

Hackney Wick Fish Island | Cultural Interest Group

Minutes of the meeting on Friday 8th July 2016

Held at: Hub 67, Hackney Wick

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

In attendance:

Richard Pike (Big Visions/Chair)
Helen Fisher (Here East)
Lucy Bawden (Here East)
William Chamberlain (Creative Wick/Unit-APD)
Richard Brown (Affordable Wick/Unit APD)
Cllr Nick Sharman (LB Hackney)
Cllr Chris Kennedy (LB Hackney)
Jack Griffiths (Redpoint)
Mel Allison (East Wick and Sweetwater)
Fabricio Mendes (Creative Wick)
Tim Hawley (RONEC)
Michael Stewart (UCL)
Joanna Steele (Canal & River Trust)
Bobby Kasanga (Hackney Wick FC)
Charles Benyon (Currell)
P Meadows (Currell)
Nimrod Vardi (arbeit)
Lou Mcnamara (Space Studios/Secretary)
Rebecca Edwards (arebyte gallery)
Ozlem Edizel (Middlesex University)
Graeme Evans (Middlesex University)
Katherine Igoe-Ewer (The Yard Theatre)
Ilaria Pappalepore (University of Westminster)
Krissie Nicholson (East End Trades Guild)
Katie Sheasby (Howling Hops)
Antoine C
Tiana Nicole Ryan
Thomas Gimenez (Background Bars)
Minna Ruohonen (UCL)
Stuart Duncan (Echo)

Apologies:

Adriana Marques (FFL)
Victoria Stonebridge (LLDC)
Hannah Lambert (LLDC)
Leanne Hoogwaerts (FFL)
Cllr Rachel Blake (LB Tower Hamlets)

1. UCL Summer School - University Led Regeneration, Who Benefits? - Michael Stewart

- Very diverse summer school last year at UCL as there was no space on park available, looked at university of the future, utopian agenda, surprising engagement from senior management
- This year will include students from Ravensbourne, QMUL, Loughborough and UCL
- Looking at university supported regeneration
- Three main strands:
 - A. broad policy issues in the area - who benefits who loses from regeneration
 - B. community and university interaction/engagement
 - C. ways that all the organisation on the park might work together
- If anyone who would like to talk the students then speak at the end
- *interested in fantastically powerful organisations coming into areas like this, will it provide opportunities for young people in the area?*
- There will be proposals from the summer school, universities rely on their students, students have a surprisingly powerful voice
- They discovered nobody knows how to measure the impacts of developments like this.
- Public and Cultural Engagement unit (PACE) at UCL is working with local communities before the campus has been built. Creating different models and frameworks of how universities can engage with young people
- *Profound disappointment so far. It's all been top down, last year nothing really happened. Universities look through the eyes of prospective employers and where the money is. Do some research on the opportunities than young people might want. So far it's all been window dressing, technology type stuff. Do some research into how many young people can get jobs, use some basic measures, look at it through the eyes of local people and work with them.*
- There's a group at UCL, Institute for Global Posterity, who have been working on Hackney Wick looking at employment opportunities for young people in here.
- *Institutions have not taken local people seriously, but if you can change that great.*
- We want to follow Westfield in x% of people on the site being employed from the local area. And put up fees in order to provide full scholarship from someone from the area
- *we've been calling for research that can find out exactly what we have here in hackney wick, because as soon as we have that we can protect it and get the developers on side. We have lots of academics round the table here, this could be an opportunity to define creative led regeneration*
- Q: What is this project, for students or developers?
- Summer school is opportunity for students to be part of this research and UCL to be here and show they're listening, I doubt other developers will be involved. We are a juggernaut, but we're more liberal than say coca cola
- *What is outcome of the Summer School?*
- A manifesto/report and anyone on the park can use it to say to UCL your own summer school recommended this. It will be circulated here and around people met during research, as well as all the big stakeholders in the park
- We (East Wick and Sweetwater) actually care about getting people who need jobs working on the projects - 25% from host boroughs, by work directly with job brokers and recruiters. If you have a model that comes out of Summer School then please share it so we can use that to improve on ours.
- *Are there any other opportunities for people to come in and be part of the Summer School?*
- There is a slot just come up on Wednesday morning until about 1:30pm all three groups of research strands will be available.

2. Carpenter's Lock Festival 2017 - Joanna Steele

- Lock reopening on the park, built in 70s fell into disrepair in 80s. New lock is being built in Sheffield and coming down to be installed in January hopefully
- Very unusual double radial lock, glass casing so you can see inside. It's a totally unique piece of heritage to come to the park
- Free floating classrooms if you know of any schools who might be interested
- Funded by LLDC canal and waterways but also looking for additional funding
- Volunteering opportunities to learn how to be a lock keeper etc.
- Festival is next May 26-28, some things planned: choir, free boat trips, there is one opportunity for local artist to work with Bangladeshi community if that is in anyone's area get in touch
- No details about moorings will try to find out more info in answer to any boating questions
- *Artist you're looking for need to be from Hackney Wick?*
- Yes we feel very strongly it should be local community artist.
- *Interested in floating classroom for my nursery school?*
- Plan is to trial in September and launch next February
- *Where is location?*
- It's just straight down from aquatic centre, I'll send a map. It will open up the new loop in the park that hasn't been opened

3. Night Tales – Thomas Gimenez (Louis Hyams and Jamie Rule)

- Created 3 years ago in Dalston: food, drinks and entertainment venture
- We've just opened a pop up round the corner for ten weeks, there till 30th August
- Come check it out, let me know if you want to come and I'll put you on the guest list
- Based on old site of old mason yard, to be developed soon (in September) so we rent it in the meantime
- *Kopparberg was a bigger scale last year, this is just Friday and Saturday right?*
- Yes Friday and Saturday
- *Last year Kopparberg signed up to CIG code of conduct and Background Bars are signing up now I believe, committing to 20% of staff coming from Hackney Wick Fish Island.*
- Yes, 12 of 25 are from here
- *This comes out of Coca Cola project, which brought artists, musicians from everywhere and didn't hire anyone from the local area at all and then just left*
- Our aim is definitely not to do that, I have lived here for 5/6 years, we are not here to promote a brand we are a small trader, we are trying to sync with community and are open to any suggestions. We are working not to become a nuisance in the community
- *Louis has also agreed that members of the local community can use the venue on all the nights it's not open Sunday – Thursday, free for locals. As well as a donation to local charity (last year The Yard received this)*
- *Sound has been a lot better and security. But I had a friend who was badgered by your punters the other day, good to hear you give assurances that you are aware of last year, what is going on with your security?*
- For me we want to create a bit more of a different experience, not generic, we're all in our 30s, we've worked lots in Hackney, this is one of our projects is an experience for the senses, food as well as drinks. We're getting local artists in. If you have any issues then we will be there and you can have my phone number.
- *How did you negotiate with Aitch construction?*
- We never really had to negotiate, just took the phone number and called them, they spend £500 day on security so anyone paying rent is good for them. We thought it nice to bring something before the big development.
- We open from 5pm-11pm on Friday 2pm – 11:30pm on Saturdays

4. Redpoint Bristol - Jack Griffiths

- I run a climbing wall in Bristol in a former derelict cinema. trying to bring my business to this area, to create a social space that might well fit here

- It's hard to explain what a climbing wall is to someone who has never been. But it's a boulder with different holds, so it's a personal challenge to get to the top the hardest way for you. It's social unlike a gym, people are chatting not wearing headphones on their own.
- My partner, Tom, bought the cinema in Bristol and decided not to make a quick buck developing, it was squatted, now we've turned it into a space for the local community. We've had local artists do the outside for us every year and a bunch of community focused projects.
- So I'm looking for a venue in Hackney Wick, it's hard to find buildings for this because I'm in competition with property developers and Fitness First
- Don't want the cultural desert of never ending flats, speaking to local developers about spaces where people can get fit and talk to each other easily
- If anyone has any good connections or people I can talk to then please let me know
- *Do you know The Castle climbing wall in manor house?*
- Yes we want to do something like that, it's an amazing space
- *There is a huge old cinema owned by Newham council, we can put you in touch with Stratford Rising to facilitate that conversation*
- *...potentially old baths owned by the council*
- Could potentially take 5 year lease but really looking for somewhere we can make a permanent home and grow there

5. Hackney Cup for Health - Bobby Kasanga

- I'm from Hackney Wick football club our team was created last year. Wanted to be Hackney's first ever semi-professional football team
- Didn't want to just be an FC, wanted to represent the community so all the players have to volunteer 2 hours per week in the community.
- Cup for Health at Mabley Green is a one-day event 25 men's team, 12 women's, and 12 kids teams. Celebrate inclusion as some people are being left out by regeneration.
- Opportunity for free stall, get in touch, first-come-first-serve
- Been successfully sponsored and crowd funded
- Saturday 30th July 10am – 5pm - it's free
- We're launching CBS, anyone can become a member and own shares in the football club (owned by the community)
- We want people wearing HWFC shirts etc around here
- Tournament is 8 a side with 8 games going on at one time, under 12s 9 a side
- *Have you finished registering teams?*
- Yes all the teams are allocated for, take up was fast as it's free and we advertised for a few months
- But you can ask around if any teams want more players in their squad. Anyone can volunteer on the day
- *Same time as Hackney WickED open studios so will be busy*

6. East End Trades Guild Crowdfunder - Krissie Nicholson

- Last time I spoke about our crowdfunding campaign, its £20,000 I think it's achievable
- We work with real small independent east end businesses, which are under threat from globalisation and rising rents. We think the small businesses make east end nique
- We are at £16,000 and this is our last day so we need your help, there are lovely rewards online
- Hackney council have pledged £2000, we have incredible businesses on board, really grateful and we want to celebrate all those businesses
- 'East end trades' hit follow and keep updated with the campaign, all and any support will be vastly appreciated
- This will help us build the capacity and voice to navigate the issues of high rents and globalisation.
- *We'll send round on the mailing list today*

7. Hackney Wick Central - Unit APD

- Recently massive planning app on what is known as Hackney Wick Central: includes station area and boundary around it, about 200 documents or so
- Colleague Fiona has been combing through it, we support it on the whole, it's based on principles set in the local plan and a few years of consultation
- We will circulate our notes in response, we're quite late to response
- We don't object to much just making suggestions, it encourages comprehensive development, low cost affordable workspace £8 per sq ft.
- More progressive elements will be debated when it goes back to committee so local community need to make clear that we would appreciate those good bits
- Summary points:
 - A. Low-cost workspace
 - B. Relocation strategy, anything not heritage will be knocked down but re provide all the workspace
 - C. Artists and businesses need to be relocated in the area or nearby
 - D. Asking for lots of mechanisms to safe guard the proposed policies
 - E. The night -time economy is a major part of the area, worried about lots of new housing where is the space for businesses
- Independent developers could just ignore the massive plan and the LLDC is a temporary body and is coming to the end of it's life, so we are pushing for more detail on how this plan will last beyond that
- Big push for affordable workspace, compromise is that there is no mention of affordable housing, the reality is if you try to get both you don't get affordable workspace, in this case there is a real push for workspace
- We need to think how we make sure there aren't loopholes for developers to get round it
- *Council have been informed that it is by condition and prices can only rise with inflation*
- Might be progressive way of doing planning, but developers might go with their own independent plans with just 3% affordable housing
- We need to really push this plan to incentivise developers to stick to it, there are some really significant plots covered by the plan
- Businesses can put their names down to support the plan once they've seen the notes
- *It's very important there is still a battle in the LLDC between commercial and community plan, still a struggle to be won, local businesses need to make this point you have put forward. Second point: workspace and housing is a real dilemma if we want plurality of community. Although we can put a certain number of planning conditions in it, it depends how it's managed in the long term. There is a real danger LLDC will be taken over by public-private trust we want it to be a local authority body. Also we are paying a price for the workspace, which is 11-storey blocks which will change the feel of Hackney Wick, so we are paying a price, it is important to maintain vigilance*
- I thought planning powers returned to boroughs
- *Yes they go back to council but how you manage the site is a London issue what we're pressing for is joint committee between the Mayor and local authorities. Future London are hovering around who could potentially end up running the whole park and we're anxious that it remains in public hands not public-private hands*
- **PLEASE FIND Hackney Wick Central Masterplan Suggested Business Response attached for info.**

8. Echo – Stewart Duncan

- Online skill share platform, one hour of your time is one echo, every hour that you give you can get an hour of something that you need
- We support local businesses learning marketing, finance management so if you know anyone who would benefit from that we are recruiting for it now
- We are launching a community fund next week, which offers 20 echoes to 5 community projects that may need a bit of help, details will be passed around. Could be anything proposed form local football team to art project within 1-2 miles form the park. Paired with mentorship from our network and profiling in our newsletter

- Also having Echo summer party next Wednesday at Number 90 so you can come and find out more, first drink is free, meet others benefitting from Echo

Intros:

Lucy Bawden - Here East

- Six retailers opened on Canalside, other few opening over summer, twelve in total by the end of the year - please do pop down
- Almost completed construction at Here East, Lucy has joined us as creative programme manager
- Canalside launch event we held was good, very family focused residents coming over, we want to maintain that focus, kids coming over to play
- EventsHere (event space/auditorium) new staff member will be working on a community use strategy, 10 community events a year, more from us on that next CIG
- New partner we can announce next week, then we can provide more information about how community can be involved with the new innovation centre moving in
- 14 Canalside moorings 2 retail the rest leisure and residential

Minna Ruohonen - UCL

- I'm covering some of Kim Townsend's work while she's on maternity leave.
- Based a Cultural and community engagement unit, finding out what is going on around the park. Within the park with those partners but also outside the 4 boroughs around, developing framework to help communication between the key partners.
- Nail down research on job / internships making sure they are going to local people. We want feedback to improve really good communication between local community and UCL.

Update:

Bridge Consultation - Melanie Allison (East Wick & Sweetwater)

- Two events happening next week, two new bridges on pedestrian becoming road bridge Monier road - H14. And also one new pedestrian bridge. The events are on design of the bridge.
- *Victoria wharf concerned about building being knocked down*
- Half of it is, they should know all the dates, we're working with the other half to make it possible for them to stay, and LLDC are dealing with tenants relocation
- *it's been very difficult to get information on bridge construction*
- LLDC are running consultation sessions so everyone can come and express their opinions. Communication going on with Palm Lane, need to build bridges to connect new neighbourhoods.
- *There should be cohesive plan between palm lane, victoria wharf etc.*
- Yes there's lots of difficulties, Palm Lane won't speak to women apart from through a translator
- *Everyone wants LLDC to use CPO powers and take that site for the community*

The next meeting is on Friday 12th August 2016 at Stour Space