

# OPDC

OLD OAK AND  
PARK ROYAL  
DEVELOPMENT  
CORPORATION

## Your March update



Welcome to our community newsletter! Read on to find out what is happening in our area, including the latest updates and upcoming events.

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## Community Updates



## Small Grants Scheme 2026 - Applications closed

Thank you to everyone who applied for our Small Grants Scheme this year!

The scheme is designed to support grassroots initiatives across Brent, Ealing and Hammersmith and Fulham that make a positive difference to their local area. Since 2019, we have awarded almost £270,000 to 52 community-led organisations, including foodbanks, training centres, and arts and culture programmes.

An announcement on this year's Small Grants awardees will be made shortly, so watch this space!

To find out more about the scheme, click the link below.

[OPDC's Consultation Page](#)

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### **Wesley Playing Fields tree planting session**

As part of the ongoing improvements to Wesley Playing Fields, we recently held a community gardening event at the playing fields with [Earthwatch Europe](#).

Families and community members of all ages came along to plant nine fruit trees, which will adorn the park for years to come!

OPDC is working together with Ealing Council to improve Wesley Playing Fields, with plans including improved play areas, more planting, a new shelter, wider paths, and more visible and accessible entrances. Works are due to start on site in early Summer.

To watch a video of the tree planting session, or to find out more about the final plans for Wesley Playing Fields, please see the links below.

[Tree Planting Session Video](#)

[Wesley Playing Fields Plans](#)



## Green light for North Acton Business Improvement District

North Acton is set for a major boost after local businesses and property owners voted to establish a Business Improvement District (BID) for the area.

The BID ballot, delivered by OPDC and Ealing Council, gives the green light for more than £2 million of investment over the next five years.

BIDs are business-led and business-funded initiatives, in which businesses collaborate to fund improvements to the local environment and public realm.

This funding will back priorities that local businesses have identified including:

- Improvements to lighting and wayfinding
- Reduced littering and fly-tipping
- Championing North Acton's identity by supporting events and local markets, local creatives and artists
- Providing a collective voice for businesses responding to major changes taking place in the area through projects such as HS2

The North Acton BID will be the first of its kind in the OPDC area and will help accelerate North Acton's transformation in the coming years.

To find out more, click the link below.

[North Acton BID Press Release](#)

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### Launch of report on West London screen industries

West London has a rich history of film and TV production and continues to be at the heart of this industry in the UK - according to new research by Professor Emily Caston, part-funded by OPDC and launched at Ealing Studios in March.

This research confirms the scale and importance of West London's film industry and its role in driving jobs, innovation and global influence.

West London is home to over 6,000 creative companies that generate over £70 billion in turnover - with 34% of London's screen enterprises and 14.5% of the nationwide total based here.

The area acts as a coordinating hub for commissioning, finance, post-production, visual effects, studios and specialist suppliers which enable productions across the UK and has recently supported local filming for shows including Bridgerton, The Rings of Power and The Crown.

To find out more and view the research, click the link below.

[West London Business' Website](#)



## Hear from North Acton Square

A few months on from the transformation of North Acton Square, we caught up with Ky and Jiwoon, two of the independent business owners who operate in the square.

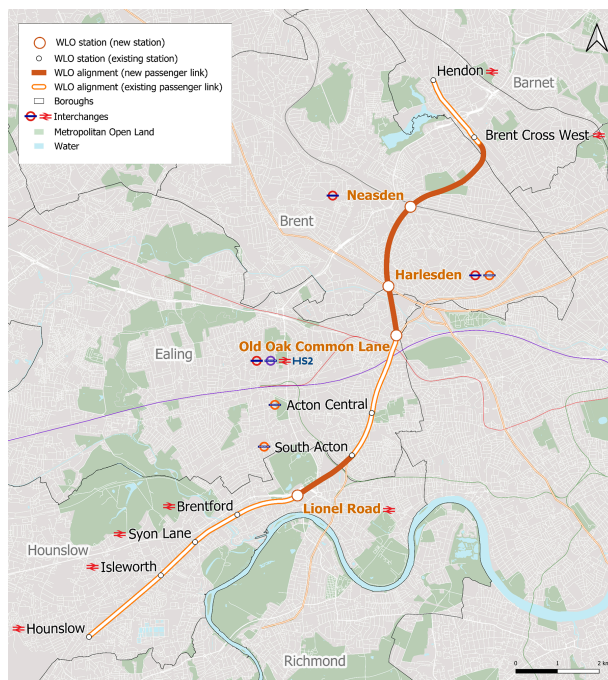
Ky runs Sound Burger, a burger and record shop, and Jiwoon runs Awakener Coffee, a cafe that started out as a cart in the square.

Click below to hear about their experiences of the square, and what their big plans are for the future!

Sound Burger Video

Awakener Coffee Video

## In Other News



### Next stop: The West London Orbital!

OPDC, Transport for London (TfL), and the London Borough Councils of Hounslow, Ealing, Brent, and Barnet have recently agreed a major funding deal of up to £6.65 million to kickstart the next phase of developing the West London Orbital (WLO) scheme.

The proposed WLO line, which would run from Hounslow to Hendon, through the OPDC area via Old Oak Common Lane, would be a major boost for connectivity, growth, and housing provision in West London.

OPDC CEO Matthew Carpen and Planning Director Emma Williamson joined Leader of Brent Council, Councillor Muhammed Butt, Brent Council Cabinet Member, Councillor Teo Benea, and Tom Copley and Seb Dance, Deputy Mayors of London, to visit some of the sites that could benefit from the creation of the new WLO line.

To find out more about the proposed scheme, click the link below.

[TfL's Website](#)



### Imperial unveils advanced manufacturing facility in Old Oak Innovation Cluster

Earlier this month, Imperial College London unveiled Grapht Works at the former Victoria Road Industrial Estate in North Acton – a new home for pioneering innovation, and London’s first dedicated facility for advanced manufacturing.

Grapht Works, along with other facilities in the WestTech London corridor, will provide space for new businesses to innovate and grow, in the heart of London and the Old Oak and Park Royal Opportunity Area.

Click the link below to find out more.

[Grapht Works Press Release](#)



## Minerva Works shortlisted for a Pineapple Award

Minerva Works, OPDC's Circular Economy Hub in Park Royal, has been shortlisted for a Pineapple Award in the Climate Resilience category.

The Pineapple Awards were launched by built environment organisation 'The Developer' in 2019 and aim to celebrate the best in placemaking and place-led initiatives.

Run by The Republic of Park Royal, Minerva Works has been transformed into a creative workspace used by a range of local enterprises focusing on the circular economy, including [ReCollective](#), [Absolute Beginners](#), and [Rescued Clay](#).

We are delighted to be shortlisted among a number of other great projects and are looking forward to the awards ceremony in April.

You can find out more about The Pineapples and Minerva Works by clicking the links below.

[The Pineapples](#)

[Minerva Works](#)



### Look back on International Women’s Day

Earlier this month, the OPDC team celebrated International Women’s Day with an event held by our newly established Women’s Network.

This year’s theme was 'Give to Gain' and staff heard from a range of fantastic speakers from OPDC and local organisations such as Young Ealing Foundation, Young Brent Foundation, and Absolute Beginners who shared their reflections on what the theme means to them.

We also shone a spotlight on some of the fantastic female-led organisations in the OPDC community, including Mama Haven, Rashida’s Patisserie, and Dina Foods, as well as artist and facilitator Shanayah Dadral who leads workshops and delivers projects in Park Royal.

Check out a video of our event and find out more about International Women’s Day below.

[OPDC Event Video](#)

[International Women’s Day](#)

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## Upcoming Events, Consultations & Opportunities



### OPDC Community Drop-ins

Members of the OPDC team are available on a **monthly basis** to meet with residents, answer questions, and share updates about ongoing work in Old Oak.

The next drop-in will be held on **Tuesday 31 March from 3-7pm** at **Oaklands Social @ Oaklands Rise**. There's no need to book or register – just come along at a time that suits you.

**Address:** [Oaklands Rise, 19 Green Street, London, NW10 6FT](#)

There will be another drop-in next month – keep an eye on our social media channels for further updates on the date and location.

We look forward to seeing you!



**Come along to Mama Haven's 'Women Into Work' Conference**

If you are seeking job opportunities, looking to get into higher income work, or starting your own business, Mama Haven invite you to their 'Women Into Work' conference on Saturday 18 April to find out more about the opportunities on offer.

Delivered in partnership with Queens Park Rangers FC's 'QPR in the Community Trust', the conference will be held on 18 April from 9.30am - 12.30pm at Queen's Park Rangers Football Club, Loftus Road, W12 7PJ.

For more information, contact [info@mamahaven.org](mailto:info@mamahaven.org)

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## Volunteering Opportunities - How Can We Help?



We are always on the lookout for new ways to help out in the community, and that is where you come in. If your organisation needs a few extra hands, whether it is just for a one-off project or something ongoing, we would love to hear from you.

We want to work with local groups and projects that could use some volunteer support. Drop us a line at [info@opdc.london.gov.uk](mailto:info@opdc.london.gov.uk) and tell us what you're up to.

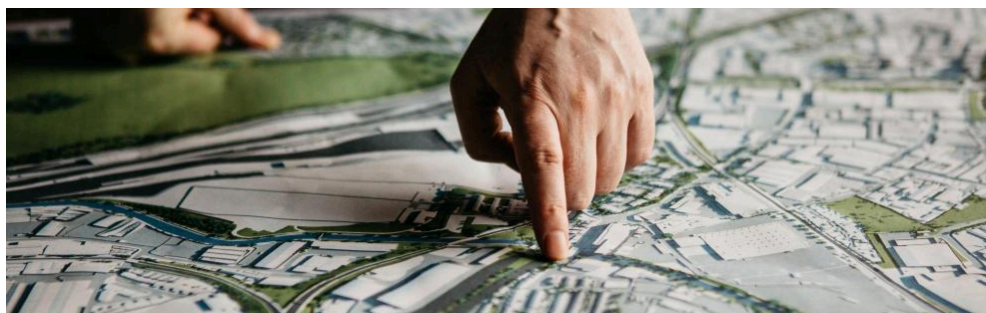
And if you are based in or around North Acton and would like to help make the area greener, the North Acton Guerilla Gardening Group – ran by The Republic Community Projects – is currently looking for volunteers.

Click the link below to sign up.

[North Acton Guerilla Gardening Group](#)

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## Planning Applications



### Planning Updates

- [25/0196/FUMOPDC](#): Unit F, 6 Premier Park, NW10 – OPDC’s Planning Committee voted in favour of plans for the demolition of an existing warehouse and the phased redevelopment of the site for a 25,000sqm data centre. You can view the planning report [here](#).

### Live Planning Applications

- [25/0179/REMOPDC](#): Frogmore Industrial Estate, Acton Lane, NW10 – reserved matters application with full details of appearance, layout, scale, means of access and landscaping pursuant to outline planning permission 21/0182/OUTOPDC dated 13 October 2022 for redevelopment for a data centre with ancillary offices, work units and a café/shop.
- [25/0197/FUMOPDC](#): 2 Scrubs Lane, NW10 - demolition of existing community building and redevelopment for a 28 storey building comprising co-living accommodation and community use floorspace.
- [26/0026/REMOPDC](#): 26 Park Royal Road, Ealing, NW10 7JW – reserved matters application with full details of appearance, layout, scale and landscaping pursuant to outline planning permission 23/0166/OUTOPDC dated 28 March 2024 for redevelopment with a self-storage facility with ancillary office floorspace.

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