

Hackney Wick Fish Island | Cultural Interest Group

Minutes of the meeting on Friday 12th December 2014
Held at: Prompt Gallery, Mother Studios, Queens Yard, Hackney Wick E9 5EN

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

In attendance:

Coby Walsh (Stour Space/Secretary)
Caine Crawford (Prompt Gallery)
Pam Luke (Resident)
Ian Dodds (Kerb Food)
Hannah Andrews (The Trampery – Fish Island Labs)
Helen Fisher (Here East)
Neil Howden (Stour Space)
Juliet Can (Stour Space)
Chris King (The Urban Orchard Project Mabley Green)
Rebecca Feiner (artist)
Abbas Nokhasteh (Open Vizor)
Philip Kirton (Ican Excel)
Nancy Stevenson (University of Westminster)
William Chamberlain (HW&FICIC/The Trampery/London Lions - Chair)
Will Teasdale (LB Hackney)
Lucy Oliver-Harrison (The Yard Theatre)
Simon Cole (Hackney Tours)
Gill Wildman (Plot/Upstarter)
Isaac Merrero (The Wick/Goldsmiths)
Tobias Hug (Musician)
Anna Maloney (Hackney Wicked)
Victoria Stonebridge (LLDC)
Gunther Jancke (Artist)
Frank Luke (Resident)
Jonathan Booth (Mystery Ballroom)

Items discussed:

1. Mabley Green Urban Orchard Project – Chris King

- Mabley Green is the park between Hackney Wick and Homerton
- At the moment the general consensus is that the park is not being used to its full potential
- Chris King has been involved in the Mabley Green Users Group for the past few years and is now hoping to transform a portion of the park into something new and innovative (see map)
- The proposed plan is for an Edible Park – including a community orchard with apple trees and trees that have edible components.
- Chris has asked that anyone who has links to local community groups please get in touch if they would like to get involved, email chris@theurbanorchardproject.org
- Chris has been warned by Hackney Council not to promote the plans too much as they haven't officially gone through.

- “Were you involved in the Mabley Green meadow project?” A: “Yes I was, and that was kind of the template for this new project.”
- “How does this fit in with the Adidas branding etc?” A: “The advert is still there, it will remain and there will also be one more caged football pitch.”
- “CIG member Martin Richman has talked a lot about the uses of the park, particularly the caged areas?” A: “Yes the new caged pitch is a done deal, and also in order to create the new areas of the park they need to also create the new pitch as the excavation materials will feed into the landscape of the new areas of the park.”
- The council are concerned about the proposed plans; they are highly ambitious and they are worried about the maintenance. Chris is of the opinion that a core group of dedicated volunteers (10-15) is needed to maintain the park.
- “The flats that overlook the park, have you had any feedback?” A: “It’s proven hard to communicate with the estates, in particular Kingsmead but I am working on it.”

2. LLDC Updates - Victoria Stonebridge

- A few updates on LLDC events and news:
- Second round of the Local Programme launching January 2015
- Leaway Curator – They are looking for a curator to help support the Leaway Project (application deadline is 22nd Jan – more info here: <http://queenelizabetholympicpark.co.uk/our-story/transforming-east-london/cultural-east-london/leaway-curator>)
- More specifically looking for someone to help tell the story of the Leaway.
- More information coming in future meetings.

3. Hackney Wick Discount Card – Lucy Oliver-Harrison (The Yard)

- The Yard have their own discount card (more details <http://www.theyardtheatre.co.uk/yard-card/>)
- Lucy would like to put forth the idea for a Hackney Wick-wide general discount card – Venues / organisations interested should contact lucy@theyard.co.uk who is happy to oversee this if someone would like to volunteer to drive it forwards amongst the other HWFI venue operators. The more people involved means production costs can be split.

4. Olympicopolis Plans announced

- It has been confirmed that the “Olympicopolis” will receive £141 million from the Treasury for the cultural regeneration of the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park.
- Read more <http://www.costar.co.uk/en/assets/news/2014/December/Govt-announces-Olympicopolis-Olympic-Park-funding/>
- William Chamberlain has been talking to Bloomberg Associates about integrating local creatives from the Authentic Cultural Quarter of Hackney Wick and Fish Island into the Olympicopolis plans and will be attending their upcoming breakfast event on behalf of the CIG.
- Cauldron of Opportunity event – An opportunity to introduce developers/landowners to the community and give locals a chance to shape the way the area is developed in the future.

5. Hackney Wick & Fish Island CIC & CIG Development – Will Chamberlain & Discussion

- The idea is for the CIC (Community Interest Company) to assist the development of HW&FI into a sustainable creative community where the arts are valued for the great work they can do in the area.
- Discussion: “This is a great opportunity to talk to locals and get introduced to new developers etc. Can we get organized enough to actually become economically

sustainable – rather than people just coming to the CIG meetings to chat about stuff and get info?”

- Q “How long has the CIG been going on?” A “2009” Q “What’s your vision for it? A “As the founder and chair of the CIG it’s a very different, non-hierarchical. It’s a form of networking organisation that seeks to provide a level playing field for locals to have equal access to engage with each other, corporate bodies and stakeholders .” Q “What has the CIC got to do with the CIG?” A “We needed a company/corporate entity to own it, to have a bank account, to pay for the website.” The CIC now has to start generating revenue to pay its way as a company just like any other.
“It needs to be acknowledged that the CIG is fantastic for bringing together locals, and that should be applauded, but we now need to be enlightened as to what the CIC actually is/does. The CIG is a meeting of artists and creatives discussing their ideas and developments and it is concerning when those relationships appear to be ‘monetized’ for the gain of the CIC.”
- “What is the CIC?” A corporate entity that owns the website www.hackneywick.org It’s objectives – to arrange CIG meetings, organization and admin. As there is currently not enough income to employ more people, for now Will is encompassing a number of roles for the CIC including director and financial manager.
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- The only money so far that has come into the CIC apart from the Emerging East Grant that paid for the website is from OpenVizor and Here East.
- Neil McDonald of Stour Space compared his own work position to Will’s (in terms of the amount of different job titles allocated) as a standard way for a new organization to get started, building the bones of the organization etc.
- A recent project that the CIC worked on was the East Village Foyer Art project; <http://londonliving.at/east-village-is-looking-for-east-london-art/> This was an open call to all East London based artists, filtered through three organisations; Stratford Rising, HWFI CIG and Hackney WickED. These organisations received a finders fee of 10% from artworks chosen. The CIG worked with a number of locals (for example Coby Walsh (Stour Space), Rosie Emerson and Jeanette Barnes to put together a list of artworks for the East Village to consider. A number of artworks were chosen and the finders fee was shared between the CIC and the locals who helped to compile the list.
- Anna – Hackney WickED : “This is an example of how HW&FI CIC is overlapping some of the work that Hackney WickED CIC would like to do; We were discussing a proposal to develop the East Village foyers and generate funding that would go to supporting the Hackney WickED Festival – However I felt really uncomfortable competing with the HWFI CIC.” Will – CIG : “I ran a gallery for three years (Formans Smokehouse Gallery) that was sponsored by East Village, so this relationship already existed and this is a project that we’ve been discussing for a long time. The Foyer Art project proposal was circulated to the CIG mailing list and the whole process was completely transparent.” Of 75 artworks accepted by East Village, 44 were proposed by HW&FICIC.
- Lucy – The Yard “This is where the conflict between the two starts to arise, it gets complicated. It can’t be a democracy if the CIG is chaired/ran by the person who is also the sole director of the CIC.”
- A number of people were talking at this point, so this is a general summarisation of the points raised: There needs to be a clear split between the CIG and the CIC, most people were not aware there was a difference, Will should utilise his skills more towards developing the CIC as a funding body.
- Abbas (OpenVizor) and Juliet (Stour Space) both raised points about the concerns re the CIG/CIC: There definitely needs to be transparency, and information available to all. Julie mentioned as someone who attends a lot of similar groups (community interest forums) for many years, what is happening here isn’t unusual – The group forms, it grows, and someone takes the risk to be the person to sign the cheques, but this is how it develops. Plot London will be taking efforts to articulate what both the CIG and CIC are, for the website.

- Rebecca Feiner – “Are we (the members) ‘funding’ the CIG, or are we ‘funding’ the CIC? In terms of funding - meaning our time spent attending the meetings and offering venue space for the meetings.”
- The CIC is currently undergoing a five month social enterprise incubator process with 90 Main Yard. The CIG/CIC is working with Plot London and local resident Gunther Jancke to develop its offering. The process will be completed by the end of March 2015 and the results will be published.

6. Barclays connection, Juliet Can - Stour Space

- After booking Stour Space as a venue for an in-house workshop, Barclays have since stayed in touch with one of their directors Juliet Can, and is interested in offering support to the HW community. Potentially in the form of workshops and seminars. In the past the locals experience of working with corporates hasn't been very successful (the Coca-Cola mural for example) and Juliet would like to hear from you how we could possibly go about building this relationship with Barclays and making it beneficial.
- “Certain rules of engagement should be imposed on these relationships.”
- “Who is this targeted at? Residents or businesses? The vast majority of business owners/employees are also residents of the area; will this relationship affect one or the other, or both?”
- “This shouldn't just be open to artistic/creative community members”
- “Perhaps workshops offering business plan support?”
- Barclays will be represented at January's CIG meeting. Please email Juliet@stour.space to discuss ideas.

7. Prompt Gallery, Mother Studios – Caine Crawford

- Caine Crawford has set up a new organisation Prompt London, read more via <http://prompt.london>
- One aspect of the new organisation is Prompt Gallery, a gallery located on the top floor of Mother Studios, Queens Yard (the space formerly occupied by Elevator Gallery and Summit Gallery)
- Caine feels there is an opportunity to bring more diverse artwork into the area, with a wider reach.
- Currently only open three days a week: Friday, Saturday and Sunday.
- There are opportunities for volunteers / interns to get involved in Prompt, email hello@prompt.london
- An upcoming show in March will feature Ian Law, a local artist and architect, alongside an architecture student.
- Caine is also interested in taking shows they put on outside of the area, to show a wider audience.
- Caine has expressed interested in there being a HW gallery sub-committee of the CIG – would this be of interest to other galleries in the area?

8. Bow Food Bank – Gill Wild, Plot London

- A reminder from Gill re the Bow Food Bank – there is a drop off point at the Hackney Pearl and please do print out and put up posters for the food bank in your venue (Gill to email .pdf file) to help promote the cause.

9. Stour Space Intern Opportunity – Neil McDonald

- Stour Space recently employed a new events manager, Joseph Foote. They will soon be putting a call out for interns to help support this role, with measurable income in return. More details to be announced soon.

10. Introduction: KERB – Ian Dodds

- KERB launched their Hackney Wick venue in December, and will be occupying the space (the old mirror factory on Monier Road) until its demolition in March 2015.
- KERB is a street food membership organisation, they started out as EatStreet and have since developed. Read more via <http://www.kerbfood.com/about/what/>
- They would love for you to get in touch, lots of collaborations set to happen – could include gallery shows, music nights etc please email HQ@kerbfood.com

11. HereEast Open Evening – Helen

- HereEast are holding their first open evening on 4th Feb 2015. It's set to be an informal drop in event with food and drinks and is a chance to get an update on the project and to see the space.

Reminder: Please send any email addresses to add to the CIG mailing list to info@hackneywick.org and please remember to circulate the CIG emails to your own contacts.

The next CIG meeting is at 9.30am on Friday 9th January at Stour Space, 7 Roach Road, Fish Island, Hackney Wick, Tower Hamlets, London, E3 2PA.

Please send any agenda items to me before then and as ever, please tell anyone you think should be there to join us.