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contract and the new leisure contract. The Council will renew its efforts to improve street cleanliness across the borough and especially in the north.

The Neighbourhood Renewal Fund (NRF) for 2004 to 2006 will support a programme of environmental improvements in the north of the borough including: the proposed new pedestrian routes in North Kensington, improved play facilities at Notting Hill Adventure Playground to make them accessible to children and young people with physical disabilities, and improvements to the canal towpath, including access at Halfpenny Steps and Meanwhile Gardens.

### Portobello Road Railway Bridge

This pioneering project has followed a two year negotiation between the Westway Project, London Underground and London Underground maintenance contractors Metronet. Authorisation was finally obtained in winter 2003 for a design to improve the physical aspect of the bridge, which is on the site of the popular Portobello Market.

Several factors contributed to giving the bridge a run down and neglected aspect: pigeons nesting on the abutment walls and soiling the pavements below;

dirty walls running with damp in places; flyposting and graffiti; and poor lighting, giving the area a threatening appearance at night.

Decorative cladding has been used to provide a dry surface at street level, to enliven the underside of the bridge and discourage flyposting and graffiti. New lighting has been installed and vinyl posters are being created to fit into the panels on the side of the bridge itself.

The Westway Project was part-funded with Neighbourhood Renewal Funds for the improvements. They formed a working partnership with the Council (lighting department), Metronet and Predator, which installs pigeon deterrent systems. Metronet and Predator contributed greatly to the project by repainting areas of the bridge and installing an anti-pigeon system, with a combined value of approximately £10,000.

Feedback from local residents, businesses and market stall holders during the installation of the cladding was extremely positive. The work has generated considerable curiosity and many favourable comments have been expressed about the design itself, its benefits to local business, its suitability for the site and its positive impact on the area generally.

