

Hackney Wick Fish Island | Cultural Interest Group

Minutes of the meeting on Friday 9th October 2015

Held at: **HERE EAST**, Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park E20

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

In attendance:

Katie Sheasby (Howling Hops)
Sara Karpanen (Artist, resident)
Nick Sharman (LB Hackney Cllr)
Jacob Fairless Nicholson (Secretary, resident)
Rebecca Feiner (Artist)
Simon Cole (Hackney Tours)
Mel Allison (East Wick and Sweetwater)
Hannah Andrews (The Trampery – Fish Island Labs)
Stefano Delcore (Shapes)
Pam Henson (Resident)
Helen Fisher (Here East)
Rebecca Ball (LLDC)
Jenny Wedgbury (UCL)
Cecil Sagoe (UCL)
Graeme Evans (Middlesex University)
Nancy Stevenson (University of Westminster)
Lucy Oliver-Harrison (The Yard Theatre)
Erik Perera (Resident)
Seb Glover (Shapes)
Rachel Falconer (Space Studios)
William Chamberlain (Creative Wick, Chair)

Agenda:

1) The Museum is Where the People Are – Jenny Wedgbury UCL

UCL will be holding an Event on 30th October in the Timber Lodge café called The Museum is Where the People Are. The event is underpinned by the question: 'What is a museum if not

connected to a space or place?' For the event the UCL Museums collection will go off-site for one night only. UCL has a Public and Cultural Engagement team who run three museums, the Art museum, Petrie museum, and Grant museum of Zoology which holds Egyptian artifacts. The collections are of curiosity and wonder. The team is also in charge of the Bloomsbury Theatre, and work on getting research out to the local community. This is done through channels such as 'Bright Club', and 'Show Off' events.

The exhibition is part of UCL planning a campus called UCL East in the Olympic Park. It encourages us to think about what it means to take and bring objects and collections into East London, and to share ideas and meet new people before the campus arrives. The event will draw on the success of the Spark Festival, a family-focused festival that occurred in the Olympic Park recently.

It will be held at 6.30-9.30pm on the Friday 30th October. The New YBC Choir will be performing. MC Maxwell Golden will write a performance piece referencing objects. There will also be a number of different stations including the Museum of Me, formed of objects that people bring where you can create labels and images to form a museum wall. There will also be a corner where academics will act as library books, and you can 'take out' an expert and have a 10-15 minute conversation with them about their research. There will be a contemporary take on a Cabinet of Curiosities full of objects from the UCL museums. There will also be a 'Museums go pop' playlist. Another activity will be 'Picture This', a creation of portraits based on the art collection. A paid bar will be in operation and food will be available.

The team are keen to not to be seen to just be imparting UCL on to others, and keen for the local community to share as well. A flyer and press release will follow. Mobius distribution are involved in distributing communications.

- Nick Sharman mentioned that the Hackney Wick community should be included in this.
- Rebecca Feiner mentioned the local community could respond in a similar way as the Hackney Wick Take Back did.

2) Hackney Wick Festival – Lucy Oliver Harrison

Previously, the Hackney Wick festival has run in September, but it has been too difficult to get it together in time this time. Instead, a Wick Winter Wonderland will take place on the evening of Friday 11th and all-day Saturday 12th December. Its focus point will be around HUB 67 and the event will include various activities, crafts etc. Nothing fixed as of yet, apart from dates.

There is a blank canvas for local residents to decide what they want to have on. If there are any stall ideas do let Lucy know. Do also let Lucy know if you would like to offer any help.

- Rebecca Feiner asked about funding? Small pots to run it but in terms of paying people it will generally run on community spirit only. Some money available to make sure people aren't losing money.

- Rebecca Feiner asked again about approaching larger commercial operations in the area such as Here East for funding or grants.

lucy@theyardtheatre.co.uk

3) Wick Award Funding Application deadline – Nick Sharman

The Wick Ward of Hackney is one of the poorest in London and as one of the 200 poorest wards in the country, has received £1million pound to spend over 10 years. The award is designed to promote community activities such as play schemes, food provision etc. and cultural engagement and to raise horizons for deprived communities. There are three calls per year, the latest will be complete on October 12th. The next round will launch on 18th October. There's a view towards community grants for small groups of people to launch community initiatives. It would be great to have the HWFICIG innovation and excitement together with the communities from other parts of the Wick who live very different lives. The grants are not big, only about £500-1000 so would suit any projects keen on getting activities moving, so any outreach projects for example.

Question about communication – application forms are on the Wick Award website. <http://www.wickaward.co.uk/funding>

4) CIL/ Section 106 meeting – Rebecca Ball

Rebecca has spoken to colleagues in planning and it has been agreed there will be an event on the evening of 10th October held at the White Building to discuss CIL and Section 106. The event will explain CIL and also the Section 106 planning agreement, with examples, and will look at policies and try to demystify the idea of a process that is there to help communities but is usually out of reach of local communities. Representatives will be available from East Wick and Sweetwater to speak to attendants as well. It was unclear whether Community Land Trusts will also be discussed at the same meeting.

There followed a discussion about intersection of CLTs and CILs. It was explained that Section 106 is a scheme that must result in a benefit to the community. It is an essential way that private developers can contribute to the social core of a community, however it was raised that there must be a spirit of 'right' rather than 'charity'. CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy) is a new development of the Section 106 that moves the idea from a kind of bargain to a type of 'tax'. It's currently all agreed through negotiation but it is hoped there is now a move to a more public and open set of criteria.

- Cecil Sagoe suggested LLDC has had a CIL consultation already.

- Erik Perera asked which group speaks on behalf of the HWFICIG community? Rebecca Feiner said there'd be an overarching scheme that will have small feed-offs from it rather than one receiver and that it would be silly to give developers an excuse of not knowing who to contact.

- Lucy mentioned that Andreas Lang ran a workshop on CLTs during the London Festival of Architecture and that was a lengthy meeting that would be good to build on.

- This will be the beginning of the conversation and a great opportunity to make it known that there is a conversation that needs to be happening.

<http://queenelizabetholympicpark.co.uk/planning-authority/planning-policy/community-infrastructure-levies>

5) Here East Update – Helen

Here East is now open and has been for two weeks. Yesterday evening was the opening of the Tech London Advocates with 500 people from the tech communities. 400 students from Loughborough are on site now and will be moving to the larger building in April 2016. Other tenants are moving in on an ongoing basis, and some are currently 'camping' in the Press Centre before a permanent move elsewhere in the building. Outside of the Broadcast building will be four layers of offices – due to be complete in 8 months.

More widely, there is easier access through the site and it feels more lively. The Yard space outside will be open to host events soon and will include a mini-theatre space that can hold 1000 people. There will also be an event space, and there is an event planned for the end of January 2016 in association with Nimrod at Arbyte Gallery to showcase digital arts and a flea-market of tech/internet based things.

Here East is open to any calls for collaborations and use of the space.

<http://hereeast.com/>

6) Anthropology research - Marta Rossi

Marta is an Urban Anthropology researcher at Goldsmith's, University of London undertaking work/research on living and dwelling in the spaces of Hackney Wick. Marta arrived in HWFI one month ago and began conversing with local people, residents/inhabitants/business people. Marta would be very interested in finding out what it's like to live here from your point of view. Marta is open to conversations over coffee to help with her research. She will be around until the end of the year and is flexible. Marta is based in Oslo House.

Marta's work builds on the work that Isaac Marrero Guillamon has been doing on the structure of the neighbourhood and the social landscape of Hackney Wick. Marta's work will focus on the relationship between people and living, playing, dwelling, and the attribution of different meanings to it.

Contact details are:

Marta Rossi namichan91@hotmail.it

07464 706 094

7) Update on SHAPES

Shapes have community projects running throughout the week. A drumming workshop on Mondays for example takes place weekly. Any ideas are welcomed. There are not vast budgets but there are lots of resources. Upcoming events include a large family rave event and a new mural will be going up next week too.

<http://www.shapeshackney.com/>

Announcements:

Erik Perera – Discussion about anti-social behavior relating to the night time economy in the local area.

There has been a rise in disturbances on Friday/Saturday nights by people leaving local bars and clubs. There is a general feeling that some businesses could take more responsibility for ensuring that people leaving the area peacefully. Erik wants to bring together ideas for dispersal of people leaving the area.

- It was noted there is a Music Venue Alliance, a tri-monthly meeting of Hackney Wick venues.

- Lucy said there was recently a big meeting of tenants of Queen's Yard on insisting that overall security for the whole of Queen's Yard on the back of an impromptu rave that happened recently.

- It was acknowledged there was a good attendance from many nighttime businesses at the CIG but there was a discussion about inviting existing venues who don't attend to future CIG meetings to discuss this further.

- Suggestions for improvements included community wardens, or a community-orientated security guard in the area.

- It was concluded there is definitely a discussion to be had and that local knowledge would be a valuable contribution. The idea was therefore put forward to have a more focused discussion at the November meeting.

- No other announcements -

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

Please also send any agenda items to info@hackneywick.org before then and as ever, please tell anyone you think should be there to join us.