

Hackney
Wick
Fish
Island | Cultural
Interest
Group

Minutes of the meeting on Friday 8th of March 2013
Held at: **Cre8 Life Style Centre**, The Old Baths, 80 Eastway,
Hackney Wick, London, E9 5JH

***“Helping to establish a permanent, sustainable, creative community in Hackney
Wick.”***

In attendance:

Richard Brown (affordablewick.com)
Matthew Booth (TM Studios)
Tim Davis (TM Studios)
Lee Wilshire (Stour Space & Boaters Moorings)
Alistair Appleton (Mind Springs meditation)
Hannah Lambert (LLDC)
Adriana Marques (LLDC)
Nancy Stevenson (University of Westminster)
Will Teasdale (LBHackney)
Cristina Stan (Secretary/youth worker)
Douglas Thackway (White Building)
Rebecca Feiner (artist)
Rosemarie Davidson-Gotobed (Cre8)
Richard Gyesie (Cre8)
Nimrod (Arbeit)
Isaac Moreno (Wick Newspaper)
Paddy Looney (resident)
Ben Hopper (artist)
Daren Ellis (See Studio, Wick newspaper)
William Chamberlain (Chair, Water City CIC)
Andy Willis (Front Side Gardens)
Elsa Seignol (Foxtrot)
Anna Aubrey (Foxtrot)
Maddie Yuille (Space Hive)
Andreas Lang (Public Works)
Cedar Lewisohn (Street art commissions)
Martin Richman (artist)
Josh Straus (sustainable gardener, designer)
Michael Spinks (Essex Flour and Grain/Boater)
Colin Priest (Organic Wick)

Items discussed:

The minutes of February's meeting were read out and updates given:

Stour Space

Lee Wilshire: the appeal from the Landlord Palm Lane has been rejected and Stour Space is now officially listed as an asset of community value. Apparently it is the first building for sale in the country.

William Chamberlain (WC): asked if this was news worthy and thought that at the very least it should go on the HackneyWick.org website.

The Mooring network and Boating

WC: informed the Group that Ben had managed to find a partner to buy a boat and set-up the floating lab. Ben will give more information at the next meeting.

Lee Wilshire: Lee has launched a new website for the moorings network, www.elmn.co.uk. and will update the Group further at the next meeting.

WC: suggested that the CIG try to activate the canal through the network of moorings in time for the summer festival season. A key part would play the communication with LLDC.

Parking

WC reminded the group that the Fish Island Temporary Parking Zone consultation was supposed to have started on 26th February 2013. No one in the group had seen or heard anything about it. WC will ask LBTower Hamlets for an update before the next meeting.

Funding Opportunities

WC: Alison Denning (LBTower Hamlets) had sent an email to the Group about potential funding streams for the Tower Hamlets based businesses.

Summer Festivals / Wireless and Hard Rock Festivals

WC: spoke about the idea to set up an Events Subgroup, that should keep in close communication with the person in charge from LLDC.

Adriana Marques (LLDC): informed the CIG that Clive Little is Director of Events and Sud Basu is the local programme manager of events and Adriana will see if they can attend the next meeting to link with the events subgroup. So far the Hackney Wicked Art Festival and the Hackney Wick Festival want to be represented on the CIG Event Subgroup.

Adriana also talked about achieving a balance between the big festivals (Wireless, Hard Rock) and the community, being self-sufficient, bringing revenue and having local events that make the community part of these larger events.

The dates of the two big summer festivals are 29th-30th June - Hard Rock, 12th-13th July – Wireless.

LLDC will try to push the idea of free/discounted festival tickets for local residents.

Rebecca Feiner: raised the question of access for these 2 big events so that visitors will not bypass local businesses.

Adriana Marques (LLDC) said that access would be via the Wallis Bridge which will be opened to allow people to arrive at the site via Hackney Wick, with some scope for local businesses to create added value.

Martin Richman reinforced the idea that is a common practice for such big events to give free tickets to the residents.

Will Teasdale (LBHackney) said that the Council hadn't managed to get free tickets, but they've been given priority for pre-sale tickets.

Paddy Looney announced that Hackney Wicked Art Festival would be in June.

Curating opportunity

WC: Claire Gevaux circulated a curating opportunity in Newham to the ClG.

Adriana Marques (LLDC) will follow-up to get more info, as the announcement was not clear.

AGENDA

1. Adriana Gevaux (LLDC) spoke about LLDC's two commission opportunities as part of the LLDC Arts & Culture Strategy. All applications for the opportunities will need to go through www.supply4london.co.uk. Check the website for more details and for registration.

- A. Opportunity for an education partner** (either an organization or a group of independent specialists) to join the Mobile Artist in Residence team and develop a mentorship scheme for young people in East London. The deadline for the Education Partner proposals is Tuesday 2nd April. Please note that the applications must be made through the Supply4London.com website.
- B. Art commissions facilitator for Queen Elisabeth Olympic Park Hoardings:** Opportunity to curate and project manage the design, fabrication and installation of exemplary art commissions along 3.5 km of key construction hoardings within and surrounding Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park. Log onto www.supply4london.gov.uk and use the following access code to access all information and begin your application: 568Y6X5939. Deadline: 12 noon, Friday 12 April
- C. Temporary art commissions for Queen Elisabeth Olympic Park, Summer-Autumn 2013:** Opportunity to create celebratory and exemplary artworks for the landscape of the northern part of Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park as part of the summer 2013 opening programme. Log onto www.supply4london.gov.uk and use the following access code to access all

information and begin your application: UUWD533U7H. Deadline: 12 noon, Monday 22 April.

Adriana has already done a follow-up by email with more information about these opportunities. Adriana's email: AdrianaMarques@londonlegacy.co.uk.

2. HWFICIC – Community Interest Company

WC announced that the HWFI Cultural Interest Group is in the process of being incorporated as a Community Interest Company (CIC). With a number of CIC's now operating in HWFI it raises the question of CIC's receiving discretionary business rate relief. This would be something that could really help the artist led regeneration of the area.

Will Teasdale (LBHackney): regarding business rates, said that from April the rules are going to slightly change to encourage local investment and support local artist groups. Charities already have discounts (80% to 100%) and there are other types of businesses that can receive this discount as well. CICs have big chances to receive this relief. Some small businesses can receive subsidies at the moment in relation to the size space they use. Also there are certain categories such as fine arts, sports developments that can receive subsidising. WT replied to the CIG with a link to the Hackney Business rates department.

<http://hackney.gov.uk/businessrates.htm>

WC suggested that this issue should be looked at by the Planning and Development Subgroup and bring it up with Eleanor Fawcett at the LLDC. WC also suggested that potentially LLDC might be able to help by subsidising business rates for CICs, to take out central governing lobby and have CICs recognized as valuable as charities and maybe in the interim look for funding for these taxes.

Douglas Thackway (Space) said that being a charity worked for Space and still allowed them to generate income. WC suggested that Douglas help the Subgroup determine which business model is most appropriate in Hackney Wick and Fish Island.

Martin Richman (artist, resident) said that for small business/single artists there are big reductions of these business rates in Hackney.

3. Crowd-funding – Spacehive

Maddie Yuille (maddie@spacehive.com) presented the Spacehive funding opportunity (<http://spacehive.com/>) Spacehive is a crowd-funding platform for civic projects (anything that helps improve local areas by people). This is a free service for everyone to upload projects to the site. Spacehive started last February and so far 10 projects got their funding. There is a mixture of donors – from individuals, local businesses and corporations. The process is transparent, you can see where the money is coming from, who backed the project and if the council backed the projects

for example. Spacehive takes a 5% fee from the money, only if and when you hit the target.

There are also initiative pages hosted by different partner organizations and it allows different organizations to have their own-curated home pages.

Any project to do with high street can also apply for match funding from Experian (next deadline is 15th April) to apply for matching funding.

Spacehive is in partnership with Business in the Community, which every year runs a voluntary day (Given Game Day – 17th May) where they partner up corporates with community groups and get the staff out to volunteer.

4. Mabley Green Development

Martin Richman: raised the issue of common land that is being used by various companies to run, in this case, an all weather football pitch. Private companies run these businesses, the areas are being fenced off and local residents don't have free access to the facilities. There is an increase of traffic, litter, light pollution etc caused by these developments. There is a strong sense that common land is being stolen from the community and the residents are forced to have unwanted facilities. There are already similar football pitch developments in Mabley Green and Hackney Marches. The council wants now to allow for a second pitch in Mabley Green to be built. There is a user group called Mabley Green Users Group, which can be used for communication for the people involved in stopping this development. People with an interest and ideas are welcomed.

Will Teasdale (LBHackney) responded that the council wants more multisport culture facilities and make them accessible for the residents. (will.teasdale@hackney.gov.uk)

5. Organic Wick

Collin Priest: spoke about Organic Wick (www.organicwick.org.uk), which is an organic vegetable box scheme. They collect orders from local residents and take them to farmers in Essex. It is a way for community people to come together and also supply healthy food. They are planning a food market in April.

6. Douglas Thackway (Space) – e petition

Douglas spoke about an online e-petition which is about planning change across the country to allow landlords to change workspaces into residential use without planning permission. In short, it will allow landlords to be able to change the use class of their buildings from workspace (including artists studios, other creative spaces, Tech City spaces, offices etc), to residential without planning permission. This could clearly have a big impact on our sector, whilst not providing a commitment to affordable housing to replace it. Support is needed to help local authorities and other agencies in securing exemption from the new planning policy that's coming in.

Most Central London authorities (including Hackney, Tower Hamlets, Newham etc - City of London have applied for an exemption) and key agencies (LLDC, GLA) want an exemption but need to make the case for securing it. Other studio providers are signing the petition and they are working with a similar Tech City petition to join forces. Local politicians are backing them as well.

Douglas to follow-up up with the links. - <http://www.change.org/en-GB/petitions/eric-pickles-secretary-of-state-dclg-stop-the-conversion-of-offices-into-housing-without-planning-permission-2>

Ben Hopper told the group that the **Hackney Wick Locals Facebook Group** is a FB group where everybody can post this kind of information.

Will Teasdale: the council applied for exemptions and in Shoreditch there was a big campaign to support it.

7. The Wilderness – Hackney based feature film

Jon Pettigrew – spoke about a feature film being made about the Eton Manor boys club, a club founded 100 years ago. He came across this story and made it a full-length movie with a screenwriter Alexandra Boyd – the story was designed to appeal not only to the locals but also other international audiences. The screenplay is making use of some of the real stories, but it will have a fictional love story as well to go in parallel. They want to film some of the scenes locally. Also they are trying to get a book written along with the movie and for that they are looking for someone (preferably someone which has already been published) to write the factual book, which will give more details about what is happening in the movie.

www.thewildernesscompany.uk.com

jon_pettigrew@msn.com

8. Planning and development subgroup

Still working on what's the agenda of the group. The team at the moment: Lee, Isaac, Anna, Daren, William, Tom and Richard Brown. They aim to make the group more official and with regular meetings. Planning to have more meetings and improve communication with LLDC. There was a meeting with the people in charge with designing guidance of HW and Fish Island – but things are still in an early stage. People interested in joining the group are welcomed.

Andreas suggested that the Wick Sessions (in April at Stour Space) could be a good opportunity for this subgroup to make their agenda public.

Alistair mentioned that there is a planning consultation for a building (new flats) at the corner of Wallis Rd. and Prince Edward Rd. Everyone is encouraged to go on LLDC planning portal and express their views.

Hannah (LLDC) expressed that there are a lot of sites that come up for redeveloping in the area and it is very important that the CIG looks at them and encourages the local community's participation in the planning process. At the moment there are 6-

8 sites coming up, at various scales, and at different stages in terms of planning development. Through the local plan document there might be further owners that are considering redeveloping their sites in the near future. There is not a concise map at the moment that includes information about who owns which plot of land. General update from LLDC will come up in April.

9. Legible London map

Action point: Lee will update the map (from Paddy Looney's map). Everyone should email Lee sites, postcodes and feed Lee with information to put on the map.

10. Hub around HW Station

Martin Richman raised the subject of the area "hub" around HW station and the development plans for that area.

LLDC owns the land and although they already have planning permission, it is not likely that development in its current form will take place. There will be a redesign process first. There are plans for a tunnel/underpass beneath the railways. LLDC will update in April.

11. Michael Spinks approached the subject of **health issues caused by Olympic** sites health and safety standards of moving the earth in the area. Some residents claim that this deteriorated their health. If anyone heard or has information about this they should contact Michael.

12. Cre8 Life Style - CR8 Arc – Craig

LLDC and various other donors are funding the Cre8 Arc. They have managed to secure funding of £80,000 which almost covers the total needed budget. The intention is to develop a sports and eco building, with multiuse sports pitch to be more inclusive (earth-ship design) and a garden. They are reusing Olympic materials. Craig presented the design plan of the Arc. They still need help from people into self-building and gardening.

24th of March is the Community day, opening day for the community center. The official launching of the Arc is planned in July.

13. CIG Website by FoxTrot (www.hackneywick.org)

FoxTrot gave a progress report on the development of the CIG's website. There is an online form circulated which should be filled in and returned to FoxTrot so that they can feed the information into the website. The idea is to keep the website simple to use, to gather info about HWFI and spread info to the local people, giving a general overview. The website's design is very simple, with a main page with basic info, map and three main areas (1.what's on, 2.directory and 3.links).

FoxTrot will initially start the website and will train a new person which will continue to update the website's content in the future. By September the new person should be ready to take over.

The launch of the website is planned in mid April. There will be 2 weeks before to try it out and improve before the launch.

The possible conflict with the www.hackneywick.com website has been addressed and it is a more commercial site designed for artists selling their work. They are markedly different websites that reflect different interests and groups – the CIG website will link them as well as feeding the CIGs discussions.

There was no other business.

- End -