

Wednesday, 7th March 2012

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Urban eye gives Westway flyover much needed make-over

Monday, 5th March 2012

Local regeneration charity Urban Eye has cleaned, decorated and lit up more than 3,000 square meters of the westway flyover, the equivalent of half the size of an American football pitch.

The neglected Westway (A40) flyover has been given a much-needed makeover to help reduce crime associated with the looming structure. The refurbishment at St Mark's Road and Bramley Road took 18 months to complete and features a mural based on input from pupils at St Thomas Jones Primary School.

The flyover has overshadowed North Kensington since it was erected in 1970. It had become covered with graffiti tags and was regularly targeted by fly-tippers and drug dealers. Using a combination of reflective white paint, clever lighting and eye-catching designs, the refurbishment aims to provide a safer environment for local people.

"This project will lead to a reduction in the fear of crime. There will be a greater use of public space and the neighbouring street by the community," says Kathleen Aubeelack, Crime Prevention Officer at the Metropolitan Police.

The paint used to brighten up the structure will last for at least 25 years and of all 40 projects completed by Urban Eye, not one has become a target for vandalism. Miles Watson, Urban Eye's artist said: "When urban structures such as the flyover become neglected, they can have a negative impact on communities. By working with local people, we've come up with ways to ensure that these structures not only perform their primary function, but also improve the look of a neighbourhood."

Urban Eye began work on the flyover in 2000 at Acklam Road. Since then, the makeover has extended to Portobello Road, Thorpe Close and Ladbroke Grove.

Local residents have praised the project saying things such as: "It is magnificent – many, many thanks. After all these years the area has been transformed!"

Urban Eye's next project is refurbishing the Network Rail bridge on Golborne Road, North Kensington.

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