



# A planting scheme for Kensington High Street

# London's Greenest High Street?

Opportunity Kensington wants Kensington High Street to become one of London's greenest streets. Planting creates shade and aesthetic appeal, encouraging customers to stay longer. It also helps the street deal with the effects of climate change – by countering the urban heat island effect and reducing local flood risk.

The new planting scheme is the first outcome of Opportunity Kensington's Green Infrastructure Strategy. The aim is to create stepping stones between larger, valuable habitat types and lay the foundations for more ambitious projects in coming years – notably rain gardens and increased street trees. The scheme is also strikingly beautiful with high-quality planters and an attractive array of flowering perennials, evergreen shrubs and small trees.

“Good quality Green Infrastructure has an important role to play in our urban environments for improving health and wellbeing, air quality, nature recovery and resilience to and mitigation of climate change, along with addressing issues of social inequality and environmental decline”. Natural England



## Our Pilot Sites

In May 2024 we created three pilot planting sites on Kensington High Street – outside St Mary Abbots church, Holland Park entrance and corner of Wrights Lane. Planters flank the existing solid Woodscape teak benches. Our planters are Urbis Globe in glass-reinforced concrete with a naturally patinated iron oxide finish. They are manufactured in the UK for a lower carbon footprint. Planting design is by Sarah Shirley of Studio Linton Shirley. The planters are maintained by Opportunity Kensington's Urban Gardener, Mandy Lee.

## Completing the scheme – local business support

Our vision for Kensington High Street includes eight more sites, featuring 20 new planters and five new benches. We aim to have these installed in Spring 2025.

Opportunity Kensington has earmarked funds to cover 25% of the capital costs. It is seeking partners – landowners, community/residents' organisations and businesses – to cover the remaining 75%.

## All funders will benefit from:

- ✓ Complimentary plant and planter maintenance by Opportunity Kensington in partnership with the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea (RBKC), including litter picking, plant care, watering and damage repair
- ✓ Local recognition of your support via planter signage and Opportunity Kensington social media (Instagram: @highstreet\_kensington, 5k+ followers) and newsletter (3k+ subscribers)
- ✓ Project management for planter installation, including licensing via RBKC
- ✓ The opportunity to be part of an innovative green infrastructure project that will improve the streetscape and increase dwell time

## The cost of each site on the map is as follows:

Site	Address	Site details	Cost*	OK contribution*	Sponsor contribution*
1	262 KHS	2 x planters 1 x new bench	£13,514.00	£3,378.50	£10,135.50
2	248-250 KHS	2 x planters 1 x new bench	£13,514.00	£3,378.50	£10,135.50
3	273 KHS	2 x planters 1 x existing bench	£9,405.00	£2,351.25	£7,053.75
4	220 KHS	SITE DELIVERED			
5	191 KHS	2 x planters 1 x existing bench	£9,405.00	£2,351.25	£7,053.75
6	131-133 KHS	SITE DELIVERED			
7	104-106 KHS	2 x planters 1 x new bench	£13,514.00	£3,378.50	£10,135.50
8	98a KHS	4 x planters 2 x new benches	£26,363.00	£6,590.75	£19,772.25
9	80 KHS	SITE DELIVERED			
10	Kensington Court	3 x planters	£13,409.73	£3,352.43	£10,057.30
11	Palace Avenue	3 x planters	£13,409.73	£3,352.43	£10,057.30

\*Prices are correct at the time of publishing but are subject to change dependent on the cost of raw materials.





## Local business and visitor feedback

“The planters are so uplifting,  
they really make a difference”

“The plant selection is fantastic”

“It’s so nice to see such well-  
cared-for planters”



## Contact

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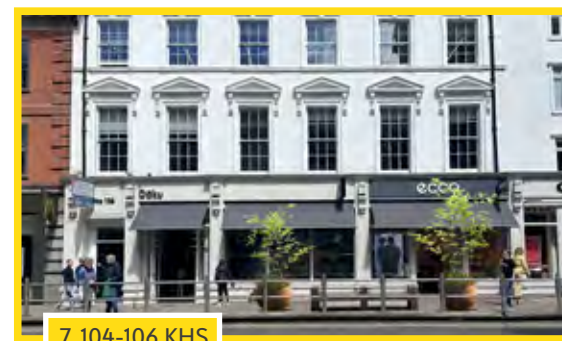
# Kensington High Street New Planting Scheme



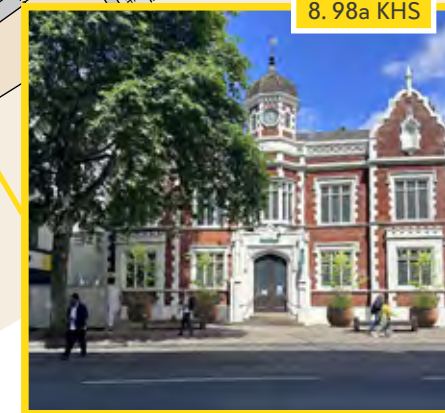
11. Palace Avenue



9. 80 KHS



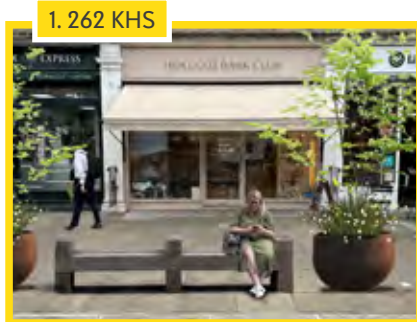
7. 104-106 KHS



8. 98a KHS



10. Kensington Court



1. 262 KHS



4. 220 KHS



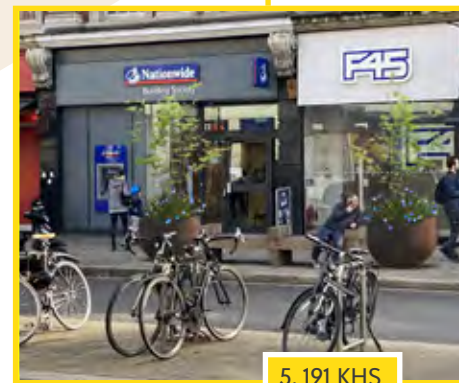
2. 248-250 KHS



6. 131-133 KHS



3. 273 KHS



5. 191 KHS



## Green Streets

Opportunity Kensington aims to substantially upgrade the quality and quantity of ground-level green infrastructure on the High street and surrounding areas. In addition to the new planting scheme, we have identified several pockets on Kensington Church St that could house several new street trees. We will also explore adding a rain garden to absorb excess rainfall and introduce new flora to the local area. Our aim: for our area to become one of the greenest in London.