

Hackney Wick Fish Island | Cultural Interest Group

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

CIG Minutes – October 2018

Minutes of the meeting on Friday 12 October 2018

Held at: Beer Merchants Tap Brewery, 99 Wallis Rd, London E9 5LN

ATTENDANCE

Sir William Atkinson – resident (Chair)
Josephine Chime – Artist/resident (CIG project manager)
William Chamberlain – Creative Wick/CDT
Rose Wilk-Mullis – Makeshift
Jasel Nandha – Here East
Fiona Meeks – Loughborough University London
Simon Cole – Hackney Tours
Cllr. Nick Sharman – LB Hackney
Dave Pilkington – St Columba
Katherine Igoe-Ewer – The Yard Theatre/Hub 67
Cllr. Chris Kennedy – LB Hackney
Simon Lynch – Das Kino
Abbas Nokhasteh – Openvizor
Hanna Osundina – Balfour Beatty
Hannah Briley – The Hive
Our Grand Union
Alexandra Shipp – MRA Parents Association
Cissi Hammarborg – MRA Parents Association
Patrick Harrison – Poplar Harca
Dovile Gudaitiene – Happy Little Doves
Danielle Southcott
Tina Johnston – MRA Parent
Katya Krasnova
Peter Bennett – Artist/resident
Kate Mitchell
Peter Hughes – Mossbourne Riverside Academy
Victoria Stonebridge – LLDC
Tony Westbrook – LLDC
Greg Brydie – Pall Mall Estates

Kathryn Weatherburn – Balfour Beatty
Sin Jen
Emma Hearle – Trumans Brewery
Paul Baynton – Main Yard Studios
Catherine Smyth – LLDC
Russell Butchers – LLDC
Stephen Pedro – Telford Homes
Josh Davis – Telford Homes
Luke Spirit
Lenalisa Fornberg – MRA Parents Association
JP Savage
Tommo – Barge East
Joe Woopuroop
Laura Ch
Kevin Skinner – Unit G Gallery
Lawrence Mohammed – Pro Bike Service
Laneve
Aneesha Lowni – Thingy
Graeme Evans – London College of Fashion
Rebecca Feiner – Artist
Jordanna Greaves – Grow Hackney/CDT
Andrew Atkins – East Wick & Sweetwater

Telford Home Construction Pollution - The following is a non-verbatim summary of the talking points and discussion from the locals of Hackney Wick and Fish Island affected by the Telford Homes building site at Stone Studios, Wallis Road, parents, business owners, Telford Home Project Manager, representatives from Mossbourne Riverside Academy, LLDC and Hackney Council.

Alex Shipp speaking on behalf of Mossbourne Riverside Academy (MRA) Parents Association: At end of September a smell was horrific from the Telford Homes building site, children complained of headaches, they had to cover mouths when they walked past the site. The MRA school principal was notified and contacted Telford Homes and the Hackney Council environmental services department to tell them their experience and received a case number. The parents want answers not just about what is happening on Telford Homes building site but also future developments on Wallis Rd.

Cissi Hammarborg resident and MRA parent: Had problems from March and April they had heard children experiencing headaches so investigated on the validity of the toxicity

readings from the Telford Homes environmental assessment document. Would prefer an independent body to carry out the toxicity readings from the building site which can be accessed daily by the public.

MRA parent: Stated on the Telford Homes building site she saw oil-based liquid shoot up and saw a rainbow in the air. She said the smell was horrendous saw a worker running frantically. She said she spoke to a worker to find out what had happened

Local resident: Reiterated that it's not an odour - its chemical fumes which are toxic, why are Telford Homes continuing to work on this site?

Rebecca Feiner: asked the Telford Project Manager: What duty of care are you giving the site workers? How long has there been worker exposure to these fumes? What are the extra precautions in place for your work force? She said that she can see that they have started the work again believes the sentiments from Telford Homes are disingenuous.

Local Resident Peter Bennett: Stated he knows the reading was off the scale saying it was the second most toxic building site that TH had ever developed.

Local Resident: MRA children have been stopped on several times from going outside for lunch breaks.

Peter Hughes MRA CEO: Confirmed some children have been complaining of feeling sick. If the children are at risk they will have no alternative but to shut the school. There has been one day when the children were kept inside because of the smell. MRA is in close contact with Telford Homes and Hackney Council. The air going into the school is not filtered in anyway.

Stephen Pedro Project Manager for Telford Homes: The building site is closed, apart from the odour neutraliser system turned on. He put it on deliberately that morning to explain to the attendees of the meeting what this machine does. They have the paperwork to prove the building site is safe. He said they will resume their building work the week beginning

Monday 15th October with this machine that can suppress the odour when their work resumes. He explained how it works. It's a chemical that neutralises the odour.

MRA parent: They want to underline the fact that what the Telford Project Manager calls an odour is inappropriate - it is a toxic fume.

Local Resident: It's incredulous they believe Telford Homes is using a chemical on top of another chemical to hide what they call a smell which she thinks is a toxic fume.

Stephen Pedro Project Manager for Telford Homes : The toxicity reports from April 2018 were taken from a borehole which gives a concentrated reading as it's a confined space. Everything has been agreed with the LLDC's planning department. "We have not done anything wrong". He believes it has been signed off and agreed in the correct way. PID daily readings meter readings has been sent to Hackney Council, RS Geotechnics do the readings every Friday and send them to the lab for analysis and sent to LLDC and Hackney. PID is for toxins in the air.

Local Resident: They want an independent body to review the PID meter reading on air toxicity.

MRA parent Alex Shipp: There has been no local community engagement with local residents and businesses. TH need to do more. Not just a poster outside their project office building.

Local Residents: They are not happy with just the Project Manager for Telford Homes representing the company at the meeting. They want someone more senior such as the Chief Executive to answer these important questions.

Local Resident: They want to know about the documents of workers rights and their protection.

Local Resident: Demolition company brought dust to the surrounding areas for months

Steven Pedro Project Manager for Telford Homes : Telford is not responsible for the demolition team, it's separate from them.

Hackney Councillor : When the council was contacted by the school around 21st September, they said no more excavation will take place until agreed with the council, LLDC and Telford Homes. Communication with residents should be done properly. Hackney Council pollution control officers will be present at the next meeting and a representative from the local residents when they have meeting to discuss the future resolutions.

Catherine Smyth LLDC : Have been made aware of the issues from local residents. The Stone Studios site has seen 200 years of industrial work that has affected the land. Telford Homes have been monitoring on a daily basis and submitting their readings. Low concentration not toxic and safe from their findings. Will not re-start excavation works until they have further information from the pollution readings.

Local Resident: LLDC is a tax payer funded company and should be more accountable and communicate more with the locals.

Local Resident: Benzene has been discovered in the air stated from a GEO scientist.

Local business Grow: States that they have been affected not just residents also local business have customers complaining and future business is being affected by toxic air resulting in the bad smell deterring future potential customers

Sir William Atkinson : Proposes they should reconvene for a dedicated Telford Homes Pollution meeting. Until then no work should start until this comprehensive meeting takes place.

LLDC: Have been told by independent consultants that the building site is safe, the only reason we told them to stop the building works because of the local issue complaints.

Local Residents: They want the Director from Telford Homes and they want the person who published the original toxic reader issued by Telford Homes.

Mossbourne parent: Signage for the safety of the school people run, zebra crossing, protection for children on the school run.

Local Residents: They don't want an extra chemical put in the air, they want the site shut down until the toxic fumes stops polluting the air.

Steven Pedro Project Manager for Telford Homes: Telford Homes will shut down the odour neutraliser, he says the work will be presumed next week.

LLDC: The information about work resuming is not something the rep from the LLDC is aware of until this meeting she underlines that Telford Homes should not resume building works.

2. Andrew Atkins - East Wick & Sweetwater

Joint venture between Balfour Beatty and Places for People, 2 new neighbourhoods. Phase 1 will start with Phase 2 awaiting planning confirmation in 2019. Over 900 units including Commercial units will be for a nursery, retail and more are projected to be built with plans to adhere to the LLDC policy on affordability.

The Affordable housing for the Eastwick and Sweetwater sites is respectively 30% and 31% within these percentages they will be broken down to different types of ownership and renting such as:--- affordable homes, social renting and shared ownership including others not specified.

It is contracted that they should deliver approx.. 30% affordable rents not social housing over 7 phases.

LB Hackney Cllr Nick Sharman reiterated that to acquire a home on an Affordable Rent scheme you would have to be earning £60,000 approx he declares there is no reasonable price new accommodation for local people.

Considerate Constructors Scheme will be adhered to. Planning consent is online to read. Remediation document has been completed which can be viewed on their site, the remediation scheme has been taken care of already in the Olympic Park so he believes it is not the same as the Telford Homes site.

Extensive testing has been carried out on their site. 3 site investigation on a 5 metre by 5 metre grid in the ground soil over 3 years.

----Local Parents expressed concern on the proximity to the Mossbourne Riverside Academy school from trucks and vehicles, they are concerned of the safety from construction traffic.

There will be extensive monitoring for noise, dust and asbestos near the school, not for chemicals or toxins.

----Local Parents want regular updates for the local community such as meetings, they want to the Sweetwater and Eastwick property developer to give the company toxic reading by an independent bodies.

--- Andrew can be contacted on andrew.atkins@eastwickandsweetwater.co.uk

----Local Parents want safety traffic signage which should be explicit for all people walking around the building works especially for the school.

3. Patrick Harrison – View Tube Studios

View Tube is encouraging people to come and visit their studios and engage in the different events at their sites. The studios in Greenway and Poplar are managed by the Popular Housing and Regeneration Association they have cafes, bike hire and gardens as well as creative studios on the Greenway to the South of the Olympic Stadium.

The studios are priced from £200 per month, 160 sq foot for each studio with rolling short term 6 months terms available. They have a 10 year lease with Thames Water.

The smell of the Greenway near the studios can be quite pungent and the studios are not 100% insulated or heated which is one of the reasons the rent is reasonable. The other base in Poplar Works will focus on creating work space for start-up fashion industries.

Please contact Patrick on Patrick.Harrison@poplarharca.co.uk

4. Simon Pipola - Beer Merchants Tap Brewery

The backroom of the Brewery is being part renovated into a blender but there are opportunities for Hackney Wick locals to use the space free of charge for events. Simon would like to hear from anyone looking for people to host events from yoga, film screenings, art exhibitions to talks and workshops. Please contact him with any ideas and find out if it could be accommodated. simon@beermerchants.com

5. Candice Holmes - Commune @ Old Baths

Commune festival held in Old Baths was created welcome outside thinkers to exchange ideas on the possibility of a “tangible utopia”.

The event hosted creatives, sustainable solutions to local community issues through performance + knowledge sharing, connecting local artists, architects, organisers + permaculture pioneers with the wider community. Candice is asking people to get involved with the next Commune at Old Baths possibly in December, there is an open call for future collaborations where outside thinkers are welcome to focus on sustainability exchanging ideas eco-friendly culture, how to realistically off-grid and more.

Candice asked William Chamberlain whether Creative Wick will be declining Telford Homes sponsorship money for Wick Wednesday in light of the Stone Studios/Wallis Road pollution issue?

6. William Chamberlain - Wick Wednesday

William stated that the point of Wick Wednesday is to support local creative businesses by promoting them to a wider audience and encouraging them all to work together to become bigger than the sum of their parts. Sponsorship from local developers allows this to happen and means that they sign up to the CIG Code of Conduct (see attached) and promote the ethos of HWFI CIG. If they refuse or break the Code, then of course the agreement would be brought to an end.

William shared with the attendees that he would rather see money from the property developers used for good, these partnerships have happened many times in Hackney Wick and Fish Island.

Past sponsorship from the development sector of Hackney Wick and Fish Island Creative and Cultural events and activity includes:

Get Living London (Delancey) – Forman’s Smokehouse Gallery & Hackney Wicked

Family Mosaic – Hackney Wick Festival

L&Q – Hackney Wicked

Here East (Delancey) – CIG

Lend Lease – CIG

Groeworld – Creative Wick

East Wick & Sweetwater – The Yard Theatre

Aitch Group – The Wickers Charity

The point of the CIG is to help bridge the gap between the property developers and the artistic and creative community that is usually displaced by development with these initiatives helping to engage with and strengthen the local creative economy.

---Candice said that it should be stopped because it’s unethical.

---An attendee asked how much money did they give the CIG? And put forth that Will should listen what some of the unhappy local community is expressing, he should be careful not to be used by Telford Homes.

Will said that if Telford Homes have been found to have done anything untoward then the partnership will be brought to an end.

Will then announced all the new events and promotions happening on the next Wick Wednesday and received a round of applause.

7. Creative Enterprise Zone / Great Neighbourhood Awards

Waiting for the announcement of Creative Enterprise Zone Award and the Academy of Urbanism's award for the Great Neighbourhood will be in November.

The next CIG meeting is at 9.30am on Friday 9th November 2018 at Stour Space