

Hackney Wick Fish Island | Cultural Interest Group

Minutes of the meeting on Friday 10th of May 2013
Held at: **Stour Space**, 7 Roach Rd London, Tower Hamlets, Greater London E3 2PA

"Helping to establish a permanent, sustainable, creative community in Hackney Wick."

In attendance:

Ben Hopper (Photographer)
Oli Smart (Director, Folded Feather)
Roslyn Stanwick (Events Coordinator)
Vali Van Zijl (Landprop)
Hannah Lambert (LLDC)
Richard Gibbs (iCity)
Joan Hughes (Mother Studios)
Richard Brown (local artist)
Lolly Marlborough (London Lions)
Vince Macauley (London Lions)
Tori Bravery (90 Main Yard)
Remi Landaz (90 Main Yard)
Simon Burnett (LBH intern)
Will Teasdale (LBHackney)
John Atherton (Wick Art Store)
William Chamberlain (Chair)
Lee Wilshire (Stour Space)
Andy Spracklen (restaurateur)
Sarah Henderson (Hackney Shares)
Sarah Scarsbrooke (local artist)
Simon Cole (Hackney Tours)
Paddy Looney (Resident)
Laura May Lewis (Hackney Wicked Art Festival)
Juliet Can (Stour Space/local resident)
Cedar Lewisohn (artists, curator/ LLDC)
Rebecca Feiner (Artist/Mother Studios)
Paul Botten (Architect/Blue Print 101)
Graham Harris (Hackney Wick Pound)
Michael Spinks (Essex Flour & Grain)
Mark Kennedy (E20 Eastenders Fishing Trust)
Juliet Can (Stour Space)
Lucy Oliver-Harrison (The Yard Theatre)
Tobias Hug (curator, musician)

Anna Harding (Space Studios)
James Morgan (Hackney Pearl)
Guna Dubrovskaja (Fashion designer)
Abbas Nokasteh (Open Vizor)
Cristina Stan (Youth worker, secretary)

Items discussed:

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

Stour Space

Lee Wilshire – nothing new.

Moorings Network and boating – nothing new.

Summer Festivals –The first Events and Festivals subgroup meeting will take place immediately after the CIG meeting.

Website:

The feedback is generally good. Ben Hopper made a point that people should be able to manage their own "profile" without having the administrator as middleman. William Chamberlain said that all entries have to be moderated but will follow-up with Foxtrot.

Foxtrot will attend the next CIG meeting and any issue related with the website will be also discussed then. Everyone is welcomed to make a point related with how the website is running.

William Chamberlain announced a Water City CIC **event on 20th May** at the Siemens Cristal in the Royal Docks about the various developments in the Lower Lea Valley.

Agenda

1. iCity

Richard Gibbs made an introduction and update about the iCity Project. The name iCity is going to be changed, but the new name can't be made public just yet.

iCity will be opened fully in 2015. There are 3 buildings involved; one of them will open this summer, used from 27th July by BT Sport.

Richard presented the space as having two key uses: TVstudio broadcast and data center, also around the edges they will be creating affordable workspace using an incubator model, so that people could see how digital is working.

WC asked what opportunities are for sole practitioners, as in the future it will be very important to have sole practitioners working with new tech organizations coming into Hackney (via Olympic Park).

Richard replied that there are huge opportunities for sole practitioners and that these connections have to exist. They need to look at other models and find a way to work together.

iCity is trying to develop a working group and bring a better broadband connectivity into the greater Olympic Park. A representative of HW&FI CIC will be able to sit on this group.

WC suggested that in 2014 iCity could open its doors as part of the festivals, given the fact that collaborations and partnerships happen when people open their door.

Richard indicated that they would be opening a dedicated Centre of Digital Art.

Abbas Nokasteh made the point that the space should encourage a mix of artistic practices to allow an eclectic community to be formed, to allow partnerships to be formed and hence to support the growth of that community.

2. Legacy List - The Canals Project: street art on the waterways

Cedar Lewisohn clarified, with more details, the graffiti walls project (opposite White Building) he is implementing in HW area. The project is set-up as an exchange between HWFI artists and internationally renowned street artists from other countries. Using an open submission system, the project is offering 2 residencies in Sao Paolo and Poland for HWFI based street artists. There is a plan to paint 4 walls in HW in 2013 by international street artists from Poland and Sao Paolo. There has been good feedback on the wall so far, with international press showing interest. These internationally known artists haven't painted before in UK, which is one of the reasons of using artists from outside Hackney Wick.

You can follow the project on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/TheCanalsProject?fref=ts>.

Other events:

- **Film screenings** at Hackney Picture House
- **Residencies** at Gainsbury School (June)
- **Studio visits** with local artists
- **Bow Boys School project**, in collaboration with Michael Smith (local author)
- **Symposium Day - 8 June** event at Space – a series of walks, talks and debates with an academic in street art and an artist from Poland.

3. Mailing list

The group brought to attention the recent exchange of emails on the mailing list. Different opinions were shared in regards to how the list is being used and there was the question of rules to be agreed and followed when using the mailing list. The general opinion is that it should be a matter of email etiquette to not abuse the mailing list, do not copy and send the email, and to message the person directly.

CIG monthly meetings represent a forum and all matters should be discussed in the forum, rather than on the mailing list.

Ben Hopper proposed a blog or a forum online where different things should be discussed.

It was agreed to re discuss the matter at the next CIG meeting, how and where different issues should be debated and agree on a set of rules when using the mailing list.

4. Hackney Shares

Sarah Henderson made a presentation.

Hackney Shares is a time bank for organizations. It's a market place where the currency is *time* rather than *money*. Organizations of all kinds use it to unlock resources they can't readily turn into financial gain and trade them for time credits. These credits can be used to pay for resources that other members in the network are offering. Read more about how it works here: <http://hackneyshares.org/how-it-works/>

What's on offer?

- Meeting, event, exhibition and desk space
- Graphic design
- Admin help
- Web design
- Professional photography and film

You can have a look at full listings on the website: <http://hackneyshares.org/>. You can get in touch via email sarah@hackneyshares.org, phone 0207 033 8521 or signing up directly on website: <http://hackneyshares.org/join-us/>.

5. Hackney Pound

Graham Harris presented.

Hackney Pound is a technology-based company using the power of the people. As some of the prices in HW are out of reach for many residents, the project supports the idea of giving the local people discounts in bars, restaurants, shops, etc. The company that brings the philosophy and technology is called FlexCom. The technology used involves a loyalty card. The shop owners decide their own discounts.

Graham will follow-up with a more detailed presentation at a later date.

6. Wallis Rd Bridge

Hannah Lambert indicated that White Post Lane will open for the summer, because there are still land issues with Wallis Rd Bridge's new lift.

7. London Lions Basketball Team

Vince Macauley updated the CIG with the latest plans of London Lions plans. Their new home is The Copper Box. The first game will be in August and the club is planning to regularly attract 4000-5000 people to games.

In terms of opportunities for CIG members, London Lions are trying to create links with the local community. There are plans to involve local schools, create projects to engage with young people and give them skills, organize visits and bring people into the Club. They also want to involve local businesses and artist to make the reception area welcoming.

Contact Vince Macauley on vince.macauley@londonlionsbasketball.com

8. E20 Fishing Trust

Mark Kennedy presented his business, which is offering opportunities in fishing activities for disabled, residents and children. The program runs from 10am to 5pm. There is also a café opened by the canal.

Mark addressed the issue of safety in his area. Since Christmas 5 robberies have happened and the area is not safe. There is a need for lighting and cameras. Mark and Lee Wilshire (as chair of Canal Subgroup) need to get together and find solutions to solve this problem.

9. The Lab Film Festival (21 – 30 June 2013)

Jo Hughes and Abbas Nokasteh are involved in the organization of this new Film Festival. As well as Mother Studios and other venues in Hackney Wick and Fish

Island, the 3 Mills Film Studios, Stratford Picture House and Stratford Circus are among participating venues. They are also planning to set up youth film groups as part of the festival.

Other matters:

Planning permission legislation has been passed that allows landlords to change B1 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 Hackney Wick and Fish Island, whilst not providing a commitment to affordable housing or workspace to replace it.

Jo Hughes received some news about the new building regulation: 17 boroughs have successfully applied for exemptions: Newham, Hackney and Tower Hamlets are among the exempted boroughs, but Hackney Wick and Fish Island which come under the jurisdiction of the LLDC for planning matters is not part of the exemption.

LLDC will follow-up with an update.

The next meeting is at 9.30am on Friday June 14th at a venue in HWFI to be confirmed