



Minutes of the meeting on Friday 09 February 2018
Held at: Hub 67

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

In attendance:

Lorna Blake – HWFI
Mel Alison – East Wick & Sweetwater (Secretary)
Daniel Maher – Boulevard Events
Mark Maher – Boulevard Events
William Chamberlain - Creative Wick
Benjamin Hobart – Currell
Rupert Wilson – Currell
Josh Glanville – Hackney Wick Boulder Project
Greg Brydie – Pall Pall Estates
Katherine Igoe-Ewer – The Yard Theatre/Hub 67 (Chair)
Cathryn Miles Griffiths – Sell Out Studios
Cllr. Chris Kennedy – LB Hackney
Georgia Christopher – Essex Flour & Grain
Yolanda Antonopoulou -Gaia Pulses/The Old Baths
Tony Westbrook – LLDC
Mathieu Rogers – LB Hackney
Minna Ruohonen – UCL
Huw Morgan-Thomas – LB Tower Hamlets
Gemma Griffiths – East London Dance
Natasha Graham – LB Tower Hamlets
Neil McDonald – Stour Space
Abbas Nokhasteh – Open Vizor
Ian Hale – The Hive/Swan Wharf
Stuart ‘Tommo’ Thomson – Barge East
Jessie Lenson – Lend Lease
Rowan Longhurst – Our Parklife CIC
Fabricio Mendes – Creative Wick

1. Swan Wharf

Ian Hale

- Ian is the building manager at The Hive in Swan Wharf, Dace Road. The Directors have been managing the space since 2013. Currently houses approx. 20 diverse tenants including artists and creatives. There is a workshop, gaming hub and a bar (currently the EXP Cantina).

- The Hive are recognised by Tower Hamlets as an affordable workspace provider. Swan Wharf will be redeveloped (unsure when this will happen) and The Hive are interested in new premises as they will be moved on when the development starts.
- The stable blocks is a large space suitable for events including promos, weddings and photoshoots. It could be suitable for a creative hub and shared workspace.
- The Hive would like provide opportunities to involve the local community in events / open days. The stable blocks could be used for community events when it's not booked.
- Working with the JAGS Foundation to provide workshops on the 21st & 22nd March to get young people into creative spaces and promote employment in creative industries. The JAGS Foundation raises awareness of youth violence. It would be good to get other local organisations, creatives and businesses on board to support this initiative.

ACTION: If you are interested in getting involved with The Hive community events get in touch with Ian M Hale ian@thehiveuk.com

2. CEZ

Hugh Morgan-Thomas - Tower Hamlets / Mathieu Rogers - Hackney

- Tower Hamlets' economic development team are working with LLDC and Hackney on the CEZ application. The bid was submitted last week to the GLA.
- Expecting to hear from the GLA in early March. The next step is collaborative thinking and intended to bring people together prior to hearing the outcome, so that when the announcement is made HWFI will be ready to hit the ground running.
- The submission involved lots of hard work and a very tight turn around for the application, have received good feedback from those involved and looking forward to working together.
- The bid contained opportunities of increasing creative activity in the area and also raised the issues of rising workspace and living rents. The submission included some possible solutions and actions that could be taken to protect local creative activity. The submission contains a basic spend outline for the next stage which would include research, process development and governance. It sets the scene of HWFI, Tower Hamlets, Hackney and QEOP. HWFI is a real asset for East London.
- An interesting statistic that came out of the submission work is that 5% of London's artist studios are based in HWFI, it is the Creative Quarter of the area. Comms with landlords and landowners is the next step.
- Neil McDonald noted that he has been having conversations with Rachel Blake about ways to change the Localism Act and that the CEZ brings an opportunity to coordinate this on a local basis.
- There is full buy in from the local authorities and LLDC, everyone is working in alignment.

- Will Chamberlain asked if developers will need to consider the CEZ. Could heights be increased to support affordable workspace? It's all a balancing act with permitted heights, affordable homes and workspace – the outcome and implications of the CEZ will need to be reviewed.
- Someone asked if it is possible to circulate the criteria or final application to the group. Need to ask Francesca.

3. Wick Wednesdays

Fabricio Mendes

- Thanks to all who contributed to the last two Wick Wednesdays (venues and attendees), the concept was created at a CIG meeting. It will be in Time Out next week and all asked to share on Facebook & Twitter.
- The February focus will be on art exhibitions including:
 - *Exquisite Garden - Cloud Cuckoo Land Gallery, Here East*
 - *Another Time Another Place - Stour Space*
 - *Amazing Amazing Amazing Amazing- Forman's Smokehouse Gallery*
- White Post Café will be extending its 50% drinks offer all night for the next Wick Wednesday.
- Katherine Igoe-Ewer suggested it would be good to collect data / feedback from the venues to monitor the success. It's a six month pilot and will be halfway through this month.
- Will Chamberlain noted it's good when companies encourage their employees to get out into the area and enjoy what's on offer locally. Currells and East Wick & Sweetwater have done this.
- The success of the Another Place Another Time exhibition at Stour Space proves the value that art and culture brings to an area. New developments needs to incorporate art and creativity.

ACTION: if you want to add your event or promotion to Wick Wednesday get in touch with Creative Wick hello@creativewick.com

4. CDT

Neil McDonald

- The CDT are appointing advisory board, mainly locals and will also some people from outside to give external perspective.
- Organisations that are currently involved are Creative Wick, Stour Space, Grow and The Yard. They will focus on the Creative Land Trust, CEZ and other initiatives.

5. AOB

- The annual **Hub 67 Superhero Book Swap** event will take place this weekend. There will be workshops, face painting and free cake. Come join the fun! Additional volunteers appreciated, already locals involved. 12-3pm Saturday.
- **Bearded Kitten** who are based in The Hive at Swan Wharf have a lot of costumes and props in storage, and are planning on having a yard sale. Would be good to host something in the stables to make the most of the traffic in the area as probably will attract visitors. No date yet and will share with the group. Someone suggested it could be good to tie in with Wick Wednesday but it is probably better suited to a weekend as will take some time to set up. One of the best weekends in HW was the V&A take back by Rebecca Feiner, and an event on this scale would be good. Tower Hamlets have an events fund avail. <http://www.towerhamletsarts.org.uk/?s=45>
- **HW Through Young Eyes report** was presented to Hackney Council last night. 400 young people in the area were involved and contributed their hopes, fears and aspirations. Phil Glanville has stated that he's going to treat the report as a scrutiny report and Hackney will do an official response. The report will be presented and circulated to the CIG. The Wick Award funded the report and will fund two additional years of activity. Young people are interested in creativity and becoming involved – it would be good to think about young people can become more integrated in the area.
- Stour Space are working on a **mental health podcast** partnership. Mental health feels very relevant as there is a large amount of change going on in the area. The podcast will contain serious conversations and bring issues to the forefront, getting everything out in the open. Contact Neil McDonald if interested. The HW Boulder Project have been running mental health programme as it has been very successful, they would be interested in partnering.
- The Wick Award Community Chest closes tomorrow. Katherine is available to chat about what the application involves.

Next CIG: Friday 9th March 2018 at Formans