Neighbourhood Action Plan

Kipps Lane Resident Working Group

December 2009
Introduction

The Kipps Lane Working Group is a community based group made up of people living in the neighbourhood and surrounding area. This group began its work in response to challenges/issues identified in a survey conducted in April/May 2008 where 1,024 area residents responded.

We have developed a voice for our community, telling everyone who we are, what we care about, and how we will make our community a better place. Some of our significant accomplishments so far are as follows:

- Collaborated with NELCE in a working group to make suggestions on park design layout of ED Blake Park. We are thrilled that community members will be able to enjoy new playground equipment, as spray pad and much more.
- Met with London Transit and collaborated with NELCE to develop steps to increase accessibility of public transit and investigated alternative transportation methods to key destination points.
- Completed inventory of maintenance issues (eg. Crosswalks, Garbage and Recycling containers among others) and report to proper authorities.
- Assisted in planning and promoting increased social activities (eg. Pumpkin Retirement Party).

Other projects are underway and details to follow as they are unveiled.

We are very proud of our community and we are committed to making our neighbourhood safe, accessible and connected. Please consider joining us and contributing in a skill area that best suits you.

E-mail us at: kippslaneresidentgroup@gmail.com or check out http://kippslane.blogspot.com/.

Together we can make a difference!

This is our neighbourhood. The dots on the map represent people who were involved in the development of this plan.
Vision

A community respecting nature, nurturing people of all ages and creating a great place for everyone to live.

Mission Statement

The Kipps Lane neighbourhood, a diverse, inclusive community working together building a foundation for a positive and safe environment.
Neighbourhood Priorities

Based on the results of the resident survey, the Kipps Lane Resident Working Group identified 6 priorities for the neighbourhood. These priorities and the goals for each of them are presented below:

**Community Engagement and Information**
To increase opportunities for Kipps Lane residents to be involved and engaged in their neighbourhood through the use of communication and information.

**Environment**
To create a new environmental standard in Kipps Lane for the city of London by changing people’s behaviour to create attractive places to live.

**Neighbourhood Maintenance**
To provide a physical environment which is appropriate and attractive to residents, through maintenance and improvement.

**Physical Structures, Programs and Services**
To ensure that programs and services are available and meet the needs of Kipps Lane residents and have physical structures appropriate for those programs.

**Safety**
To increase our feeling of safety and celebrate our diverse and positive voices.

**Transportation**
To increase opportunities for all residents in Kipps Lane to travel to their destinations easily, safely and in a convenient manner.
Community Engagement and Information

To increase opportunities for Kipps Lane residents to be involved and engaged in their neighbourhood through the use of communication and information.
### Community Engagement and Information Initiatives/Actions Already Underway in the Neighbourhood

- The Kipps Lane Resident Working Group has been working together since November 2008 to develop a vision for the neighbourhood and a neighbourhood action plan to address the priority issues in the neighbourhood

See Attachment A for a list of all strategic initiatives underway in Kipps Lane since May 2007
Build a sustainable resident group that will be responsible for implementing and continuing the Neighbourhood Action Plan and journey to the vision

- Hold meeting to talk about formalization including name of group, reason for the group to exist and steps needed to take to formalize and consider re-naming. Invite someone from an existing neighbourhood association to share their learning. Explore relationship with NELCE (North East London Community Engagement Committee)

- Build a brand for the group to be more inclusive in the boundaries, can use on flyers and newsletters

- Increase members of this group - promote by holding events or helping at other events in neighbourhood

The perception of the neighbourhood is negative

- Increase good news stories - actively submit articles and invite media to events

☑ Hold celebratory good news events like a cultural market and soccer tourney

☐ Work with agencies to hold events in neighbourhood
**Community Engagement and Information “To Do” List**

**Increasing information to newcomer population in Kipps Lane**

- Find a service provider who has a strong relationship with newcomers in the neighbourhood
- Explore finding other service providers and use as a vehicle to engage newcomers in the group and in the community
- Work to promote events and information through the Life Resource Centre and work to build relationships and gain representation on the residents committee
- Ask ESL committee members to help increase the information dissemination to the newcomer population

**Create new and innovative ways to promote information to the neighbourhood**

- Work with business community to publish a map that promotes the area and area businesses that would be displayed and available
- Build a neighbourhood website which positively promotes information in the neighbourhood
- Build signage about interesting facts in the community to be housed along the bike pathways including Thames Trail
Secure a plan that increases exposure to residents of information specific to the Kipps Lane neighbourhood (build hubs of information)

- Plan for community bulletin boards or displays in several locations
  - Build bulletin boards and place in 4 locations (Northbrae Community Hub, LRC, Kipps Plaza and Ed Blake Park)
  - Explore locations listed for needs (e.g., Hub needing a library rack, bulletin board, Library needing more community board presence)
  - Fundraise for materials if necessary
  - Attend Ed Blake Development meeting to ensure the bulletin board is on the list

- Inform stakeholders who share information of locations to distribute in

- Promote information to residents by email - keep database of residents’ contact information, send out announcements electronically
Environment
To create a new environmental standard in Kipps Lane for the city of London by changing people’s behaviour to create attractive places to live
Environment Background Information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Main Issues</th>
<th>Current Situation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>▪ Garbage (cleaning loose litter and garbage, frequency of bulky garbage removal)</td>
<td>▪ 2 main concerns are cleaning loose garbage and graffiti/tagging</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>▪ Recycling</td>
<td>▪ Not satisfied with the cleaning of loose litter and garbage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>▪ Graffiti/tagging</td>
<td>▪ Like to see improvements in recycling amenities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>▪ Appearance of Buildings</td>
<td>▪ Like to see improvements in the appearance of buildings (facades)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>▪ Air Quality (concerned about air quality coming from the sewage treatment plant)</td>
<td>▪ Frequency of bulky garbage removal is a concern</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>▪ Environmental Awareness (consumer habits)</td>
<td>▪ Concerned about air quality (the air quality coming from the sewage treatment plant)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Environment Initiatives/Actions Already Underway in the Neighbourhood

- Kipps Lane Residents Working Group has been working together since November 2008 to develop a vision for the neighbourhood and a neighbourhood action plan to address the priority issues in the neighbourhood. Environment is a priority area.
- Clean and Green Day – April 18, 2009. City-wide initiative with a designated area at Adelaide Wells Park
- City hired Graffiti removal company to keep Adelaide Bridge mural free of graffiti
- Neighbourhood Watch has hot line for graffiti removal and hands out free remover
- Pathways hires summer students to clean in the North East neighbourhoods and they have responded to many calls in the Kipps Lane neighbourhood over the last 3 summers
Litter and Garbage

☑ Build map of existing sidewalks and sidewalks planned in the near future (add all maintenance issues)

☐ Identify areas where loose litter and garbage are concerns (McNay Drain, walkway along Arbor Glen, Bridlepath, Parks, TVP - pathway)

☑ Gather information on who is responsible for garbage and cleaning (get City staff to present to group)

☑ Participate and encourage participation in Clean and Green on April 18 at Wells Park

☐ Continue community clean and green activities throughout the year and encourage participation at future Clean and Green days
  ▪ Connect with Green Teens
  ▪ Clean areas identified in Step 1 as well (McNay Drain, along Huron)

☐ Lobby for more pro-active property standards involvement especially around complexes and apartment buildings (instead of waiting for a complaint to be filed)

☐ Increase number of garbage cans in neighbourhood

☐ Improve toxic waste recycling (batteries, paint cans)
  ▪ Explore the potential of developing a drop off site in the neighbourhood on a more frequent basis
Environment

“To Do” List

Recycling

☑ Gather information on who is responsible for recycling (get City staff to present to group), what can be recycled, who is City contact person etc.?

☐ Improve recycling in highrises (recycling centres)

Graffiti

☐ Identify areas where graffiti is an issue

☐ Gather information on what is currently being done regarding graffiti cleanup - who cleans it up, who reports it, how to report it

☐ Refer graffiti issue to other working group (Safety and/or Neighbourhood Maintenance)

Appearance of Buildings (Facades)

☐ Identify areas requiring attention in the neighbourhood (Memorial at plaza - contact property owner (Art Bloomis) and police)

☐ Identify who is responsible at each of the buildings or sites for appearance (property owners, property managers, City of London)
Air Quality from the Adelaide Sewage Treatment Plant

☐ Speak to someone at the Sewage Treatment Plant to gain an understanding of the workings of the plant and why there are odours on some days and not others. Possibly try to get a tour.

Education and Awareness

☐ Provide information to full Resident Group on the information gathered on: property standards complaints, recycling, garbage collection, graffiti and generally on how to make changes in your neighbourhood, etc.

☐ Develop a pamphlet for residents to raise awareness about (Recycling: Encourage use of blue boxes, what can be recycled, how to get people in highrises to recycle and who to call for certain issues like garbage, park cleanup, property standards, etc.)

☐ Develop a plan to raise awareness and educate property owners about waste reduction, recycling, general cleanup of properties, etc.

☐ Hold an event or awareness initiative around Waste Reduction Week
Environment "To Do" List

Education and Awareness

- Review of best practices across Canada and elsewhere (ex. One Million Acts of Green)
- Enviro Challenge - talk to your neighbours, involve schools, etc.
- Develop Resident Garbage Officer Program - develop plan around how to help your neighbours and the City of London in cleaning up the neighbourhood (talk to garbage men - what are the obstacles, what gets left behind, funny stories, what could residents do to make their job easier?)
- Increase skills of resident group on how to talk to your neighbours
- Educate residents on state of the world, environmental footprint, consumer habits, how elected official make decisions, responsibilities, (explore options for educational opportunities in neighbourhood, movie nights at residents meeting (David Suzuki documentary on neighbourhoods?)
- Develop a community garden project in the neighbourhood
Neighbourhood Maintenance
To provide a physical environment which is appropriate and attractive to residents, through maintenance and improvement.
Neighbourhood Maintenance Background Information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Main Issues</th>
<th>Current Situation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sidewalks</td>
<td>40% of residents use bicycles as a means of transportation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roads</td>
<td>Vast majority of Kipps Lane residents walk around their neighbourhood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Garbage and Recycling containers</td>
<td>Poor maintenance of sidewalks resulting in numerous bumps and potholes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crosswalks</td>
<td>Sidewalk conditions made it difficult to get around with strollers, walkers, scooters or wheelchairs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Utility Boxes</td>
<td>Prompt and adequate snow removal was a top concern</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Traffic Calming</td>
<td>Need more crosswalks (for example: Adelaide at Hasty Market)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Signage</td>
<td>Need better maintained sidewalks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mailboxes</td>
<td>Lack of handicap access</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Residents are satisfied with the current available bike paths and want improvement in the connections between walking and biking trails that make it easier for people to walk and bike</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Additional paths will increase children’s safety and opportunities for physical activity</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Neighbourhood Maintenance Initiatives/Actions
Already Underway in the Neighbourhood

- Sidewalks are being added to Wedgewood Drive and Norwood Avenue
Neighbourhood Maintenance “To Do” List

- Complete inventory of maintenance issues (Sidewalks - lack of sidewalks, heaved or damaged, curb cuts; Roads - broken roads from heavy trucks; Garbage and Recycling containers; Crosswalks; Utility Boxes; Traffic Calming; Signage; Mailboxes)

- Build map of existing sidewalks and sidewalks planned in the near future - add all maintenance issues

- Become informed of the City staff best to help with issues

- Report issues to proper authorities

- Develop a long-term plan to continue to keep the neighbourhood maintained
Physical Structures, Programs and Services
To ensure that programs and services are available and meet the needs of Kipps Lane residents and have physical structures appropriate for those programs
## Physical Structures, Programs and Services Background Information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Main Issues</th>
<th>Current Situation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>▪ Lack of programs and services</td>
<td>▪ More than 6 out of 10 families rely on parents, relatives and the school to provide all their children’s care</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>▪ Lack of facilities</td>
<td>▪ 1 in 5 Kipps Lane families are lone parent families</td>
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<td></td>
<td>▪ The average Kipps Lane family earns 42% less than the average family in London</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>▪ Most residents use local commercial services frequently</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Programs and Services:
- ▪ Need more services for youth and places for them to socialize
- ▪ Need more English as a Second Language (ESL) education programs
- ▪ Need more parks and recreation programs
- ▪ Need more programs for youth ages 13 to 17
- ▪ Need more programs for children and parents
- ▪ Lack of child care and early learning programs for younger children
- ▪ Need more affordable, subsidized or flexible day care
- ▪ Need more before and after school programs for children
- ▪ Need more recreation/weekend programs for children
- ▪ Better housing services (long waiting lists, the process is too long)
- ▪ Need for more investment and more opportunities for shopping and work

### Physical Structures:
- ▪ Need more recreation facilities (suggestions included a splash pad, indoor and outdoor swimming pool, a courtyard for sports and an indoor sports and recreation facility). This was the number one request for services people would like to see more available in the neighbourhood
- ▪ Playgrounds often lack shady areas, benches and picnic tables

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### Physical Structures, Programs and Services’ Initiatives/Actions Already Underway in the Neighbourhood

#### Programs for Children and Youth:
- ▪ The City of London developed and ran a new children’s summer program in 2007, giving more recreation opportunities to children and youth at no cost. This program, Energize, was adapted in 2008 to reach out to the neighbourhoods within Kipps Lane by moving to different local green spaces each day. In 2007 there were 80 children visits. This grew to over 260 children visits in 2008 and 921 visits
- ▪ For the last 2 summers, the City of London has offered residents free swim passes and transportation to North East Pool. Each summer, 150 passes were distributed
Programs for Children and Youth:

- There is an ongoing partnership with Northbrae Public School, the City of London and LUSO Community Services to offer SOOT (Stay Out of Trouble). This is a drop in recreation program that was expanded in 2007 and 2008 to meet the gap identified by students and parents regarding the lack of affordable and safe activities in the neighbourhood.
- The City of London secured space for the Life Resource Centre to run a weekly night of open gym for soccer at Sir George Ross High School which attracts about 40 students. Similar to the soccer program, volleyball is offered for female teens one night a week.
- The City of London’s Targeted Leadership Program for youth has offered 3 sessions for youth residents of the Kipps Lane neighbourhood at no cost. This program is offered at Northbrae Public School, targeting youth who reflect the neighbourhood and increases the likelihood of them becoming employed in a City recreation program. In 2007, there were 10 youth engaged, and in 2008 this grew to 27 youth. Currently in 2009, 10 youth from Kipps Lane just completed Level 2 of the Leadership Program.
- The City of London and LUSO partnered to offer: Represent – A Photo Voice Project by Kipps Lane Youth. 62 youth were involved in communicating their neighbourhood’s assets and deficits while increasing their engagement level in their neighbourhood.
- The City of London, Small Business Centre and the Local Training Board partnered to offer an entrepreneurship program in the neighbourhood. The program began with an introductory day during March Break and offered additional training in June, culminating with the selection of up to 10 youth who received a small start-up grant and ongoing support for developing and operating a summer business.
- The Life Resource Centre has a portable is being used for youth program space.

Programs for Older Adults:

- The City of London and community volunteers offered a cards program for older adults (located in Silvers Restaurant). This program was developed in response to the need we heard from conversations with residents in the community.
Other Programs Existing in Kipps Lane:

- Senior Club at 1128 Adelaide Street North (apartment meeting room)
- LUSO conversation circle, Sir George Ross High School
  Life Resource Centre runs volleyball and soccer for youth on Thursday evenings
- ESL program in p.m. – Both LINC and School Board programs at Sir George Ross High School
- Canadian Mental Health Association has Crisis Intervention or Counselling - Information, referral, public education programs self-help resource centre/groups, library, case management, mental health advocacy, housing support and advocacy
- The Centre Comunitaire Regional at 920 Huron has multi-cultural, language learning, settlement services, youth services. They are willing to work with the city even with non-francophones to improve the neighbourhood
- Before and after school programs for children 5 – 12 is offered at LESCALE at 920 Huron Street
- There are Multi-Cultural Associations (Congolese, Burundese, Rwandese, Haitian) at 920 Huron Street
- 1170 Melsandra has an AGAPE service, Mennonite service
- Laurie Ann’s Dance Studio, 1050 Kipps Lane (Plaza) has lessons for dance, yoga, adults, children, summer camp, dance troupe
- Paintball recreation possibilities at the Paintball Store at 1050 Kipps Lane
- St. Leonards Society of London staff and John Howard Society staff work in Sir George Ross High School
- The London Intercommunity Health Centre has Youth Outreach Workers who are available in the Kipps Lane neighbourhood
- Shared Beginnings (Thursday mornings) – LUSO offers program at the Hub
- Childreach offers a play group on Tuesday mornings at the Hub
- Food Depot from London Food Bank is offered 3rd Wed of month run by LUSO at St. Lawrence Church, 910 Huron Street
- Life Resource Centre – sponsored by North Park Church – offers drop in clothing and food, youth programs, newcomer outreach located at St. Lawrence Church, 910 Huron Street

Physical Structures:

- Under the authority of Council bylaw, a Construction Agreement between the City of London and the Thames Valley District School Board was executed and Best Start capital funding paid for a new build and renovation of space in Northbrae Public School
- A physical addition to Northbrae Public School was completed on December 1, 2008:
  - a 56 space Best Start funded Child Care Centre was opened for business operated by the YMCA of Western Ontario
  - a new Best Start funded Early Learning and Care community HUB opened and operated by the YMCA of Western Ontario
  - Services offered include a Nurse Practitioner who has “walk-in” time as well as scheduled appointment time. A Crisis Intervention Team member available one day a week, family support, Well Baby and Breast Feeding Clinics, Tyke Talk, play groups
- The Community Hub is guided by a steering committee comprised of service providers (including City of London) and local area residents. Results of the Kipps Lane Survey and input from residents are informing the type of programming offered
- New playground (Community Heroes Playground) in Adelaide Wells Park in the fall of 2007.
- Sir George Ross High School
- Northbrae Public School
- Valleyview Mennonite Church
Physical Structures, Programs and Services

**To Do** List

**Increase Knowledge of Existing Programs and Services**

- Inventory existing programs and map
- Program information and registration night
- Networking meetings with other agencies in the area on a regular basis to communicate all that there is to offer
- Inventory existing facilities and map

**Lack of Facilities**

- Inventory and Map
  - Categorize - within walking distance, within region/district, within city (driving/bus), transportation
  - Types of spaces - multi-purpose, gym, kitchen, washrooms, accessibility
- Identify the gaps (identify priority list)
- Research how existing facilities are being used (by whom, times, programs
- Research funding opportunities
- Visit/Tour other facilities and communities
Physical Structures, Programs and Services

“To Do” List

Develop Programs and Services

☐ Identify gaps - Age area (child, youth, teen, adult and senior), Type (social, recreational, physical, educational etc.)

☐ Recruit program instructors (ie. volunteers)

☐ Create agreements to access space (ie. schools, churches, city)

☐ Create job descriptions - screening, qualifications, first aid, vulnerable positions police check

☐ Train staff

☐ Promotional materials/advertising materials

☐ Develop program information which includes benefits of participating

☐ Implement new programs

☐ Evaluate programs/develop tools of evaluation

☐ Review the evaluation

☐ Research new program ideas

☐ Identify Best Practices

☐ Accessibility, Inclusive Action Plan
Develop Programs and Services

- Sponsors/Fundraising (for program fees)
- Focus Group
- Volunteer Appreciation
- Planning cycle/schedule
- Communication
- Program Supplies/Equipment
- Job Fair
- Program Indicators/Baseline Measures

Physical Structures, Programs and Services

“To Do” List
Safety

To increase our feeling of safety and celebrate our diverse and positive voices
Safety Background Information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Main Issues</th>
<th>Current Situation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>High Priority</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knowing Who to Call for Service/Options</td>
<td>More than half of surveyed residents felt that some places in their neighbourhood were not safe (concerns with public safety and making the neighbourhood safer were dominant in the results of the survey)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth Crime/Gang Activity</td>
<td>4 out of 10 residents surveyed chose not to go out due to fear for personal safety</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ed Blake Park</td>
<td>During the day most Kipps Lane residents feel safe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Medium Priority</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Safety Services</td>
<td>Nearly 50% of residents do not feel safe at night</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graffiti</td>
<td>Among all residents, young and middle-aged women are the most likely groups to experience feeling unsafe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Low Priority</strong></td>
<td>Residents feel safety services should be more available in the neighbourhood (police, Neighbourhood Watch, Block Parent, etc.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thames River Trails</td>
<td>Some parents are concerned about young people hanging out in the parks. They do not feel safe sending their children there or being there themselves</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adelaide Bridge</td>
<td>Ed Blake park was identified as being an unsafe area after sunset, in part due to poor lighting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Illegal Drug Use</td>
<td>Concern with the safety on the trails of the Thames River</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vandalism</td>
<td>Adelaide Bridge is perceived as an unsafe area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Top 7 places where residents feel unsafe are:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1. Housing in Area 2</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2. Paths by the Thames</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3. All neighbourhood (night)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4. Mac’s Milk Plaza</td>
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<td></td>
<td>5. Kipps Lane Street</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6. General Boulee Area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>7. Housing on Huron/Briarhill</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Feelings of safety at particular sites are related to the physical proximity to these “unsafe sites”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Top 4 areas that are perceived as being more problematic in Kipps Lane than in other parts of London are:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1. Teen/youth crime</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2. Gang activity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3. Illegal drug use</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4. Vandalism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>According to the London Police:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- There is more gang graffiti than tagger graffiti in Kipps Lane.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The people doing the tagging want it to be seen, so being vigilant about removing it will work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Quality of life crimes (break and enter, theft, auto thefts, graffiti) are happening everywhere in the city. There are not concentrated in a specific area. There are similar issues in other parts of the city</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- There are a couple of identified youth gangs in Kipps Lane. Police are aware of this and are doing the best they can</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Perception of crime may be larger than the reality</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Safety Initiatives/Actions Already Underway in the Neighbourhood

- Graffiti Removal Program – Neighbourhood Watch, all of London
- Kipps and Adelaide Bridge Mural Initiative – LUSO, Community Services and City of London – Summer 2008
- Neighbourhood Watch programs registered to 1090 Kipps Lane (several townhouses) and, 1160,1162,1164,1168,1172 Kipps Lane
- NELCE has a Priority Action Group of Safety which is comprised of Crime Free Housing, Public Transit Safety, Transportation Safety and Partnerships with Neighbourhood Watch and Block Parent. NELCE (Northeast London Community Engagement) is a resident based, action oriented community group focused on strengthening and improving the community of Northeast London
- Community meeting on safety held on February 19, 2009
- Many Youth Mentorship initiative activities have been completed
  - City staff facilitated coordinated training opportunities to local youth involved in local employment programs in their community
  - London Resource Centre, the City of London and St. Lawrence Church worked together to build a community garden for residents in the spring of 2008
  - A pilot entrepreneurship workshop was held over March Break at the Northbrae community hub with 7 young people attending. Ongoing work will result in a micro credit entrepreneurship program offering small loans to 5 – 10 young people in the neighbourhood to start their own business
  - Youth in Kipps Lane organized a neighbourhood Clean and Green Day in April 2009
  - City staff facilitated coordinated training opportunities to local youth involved in local employment programs in their community.
  - Over 65 youth have participated in an engagement/leadership development project called “Represent – Voices of Kipps Lane”
- A full list of recreational activities for children and youth can be found in Attachment A
Safety

“To Do” List

Knowing Who to Call
(High Priority)

Knowing Who to Call for Service/Options

☐ Hold a joint session with NELCE on tenant’s rights

☐ Develop a proposal for a pilot program with Crimestoppers

☐ Design and distribute a collective safety pamphlet that includes all of the options for who to call for service when something happens

☐ Design and hold a safety information session for the residents in the neighbourhood

Youth Crime/Gang Activity

☐ Increase the number of sports activities available for youth in the neighbourhood

☐ Provide scholarships/bursaries to youth for programs and activities in the community (ie. dance school)

☐ Design and provide more Spectrum Programs for youth in the neighbourhood

☐ Make the youth/families aware of the financial assistance that is available for Spectrum Programs

☐ Find space for youth to hangout for social activities

☐ Involve youth in the planning for and implementation of community events

☐ Develop a mentorship program between youth and adults in the neighbourhood, centred around specific activities

☐ Talk to Robarts School to see if the pool can be used by the neighbourhood in off hours

Youth Crime/Gang Activity
(High Priority)
Ed Blake Park

- Enforce park curfews and put up appropriate signage in Ed Blake Park
- Have Crime Prevention conduct an environmental audit of Ed Blake Park
- Maintain contact with Parks Maintenance at the City to ensure that pathway in Ed Blake Park is safely maintained on an ongoing basis (i.e. no overgrowth)
- Ask the City to erect a substantial safety barrier to restrict access of unauthorized vehicles from the road onto the bike path in Ed Blake Park and to post appropriate signage
- Erect street lighting around the periphery of Ed Blake Park and look at it being a pilot project of solar lighting LEDs
- Redevelop Ed Blake Park, including trees, benches and paths to promote usage of the park by more people
- Put up signage outlining the positive activities that are allowed in Ed Blake Park
- Place an emergency call box in Ed Blake Park
- Put up 2 notice/bulletin boards in Ed Blake Park to advertise special events and other neighbourhood initiatives
- Plan and hold a number of neighbourhood events in Ed Blake Park each year
Safety Services

- Conduct a Block Parent awareness blitz (students to distribute material to mailboxes)

- Put in place a strategy to increase the number of Neighbourhood Watches in the neighbourhood (members of the group going door to door, having a Neighbourhood Watch booth at major neighbourhood events, engaging the property managers in this topic, promoting Neighbourhood Watch at the safety information sessions)

- Hold discussions with property managers for apartment buildings in the neighbourhood to discuss involving the building in the Neighbourhood Watch program and/or information sharing in the buildings

- Establish positive lines of communication with the COR officers and through them to the officers on patrol (invite them to every major event in the neighbourhood, have the police hold an information and Q & A session 2 times per year in the neighbourhood, have police publicize the volunteer work they are doing in the neighbourhood)

- Meet with COR officers to talk to them about how we can help them build relationships in the neighbourhood/how can we help

- Develop a “know your neighbours” strategy for the neighbourhood, including the apartment buildings
Graffiti

☐ Design an “adopt a box/wall/street/fence” program

☐ Have graffiti cleaning material available in the neighbourhood at the hub and advertise that people can access it at the hub for FREE

☐ Link/coordinate with Pathways for graffiti removal once per year

☐ Establish a volunteer neighbourhood graffiti removal team and a schedule for removal (x number of times per year)

☐ Let people know that Don Finch will power wash graffiti off wood fences in the neighbourhood

☐ Let residents know to report all tags to the London Police (take a picture if possible)

Thames River Trails

☐ Check with police to see if this is an actual problem area

☐ Approach TREA to have them hold a bike rally on the trail to showcase it

☐ Develop a strategy to showcase this part of the Thames River Trail System

☐ Have an audit done of the environmental design
Safety
“To Do” List

Adelaide Bridge
☐ Check with police to see if this is an actual problem area
☐ Continue to promote the positive aspects of the mural
☐ Have an audit done of the environmental design

Illegal Drug Use/Vandalism and General Actions to be Taken
☐ Identify areas in the neighbourhood which require a safety audit. Approach the owner of the area/property to discuss this and then approach Crime Prevention to conduct the audit
☐ Set up a meeting with the property managers in the neighbourhood to discuss what role they can play in increasing the safety of the neighbourhood
Transportation
To increase opportunities for all residents in Kipps Lane to travel to their destinations easily, safely and in a convenient manner
**Transportation Background Information**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Main Issues</th>
<th>Current Situation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Large population in neighbourhood relies on public transit so accessibility is a key issue (cost, availability to bus routes to key destinations)</td>
<td>Personal vehicles are the most commonly used mode of transportation to work for residents of Kipps Lane</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kipps Lane residents are more likely than Londoners to take public transit or share rides as a passenger</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nearly 61% of residents use public transportation</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/3 of residents have limited mobility as they cannot afford the cost of transportation</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current bus routes in the neighbourhood:</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Adelaide Street – 16 and 32</td>
<td>- Adelaide Street – 16 and 32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Kipps Lane – 1, 27 and 32</td>
<td>- Kipps Lane – 1, 27 and 32</td>
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<td>- Barker Street – 14</td>
<td>- Barker Street – 14</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Briarhill – 1 and 27</td>
<td>- Briarhill – 1 and 27</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Huron Street – 1, 14, 27, 32</td>
<td>- Huron Street – 1, 14, 27 and 32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Residents felt strongly there was room to improve public transit in their neighbourhood</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Need more public transportation – particularly more evening and weekend service to Fanshawe College and the University of Western Ontario (frequency of trips should be every 15 minutes)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>More routes going East of Huron Street</td>
<td>More routes going East of Huron Street</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More bus shelters located in close proximity to living areas</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Transportation Initiatives/Actions Already Underway in the Neighbourhood**

- NELCE group working with results of a survey they administered in 2008 to improve the LTC services in the North East
Limited Access to Key Destination Points for Kipps Lane Residents

- Meet with LTC to better understand
- Collaborate with NELCE to develop steps to increase access to key destination points
- Investigate alternative transportation methods to key destination points

Accessibility of Public Transportation

- Collaborate with other key stakeholders in community advocating/develop a plan dealing with increased accessibility to public transit
- Collaborate with NELCE to develop steps to increase accessibility of public transit

Connectivity of Bike Paths

- Map existing bike paths and identify where gaps are
- Investigate with City of London their plans to increase bike paths in the Kipps Lane neighbourhood over the next few years
Attachment A: Kipps Lane Strengthening Neighbourhood Strategy - Short and Long Term Strategic Initiatives

Below is an example of activities that have been taking place in the Kipps Lane neighbourhood since May 2007:

Community Development

- City staff from Neighbourhood and Children Services has a base of operation in the Kipps Lane neighbourhood at the Northbrae Community Hub.  
- This past summer and fall, the City of London offered subsidy and registration opportunities directly in the neighbourhood (Northbrae Public School) for parents to register for Spectrum activities.  
- Multiple partners responded to residents concern of bulky garbage and litter in the forested area near the Thames River pathway. Sir George Ross High School staff, the Police's COR unit. Pathways Clean UP Crew, City of London and concerned residents increased the cleaning of a forested area and the monitoring of youth in that area of Kipps Lane, near the Thames River pathway.  
- In the summer of 2008, a 70 foot mural located under the Adelaide Street and Kipps Lane bridge was completed by youth residents of Kipps Lane hired by LUSO and paid by Summer Jobs for Youth program from Youth Opportunities Unlimited. City staff from Neighbourhood and Children's Services, Environmental Services and Parks Operations, helped to facilitate this initiative.  
- City staff facilitated coordinated training opportunities to local youth involved in local employment programs in their community.  
- London Resource Centre, the City of London and St. Lawrence Church worked together to build a community garden for residents in the spring of 2008.  
- Residents from the Kipps Lane neighbourhood have joined together to form the Kipps Lane Resident Working Group. This group has nominated a resident Chair, and 6 residents have taken leadership positions to address the main priorities in the neighbourhood.  
- A subcommittee formed from the Kipps Lane Resident Working group has organized monthly socials to grow the interest in the Kipps Lane Initiative.  
- Residents have been invited to participate on the Northbrae Community Hub Steering Committee.

Recreation Programming

- The City of London developed and ran a new children's summer program in the summer 2007 giving more recreation opportunities to children and youth at no cost. This program, Energize, was adapted in 2008 to reach out to the neighbourhoods within Kipps Lane by moving to different local green spaces each day. In 2007 there were 80 children visits. This grew to over 260 children visits in 2008.  
- There was an increased graffiti removal and loose litter removal effort over the last 2 summers with a youth employment program offered by Pathways Skill Development Centre.  
- For the last 2 summers, the City of London has offered residents free swim passes and transportation to North East Pool. Each summer, 150 passes were distributed.  
- There is an ongoing partnership with Northbrae Public School, the City of London and LUSO Community Services to offer SOOT (Stay Out of Trouble). This is a drop in recreation program that was expanded in 2007, 2008 and again in 2009 to meet the gap identified by students and parents regarding the lack of affordable and safe activities in the neighbourhood.  
- The City of London secured space for the Life Resource Centre to run a weekly night of open gym for soccer at Sir George Ross High School which attracts about 40 students. This program has an outreach component with an effort to reach newcomer youth.  
- Similar to the soccer program, volleyball is offered for female teens one night a week.  
- The City has provided the opportunity for children to enjoy roller skating at North London Optimist Community Centre.
The City of London’s Targeted Leadership Program for youth has offered 2 sessions and has just begun its 3rd session for youth residents of the Kipps Lane neighbourhood at no cost. This program is offered at Northbrae Public School, targeting youth who reflect the diversity of the neighbourhood and increases the likelihood of them becoming employed in a City recreation program. In 2007, there were 10 youth engaged, and in 2008 this grew to 27 youth. In 2009, the City of London’s Targeted Leadership Program for youth held its 3rd session for youth residents of the Kipps Lane neighbourhood at no cost.

The youth who have benefited from the Targeted Leadership Program held at Northbrae school keep connected through a weekly youth program.

Since the fall of 2007, London Intercommunity Health Centre’s outreach workers have been employed to engage youth in northeast London who are at risk of dropping out of school, becoming involved in gang and other related activities, etc.

This winter the City of London offered a free babysitting course for students living in the Kipps Lane neighbourhood. This course included a marketing component to help young people become employed.

City staff provide a free recreation program every Saturday morning at the Northbrae Community Hub for children 5-8 years of age. The Parent and Tot program at Northbrae Hub focuses on children ages 2-4 as a time to bond with their caregiver(s). These programs are at full capacity.

The City of London and community volunteers offered a cards program for older adults (located in Silvers Restaurant). This program was developed in response to the need we heard from conversations with residents in the community.

City staff offered a School Playground Program at Northbrae Public School for children ages 6-8 in the morning and ages 9-12 in the afternoon Monday to Thursday throughout the summer.

An Outdoor Sports League took place for area youth during daytime hours at Northbrae Public School. This league focuses on sports (soccer and basketball) and nutrition.

Evening Sports program was offered for area youth.

Swim passes were distributed to 200 children and youth and 100 adults to use the northeast pool. A Thursday afternoon swimming trip to the northeast pool for children, youth and families was also offered at no cost.

Lit course four week course for ages 12 to 15 (I think)

Babysitting course offered twice throughout the summer ages 11 and up

Year end trip to east park, over 35 kids attended and enjoyed the water park for the afternoon.

Youth Mentorship Initiative

City staff facilitated coordinated training opportunities to local youth involved in local employment programs in their community.

London Resource Centre, the City of London and St. Lawrence Church worked together to build a community garden for residents in the spring of 2008.

Youth entrepreneurship program is being designed in partnership with the Small Business Centre and the London, Middlesex Elgin Oxford Local Training Board. A pilot entrepreneurship workshop was held over March Break at the Northbrae community hub with 7 young people attending. Ongoing work will result in a micro credit entrepreneurship program offering small loans to 5 – 10 young people in the neighbourhood to start their own business.

Youth in Kipps Lane organized a neighbourhood Clean and Green Day in April 2009. They completed a funding request to the United Way and were successful in receiving $750.00 to assist in promoting and hosting the neighbourhood clean up and celebration. The youth were supported by City and community agency staff.

City staff facilitated coordinated training opportunities to local youth involved in local employment programs in their community.

Over 65 youth have participated in an engagement/leadership development project called “Represent – Voices of Kipps Lane”. The project uses photography to enhance communication between young people about their neighbourhood: the assets, the challenges and their hopes and dreams. Once a week for 13 weeks, young people met at the Northbrae hub. To inform
ongoing planning and development, the results of the project will be presented to the community, the Kipps Lane Resident Working Group and London City Council.

- A mentorship program between University of Western Ontario students and Kipps Lane youth is currently being designed in partnership with, local youth leaders, the University Students Council and LUSO Community Services. The program is expected to begin in the Fall of 2009.
- In partnership with London City Farm Network, 8 young people obtained summer jobs, learning and practicing organic farming, and participating in farmers markets across the city throughout the summer.
- Through partnership with the Life Resources Centre a cultural market was held in the neighbourhood highlights included local vendors producing food, arts and crafts, and cultural goods for sale, music and the inaugural “Kipps Lane Cup” 5 on 5 soccer tournament. Over 130 customers attended, with 12 vendors and 8 soccer teams as well as spectators.
- 3 young people created the foundation for a sustainable on-line neighbourhood information and communications link over the summer of 2009. The young people created a blog called “Voices of Kipps Lane”, facebook group and Youtube Channel called “Kipps TV”. Content included 15 articles on events in the neighbourhood, and 7 video interviews with people about the neighbourhood.
- 6 young people from the Green Teen Environmental Group brought three partner agencies together (London InterCommunity Health Centre, Life Resource Centre, and LUSO Community Services) together with the City of London to plan and deliver an environmentally themed outdoor movie night in Ed Blake park. Close to 150 people attended the presentation which also featured a low cost bbq.

Programs Planned for Fall 2009

- In partnership with LUSO Community Services, and the Beacock Branch of the London Public Library, a casual job program targeting young people between the ages of 12 and 15 will offer opportunities for younger youth to learn employability skills over the fall and winter in preparation for a casual labor project in the summer of 2010.
- In partnership with Junior Achievement London, the “Company Program” will be offered at the Northbrae hub for young people aged 15 – 19 offering up to 20 young people in the Kipps Lane neighbourhood the opportunity to take part in running all aspects of a business including product design, sales and marketing, maintaining a balance sheet, and teamwork. This program includes regular contact with mentors, currently in business in London.
- The Green Teens Environmental Group will be meeting weekly to continue their leadership in environmental education and events in the neighbourhood.

Community Partnerships/Community Infrastructure

- A physical addition to Northbrae Public School has seen an added Child Care offering 56 spots to the Kipps Lane community- opened in December, 2008, located in the Kipps Lane neighbourhood as part of the City of London’s Best Start Plan.
- In addition, this added a Neighbourhood Hub which is operated by the YMCA of South Western Ontario in partnership with a coalition including: The Boys and Girls Club of London, Children’s Aid Society of London and Middlesex, The City of London, Family Networks, London Urban Services Organization (LUSO), Merrymount Children’s Centre, Middlesex London Health Unit and Pathways. This Hub opened in January 2009
- City of London staff volunteered their time to build a new playground (Community Heroes Playground) in Adelaide Wells Park in the fall of 2007.
- Redevelopment of Ed Blake Park in 2010: Residents are working in cooperation with city staff on park design.