initiatives which will improve air quality. At present, we have met and engaged with over 80 businesses on how they can change their behaviour with deliveries to benefit local air quality in the communities they work in.
10-year Stewardship Strategy - Cadogan Estates

Over the past year, CRP has worked with Cadogan to develop a comprehensive 10-year stewardship strategy for its estate located in the heart of Chelsea, London. The strategy, Chelsea 2030, is an updated approach to safeguarding Cadogan’s three stewardship pillars: Environment, Community, and Heritage & Conversation.

Follow us for the latest updates on the strategy launch

Lighting London Sustainably

CRP is extremely pleased to be sponsoring the Centre for London to start a new piece of research on Lighting London Sustainably, alongside sponsors the City of London Corporation and the Greater London Authority, and major sponsor the Rothschild Foundation. The research recognises the potential that sustainable lighting approaches can make to addressing many urban challenges, and builds on the interest generated in light by the successful Illuminated River Foundation initiative to install artwork underneath all of central London’s Thames bridges.

Read more
LEAP annual update meeting

CRP was extremely pleased to attend the Mayor of London’s Local Economic Action Partnership (LEAP) Annual Update Meeting alongside hundreds of other active organisations in the London Living Room on 5th March 2020. Deputy Mayor of London for Business, Rajesh Agrawal, welcomed everyone to the proceedings, which were chaired by Angus Knowles-Cutler, Deputy Co-Chair of the LEAP. The LEAP’s funding programmes were presented, including the £22m of capital funding that will be available through Round 3 of the Good Growth Fund.

Delivering ‘Green High Streets’ of the future

On Tuesday 3rd March, CRP attended the ATCM Place Management Conference, hosted at the Crystal, one of the world's most sustainable buildings. In 2019, the UN published a report warning we have less than 12 years to prevent irreversible damage from climate change. In the same year, the UK became the first member of the G7 to legislate for net zero emissions, committing the UK and Ireland to be carbon neutral by 2050. With the ambition to deliver “Green High Streets” for the future, this ATCM event brought together representatives from local authorities and business improvement districts, across the UK and Ireland, to learn how urban areas can support a carbon neutral transition.
A day in the life of CRP's Clean Air Villages project

Promoting the new Fulham shared electric vehicle (EV) for businesses – CRP's Chioma Wuche gives her first-hand experiences

This new scheme intends to give local businesses shared access to an EV at no cost in order to tackle poor air quality. I have enjoyed talking to a range of businesses in Fulham to promote the shared electric van. After the successful launch of Brixton EV, I am happy that we have the opportunity to work with more business to implement another successful scheme.

Creative and Digital Industries research project

CRP is very pleased to have completed a piece of research for the South London Innovation Corridor, working with the London Boroughs of Lambeth, Lewisham, Southwark and Wandsworth on diversifying the workforce of this growth sector for London. CRP delivered the work in partnership with Roseveare Projects Ltd. The Executive Summary of the report gives 28 SMART recommendations based on a review of 69 documents, plus 16 business-facing one-to-one interviews and 11 telephone interviews undertaken during November and December 2019.
New CRP team member

Carina Mesquita joined CRP in March 2020. She gives her account of her first month with the team below:

My first month at CRP has been very constructive and exciting!

I have had the opportunity to learn more about sustainability and the implementation of the Clean Air Villages 2 project in London. The CRP team have been so supportive in teaching me the day-to-day activities in the office, and also accompanying me in the field to provide me with a better understanding of the projects.

CRP has taken up permanent residence on Floor 14 of the newly-refurbished Westminster City Hall, alongside other Westminster City Council Departments. As a voluntary association of all of its partner organisations, CRP has been honoured that Westminster City Council has played the lead accountable body role for the partnership over the entirety of its 25 years’ existence. The CRP team enjoys working seamlessly with its Westminster City Council colleagues, adding value to their delivery projects where appropriate and following all of the same financial, legal, emergency, IT and HR procedures, systems and policies.

Councillor Rachael Robathan, Leader of Westminster City Council recently launched the City For All 2020/21 Vision & Strategy.

The key priorities are:

- Cleaner and Greener
- Vibrant Communities
- Smart City

CRP looks forward to working closely with its accountable body to help achieve its vision.

For further information please contact CRP's Carol Quamina

A huge congratulations to Victoria Business Improvement District for securing a third consecutive term!

CRP would like to congratulate our partner business
The overwhelmingly positive ballot response is testament to Victoria BID’s unrelenting support for local businesses, leading the way on enhancing the local environment and public realm, establishing robust policing initiatives, fostering long term sustainable economic growth, and promoting Victoria as a world-class destination and gateway to London over the past 10 years. Read more here

organisation Cheapside Business Alliance (CBA), who have secured ballot successes in Cheapside and Aldgate! CBA have successfully renewed their term for 5 more years. Local businesses voted to renew the City of London’s first business improvement district, and also for creating the first BID for Tower Hamlets – Aldgate Connect. Read more here

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