

# Hackney Wick Fish Island | Cultural Interest Group

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Minutes of the meeting on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2016  
Held at: The White Building, Queen's Yard, White Post Lane, E9 5EN

*“Working to establish a permanent, sustainable, creative economy in Hackney Wick and Fish Island”*

**In attendance:**

Robert Sakula (Ash Sakula)

Sven Muendner (Wickside)

Jim Blakemore (Bikeworks)

Hannah Sender (UCL Bartlett Institute of Global Prosperity (IGP))

Martin Austwick (UCL Bartlett Centre for Advanced Spatial Analysis (CASA))

Emma Terama (UCL Bartlett Institute for Sustainable Resources (ISR))

William Chamberlain (Creative Wick/Unit-APD)

Konrad Miciukiewicz (UCL Bartlett Institute of Global Prosperity (IGP))

Daisy Bentley (Stour Space Shop)

Gill Wildman (Plot London/Upstarter)

Sophie Hill (Nunnery Gallery)

Adriana Marques (Foundation for Future London /LLDC/Chair)

Jamie Macarthur (Aitch Group)

Chris Chave-Cox (Optimity)

Richard Brown (Brown Urbanism/Affordable Wick/Unit-APD)

Cat Gray (The Yard Theatre)

Katie Sheasby (Howling Hops)

S Y Huang

Cllr Nick Sharman (LB Hackney)

Cllr Chris Kennedy (LB Hackney)

Simon Cole (Hackney Tours)

Chris Bowden (Navigus Planning)

Charlie Benyon  
Oliver Hickmet (Space)  
Mel Allison (East Wick and Sweetwater)  
Ian Hale (The Hive)  
Victoria Stonebridge (LLDC)  
Leanne Hoogwaerts (Foundation for Future London)  
Coby Walsh (Stour Space)  
Daisy Bentley (Stour Space Shop)  
Stef Ville (Shapes Hackney)  
Cllr Rachel Blake (LB Tower Hamlets)  
Jenny Wedgbury (UCL)  
Ozlem Edizel (Middlesex University)  
Graeme Evans (Middlesex University)  
Nimrod Vardi (Arbeit)  
Eric Perera (Resident)  
YiYing Ge (Loughborough in London/Secretary)

**Agenda:**

**Wickside Development (McGrath site) - Robert Sakula & Sven Muendner**

Robert Sakula presented the Wickside Development, a 3.4-hectare canal-side development on the McGrath site in Hackney Wick. Wickside will provide around 500 homes and 300 jobs. The aim is for the new development to help transform this part of the area with new opportunities for people to live, work and play. There is clearly a concern of how old and new can come together, by combining old and new buildings, with different sizes and styles, bringing not only redevelopment to the area, but also a heterogeneous environment that match with the existing Hackney Wick atmosphere. Wickside Development is in talks with LLDC about the possible construction of a new pedestrian and cycle bridge. The design of the bridge could incorporate a range of community uses. Underneath the bridge there could be a community space with youth club, workshops, bars, studios and so on. The cost of the bridge could potentially be offset against the requirement to provide certain levels of affordable housing within the scheme.

The new Wansbeck Yard will provide a mixed use of commercial and residential spaces. Residential typologies include apartments, penthouses, terraced houses, garden studios and detached cottages. Other creative uses in the existing heritage buildings on the site include the possibility for an art gallery, shops, restaurants, a foundry, creative studios and potentially a brewery.

In total the development includes commercial space measuring around 100000 square feet.

More details about Wickside can be found at:

<http://www.ashsak.com/project/wickside-hackney/#>

## **Q&A**

(1) What's the breakdown on residential tenure?

Wickside is not able to answer this question yet. Still in talks with its partners and the planning authority. There was also a big discussion on whether the bridge should be provided by the Wickside's partners or local authority. Robert says that the high expense on bridge might affect the delivery of affordable housing. Nick Sharman suggested that this is exactly the sort of decision that the community should be involved in.

(2) Will Wickside provide different scales of studio that young companies can move and grow into?

The key work is to provide secure space, match each space with a particular provider, and tailor each to individual needs, making that flexible and changeable. It is hoped that rental costs will be affordable.

(3) How to deal with the high expense of underground parking?

It is about balance. Wickside Development will not provide one-to-one car parking. Alternative travel options are being explored. Cycle parking will be extensively provided.

(4) Any plans for the Workspace management?

Wickside is in talks with an estate management company which will help to manage the commercial property, in order to provide cheaper rents.

(5) A local printing company is looking for a 9 thousand square foot, B1 space. Is that the kind of business that would be appropriate to come to this workspace?

It will depend. We need to talk to them to see if they fit with our proposal. We are still in talks with our partners about workspace and affordable opportunities.

## **Bikeworks - Jim Blakemore**

Bikeworks is in its 10th year and now has 3 training centers. Bikeworks aims to encourage more cycling and to help those who want to be cyclists, or obtain the vocational skills, training and real-life experience that will allow them to find employment in the sector.

Bikeworks, based in Bethnal Green, opened up the third franchise in Olympic Park last year

working with L&Q on the Park. Bikeworks runs a range of programs and two all ability clubs supported by LLDC, in order to engage everyone cycling together.

Bikeworks works with LLDC and cyclists to engage young and unemployed people in cycling programs by giving them integrated vocational training, and get around 50% of people directly into employment with qualification. The program supports young people with not only cycling skills but also functional skills, in order to enhance their competence. In the next few weeks, Bikeworks will run a program based in the Olympic Park.

#### **Q&A**

- Has Bikeworks developed a Social Prescription type model?

Not yet started. Bikeworks is in talks with potential operators

More details on Bikeworks can be found at: <http://www.bikeworks.org.uk/>

#### **Creative Wick Sharing Economies - Hannah Sender (IGP) / Martin Austwick (CASA) / Emma Terama (ISR)**

We think that the informal HWFI sharing economy is unique and vital to the area. The Creative Wick Sharing Economies research project is a collaboration between Affordable Wick, Creative Wick and UCL to find out who shares, what is shared, and where sharing is happening. We'll use the research to show the importance of HWFI's sharing economy to policy makers, stakeholders and fellow researchers. To help us, please fill in our short online questionnaire

**Please find the questionnaire here and please SHARE with your neighbours, friends etc.**

<https://opinio.ucl.ac.uk/s?s=41588>

#### **Gill Wildman - Upstarter at Machines Room**

Upstarter provides incubator services for new start ups in the creative industries, and has been running for 2 years mostly in Barcelona and Bristol. They are launching a new series of 6 evening classes for Londoners which will start on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March at Machines

Room, purely for new ideas of creative people who want to try something new and test it in the market.

See more here: <http://upstarterincubator.com/6-weeks-at-machines-room-and-special-offer/>

Gill can be contacted at [gill@upstarterincubator.com](mailto:gill@upstarterincubator.com)

### **Konrad Miciukiewicz - MOVE: Making Olympicopolis Work for Youth**

Konrad from the UCL Institute of Global Prosperity is leading a project which is looking into employment opportunities in the Olympicopolis development for the young people of East London. MOVE is a pilot project that will design and prototype *a youth-led social platform* for discussion and development of training and employment opportunities for young people in the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park (QEOP). This transdisciplinary social platform will bring 19 Partners who have committed to the pilot project together with East London's youth to co-create a blueprint for a *Creative Employment Catapult Programme* that will channel 16-24 year olds into specialised education schemes, in-work training, transition jobs, and sustainable forms of employment in cultural and creative industries.

The creation of three new business, culture and education quarters in the QEOP – Here East, Stratford Waterfront and UCL East – offers a unique opportunity to rethink and enhance pathways to sustainable employment and make East London a prosperous part of the capital. The new 'creative' and 'support' jobs that will be generated, the services that the new businesses will deliver and commission, the educational and training programs they will design, and the different interaction spaces they will open can become not only economic anchors for East London but also catalysts of social change.

MOVE will explore how young people can benefit from the arrival of these world class institutions in collaboration with local authorities so as to enhance existing platforms for getting young people into work.

Graeme Evans suggested that the Mayor's Digital Talent Program could help with this and asked that the following letter be circulated:

From: Catherine Knivett [[Catherine.Knivett@london.gov.uk](mailto:Catherine.Knivett@london.gov.uk)]

Sent: 12 February 2016 15:39

Subject: [SPAM: 56.000] Mayor's Digital Talent programme - timelines update

Dear colleagues,

I wanted to get in touch and provide an update on timelines for the LEP-funded £5million Digital Talent programme.

As you may be aware, we have secured an additional £2million from the European Social Fund (ESF) to reach more young Londoners from disadvantaged backgrounds and young women who are underrepresented in the sector. I am currently awaiting full signoff on this £2million before we can enter the procurement period. This signoff is part of a much larger ESF funding deal, due to be completed towards the end of March. If there are any further delays I will keep you informed as we work toward this point.

We will open procurement for the 'Digital Labs' and teacher CPD strands earlier as they are not ESF dependant – further information will follow & please see current info

here<<http://www.london.gov.uk/moderngov/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=234&MId=5747&Ver=4>>. Procurement will not be restricted by the pre-election period (21 March – 6 May), however we will be unable to make any announcements until the new Mayoral term starts. We are looking forward to getting into delivery as soon as possible.

The first event as part of the Mayor's Digital Careers Roadshow is taking place on 23rd February at the Roundhouse, Camden. It's targeted at 15-25 year olds and their educators/careers advisors. This will open up avenues to the digital and technology sector with job opportunities, careers advice, inspirational talks and much more <http://www.techmixmag.com/dcs> - there will be another 4 events taking place across London in 2016. Please promote and support this if you can!

You have received this email as you have expressed an interest in the programme or been involved with its development – if you would prefer to be taken off the stakeholder list please do let me know. Or if you would like to discuss anything I am happy to schedule in a phone call.

Have a lovely weekend all.

Best wishes,  
Catherine

Principal Policy Officer – Digital Skills  
020 7983 4227

**Daisy Bentley - Stour Space Shop**

Stour Space has opened a new on-line 'SHOP' to complement the existing physical shop at which already supports local artists.

SHOP showcases talent from London's East End, Hackney Wick and beyond. SHOP stocks exclusive and original one-off pieces. Come and Explore and buy new works in furniture, jewellery, sculpture, photography, art, books and more. SHOP also houses a wide range of art materials courtesy of The Wick Art Store.

Daisy can be contacted at [shop@stour.space.co.uk](mailto:shop@stour.space.co.uk)

See the website here: <http://www.stour.space.co.uk/shop/>

**Sophie Hill – Nunnery Gallery**

As part of Bow Arts' striving for environmental awareness within the arts, Nunnery Gallery will host a panel event alongside the exhibition Plastic Vanitas asking the wider question 'Should arts be used as a tool for sustainability?' on 24<sup>th</sup> February. This will be accompanied by a screening of For Now We See (2013), a series of films by Neudecker that look at our impact on the environment in collaboration with Marine Biologist Alex Rogers, produced by Alice Sharp.

Tickets are available on eventbrite

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/should-art-be-used-as-a-tool-for-sustainability-tickets-19797998346>

Mariele Neudecker's series of photographic works Plastic Vanitas, developed as part of a residency at the Museum of Design in Plastics (MoDiP), runs at the Nunnery Gallery from 15 January to 27 March 2016.

Sophie can be contacted at Sophie Hill [SHill@bowarts.com](mailto:SHill@bowarts.com)

Please see the website for more info: <http://bowarts.org/nunnery/mariele-neudecker-plastic-vanitas>

**AOB**

**Cat Gray – The Yard Theatre**

**Update on Anti Social Behaviour and Streetcleaning** - Every single organization from Queen's Yard has agreed to pay street cleaners half an hour everyday on weekday, an hour everyday on weekend.

**Cllr Nick Sharman**– LLDC planning process should be debated in open, so that local people can be aware of what is going on and their voice can be heard. There is a need for the community to be aware about the ongoing development of the Olympic Site; how much the development of the area is going to be something that negatively affects communities' lives while benefiting private companies. Nick also says that the ongoing development should be debated with the community rather than behind closed doors at a private LLDC board meeting as is happening on the Hackney Wick Neighbourhood Centre Masterplan. Apparently, the proposal to permanently enshrine affordable creative workspace in the development is now under threat as pressure mounts to let the market determine rental levels.

Nick suggests that those people who supported the original masterplan proposals email the LLDC with their complaints and suggestions.

Feedback info to:

[hackneywick@soundingoffice.com](mailto:hackneywick@soundingoffice.com)

or

[victoriastonebridge@londonlegacy.co.uk](mailto:victoriastonebridge@londonlegacy.co.uk) who will send it to the right person.

-ends-

**The next meeting is on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> March at 90 Main Yard and will be chaired by Gill Wildman**