

London Councils has funded Women's Design Service to set up 12 Women's Design Groups in London over a 3 year period. We have been commissioned to provide *"2nd tier support to increase community engagement & participation in local & regional planning & policy development"*.

Women's Design Groups perform for Gender what Access Groups delivered for Disability. WDGs include both women who are professionally involved in planning and the built environment, and women from the community who have an interest in becoming more knowledgeable and engaged with issues affecting their neighbourhoods. We currently have two pilot groups; one in Islington and one in Manchester and both groups have held a number of events and have liaised on a variety of issues with planners and regeneration bodies.

We are currently working with Groups in London Boroughs of **Barnet, Redbridge, Westminster, Croydon, Southwark** and **Lambeth**. Our Project Manager, Georgia Wrighton, started work on this project in November 2008.

Georgia is working to form a close relationship with Planning Departments and with existing partnerships, projects and organisations. Women's Design Service always works in co-operation with people and groups, and will be aiming to support all current and proposed initiatives that support increased community engagement in planning.

The majority of people making decisions about the planning and design of our built environment are men whether they are planners, architects, engineers, councillors or heads of regeneration boards. Women's Design Service and a number of other organisations have been working to increase the number of women getting involved in these issues, and there are certainly more women now than there used to be.

However, we still find that women's requirements in terms of safety, accessibility, provision of facilities, location of amenities and design of housing, transport, public buildings and open spaces are not being adequately addressed.

Women's Design Service was established in 1987 to ensure that the design and use of the built environment reflects the needs and aspirations of women. Setting up Women's Design Groups is our way of involving more and more women in influencing decisions about their local areas.



**FREE Training for Women's Design Group members!**

**Environment & Social Sustainability** Tuesday 29th June 2010, 5.00-7.00pm at Tindlemanor, 52-54 Featherstone Street, London EC1Y 8RT. In partnership with Women's Environmental Network.

**Introduction to Planning** Wednesday 7th July, 5.00-7.00pm at Tindlemanor, 52-54 Featherstone Street, London EC1Y 8RT. In partnership with Planning Aid for London.

To book a free place at any of these courses please email [gwrighton@wds.org.uk](mailto:gwrighton@wds.org.uk) stating any access requirements.

For details of all meetings & events visit [www.wds.org.uk](http://www.wds.org.uk) or contact Georgia Wrighton:

tel 0207 490 5210

email [gwrighton@wds.org.uk](mailto:gwrighton@wds.org.uk)

post Women's Design Service,  
52-54 Featherstone St, London EC1Y 8RT



# women's design groups

Women's Design Groups are groups of women who are interested in the design of their local areas, are keen to learn more about planning issues, and want to get involved in changing policies and proposals relating to buildings, parks, streets and transport.



*working to ensure that the design and use of the built environment reflects the needs and aspirations of women*