

**Meeting of the HWFI Cultural Interest Group (CIG)**  
**Monday the 23/3/2015 6pm - 8pm at Hub67**

**Chair's Summary:**

The meeting was called following discussion at the last 5 CIG meetings about the remit, transparency, governance and accountability of the CIG and its relationship with the CIC. These issues had also been raised with Tracie Trimmer in her role as Vice Chair of the CIG. The meeting included an open discussion about members' concerns about the CIG and the need for clear governing principles for the group going forward.

Group members at the meeting expressed concerns about the governance of the CIG and expressed the need for a group which reflects the needs of the wider community and is accountable, accessible and transparent. It became apparent at the meeting that the CIG had a much narrower focus than is understood by most members – essentially it is a business to business networking group. In this context concerns were raised about the ownership of the website and the mailing list and the extent to which they were a collective or individual resource.

During the meeting a group was set up to consider the development and governance of a forum which represents the community in HWFI. The relationship between this group and the business to business network is likely to intersect and names and relationships between both groups will emerge through discussions over the next two months. Transitional arrangements for the mailing list etc. will also be discussed as the aims and governance structure of the new group is decided.

**Nancy Stevenson: Chair of Special Meeting CIG.**

**Please note - I was elected to chair this special meeting as a member of the group who is not invested in the outcomes. Detailed minutes of the meeting were taken by Lucy Oliver Harrison and are included below.**

**Special Meeting of the CIG to Summary:**

- The meeting discussed the notion of the CIG and concerns around its recent development
- Will Chamberlain confirmed that the CIG is a business to business network and this is what he would like it to remain as
- The group agreed that there is a need for a wider community forum
- It was voted on that a group would be set up to establish this community forum
- People in the group proposed themselves and they will meet to move conversations forward
- This is to be ahead of the next CIG so that it can be clarified what the two different groups are to those who attend the next CIG meeting and to the CIG mailing list

**Main Meeting Actions:**

- A group (who nominated themselves in the meeting) to meet and create a statement for the new forum
- Nancy to write a summary that will accompany the statement (included in these minutes)
- Two groups (including CIG) to make a statement about their intent

**Attendees:**

Tobias Hug, Tracie Trimmer-Platman, Paddy Looney, Nancy Stevenson, James Morgan, Jacob Fairless Nicholson, Cecil Sagoe, Andreas Lang, Helen Fisher, Adriana Marques, Rebecca Feiner, Abbas Norhastea, Richard Brown, Gunther Jancke, Coby Walsh, Sara Karpanen, Katy Baird, Janine Evans-Pollard, Matthew Carter, Will Teasdale, Juliet Can, William Chamberlain, Nick Durrant, Gill Wildmann, Jay Miller, Lucy Oliver-Harrison,

**Meeting began at 18.00**

- 1. Introductions of attendees**
- 2. Tracie Trimmer introduces the group**

- Explains that she was approached by a group of people in her role as Vice Chair
- She had been on the website as Vice Chair
- Tracie would like to nominate Nancy as a Chair as she is impartial
- The group agreed Nancy would Chair the meeting

**Nancy took over as Chair of the meeting and confirmed the agenda.**

### **1. Why the meeting has been called**

Andreas:

- For a while he has had a growing concern with the CIG and its form of governance
- Felt it is unclear as to how it's represented
- Has withdrawn from the CIG but still finds it uncomfortable
- As a result proposed a talk at the Wick Session to discuss forums and what's needed
- Discussion emerged as a result of this with a group of people
- The group felt that a certain unease was shared and approached Tracie as a result
- As a cultural practitioner feels there's a concern over the cultural capital being monetized and that over time the CIG seems to be a gate-keeper to this

Rebecca:

- The CIG has been a positive thing but is now at a juncture where it needs to change
- Rebecca has been an artist here since 2008 and has put forward questions to understand how it's represented but feels this has come up against a barrier as it's also registered as a private limited company
- Rebecca has a long history of being an activist and feels there isn't the governance to support the CIG
- Rebecca would like it to flower into something else so that has more community involvement and into something that is more representative
- Rebecca wants to get an understanding as to what a community forum is
- Rebecca attends the meetings to be a good citizen but would like it to be opened out and maybe for it to be less formal – what opportunities there might be to get more residents involved. This current forum is quite intimidating whilst still having necessary formalities
- Rebecca would like a forum where people don't feel so burdened to come every month

Tobi:

- Been in the area for 10 years
- Feels the CIG needs to be more communal and more transparent in terms of its intentions and governance
- Has had an unease with how the CIG is evolving and wants to be more involved in how it's changing

James:

- Wanted to echo everyone and add that he would like to make the CIG a more democratic forum and doesn't recall voting on anything
- Stated that there hasn't been a formal process where we can say whether we think something is a good idea or to understand how to oppose things as a group
- There's been a lot of shouting at people and has felt sorry for representatives from the Legacy Company
- Feels that meetings have become unwieldy and that we need something smaller but also more inclusive
- Asked how it can be more democratic so that people can vote in ways other than by turning up to the meetings e.g. online
- Suggested a voting process for having items on the agenda for example

Lucy:

- Feels that we all have a shared vision for the area and that it's important we utilise this in order to influence the changes occurring

Will Teasdale:

- Recognised that Will Chamberlain has brought this forum together, and thanked him for doing so, and now maybe is the time for more people to step up and get involved

Andreas:

- Agreed with Will and added that everyone has invested their time in the CIG

Juliet:

- Agreed that the forum has changed and suggested that it would be worth reflecting on how it got to this stage

Gill:

- Found it really intriguing moving into the area as to how people interrelated to each other

Will Chamberlain:

- Thanked everyone for coming to the evening
- Delighted that the CIG has grown to this and recalled 8 people being at the first meeting
- Recalled that there had been the Fish Island Business Club. He sent them an email and then the trail went dead and found out that these people had moved on. The CIG was set up in response to this
- Will was a geographer at Queen Mary, his degree was in urban regeneration
- When the opportunity came to work for the Olympic bid, Will jumped at that opportunity
- He then started to get disillusioned with the promises that had been made that weren't being delivered e.g. local people would benefit from the Olympics
- Went back to his career as a lawyer in the city. Had an opportunity to move house and came to Hackney Wick
- Struck by whether there was an opportunity to increase economic opportunity and resilience in the creative community, something oppose to what had happened in Shoreditch
- Set up as a business to business club – those whose business it was to network together to find common ground and build this idea of economic resilience to withstand regeneration
- This club would be an entry point into a creative community
- Has been running it since as a volunteer
- With the website, Will got to the situation where it was forced upon him to set up a CIC
- Original intention of this CIC was to access the bank account for the website to pay the developers
- Had to incorporate as a CIC in order to get the website happening
- CIC is a not for profit company limited by guarantee
- Will is a sole director of this CIC and it has been running in that way for the last two years
- Will recently received support from Here East – last 5 months to work 3 days a week to develop a model that concerned a number of goals, one being the continued life of the CIG, the website – to develop it into a sustainable business
- As mentioned in the minutes of the last meeting that were circulated. Felt during meetings that sometimes the CIG delved into areas that it shouldn't have but at the same time it showed a level of feeling
- Welcomes new people into the area and provides introduction. Will said he is a natural networker and that's what he does and he's happy for that too be his pro bono contribution to the community
- Doesn't think the CIG is a more formal meeting and would like it to remain a business to business club

Nancy asked for any further points before moving on to the second item on the agenda

## **2. Key principals of the CIG**

What the group would like to see:

Rebecca:

- Transparency over money and governance (AGM etc)
- To understand who has ownership over the mailing list
- Highlighted that it's a business to business club, not what Rebecca had understood it to be
- Feels the CIG needs to be clear what constituency it's representing

Cobey:

- Asked who is going to do this and take on that responsibility

Lucy:

- Explained that establishing who will be the next stage, first we are understanding what we want it to be

Tracie:

- Added that this sort of group, with shared responsibility, is not unusual
- No one has ever mentioned conflict of interest to Will when applying for funding and feels this is wrong. Tracie feels that Will shouldn't be fundraising for his own forum

James:

- Really appreciative of the CIG being formed and the work that's been done
- Raised that the group depends on everyone involved and it is more than a business club
- If it's going to be about the group then the group needs to have input into the terms of reference and how the group is represented
- If the CIG is a more informal business club then it needs to be called something different

Andreas:

- Clarification is crucial as there's ambiguity
- Finds it uncomfortable that one company is representing a wider artistic community
- Andreas applied for the funds for the website with an understanding that it went into a common pot but then found this wasn't the case
- Everyone has invested into the CIG in the same spirit
- Question to everyone as to whether it belongs to everyone and that there's a collective ownership

Tobi:

- Always thought the CIG was a community forum
- Contributed and came to the meetings with the view that it would be more formally constituted
- Tobi was taken aback that he wasn't informed that there was money coming into the CIG
- Was not involved in that process of development or given the opportunity to develop
- Asked Will what funds were given to the group

Nancy:

- Re-focused to key principals for the group rather than specifics

Jay:

- First started coming to the CIG in 2011 – there was desire at that time to define the terms of what the CIG was and what it was trying to achieve. If we can achieve that then the transparency will be so much more enhanced
- The frustration over the last 6 – 12 months has come from a clarification to define the terms of the CIG. This hasn't manifested and, as a result, people then start to ask themselves why it's dragging and why there's not the definition, which leads to people casting judgment
- Feels that there is a growing sense of frustration rather than that there has been any actual misuse of the CIG

Nancy:

- Suggested that, as Will has confirmed the CIG is a business to business network, that we should decide firstly what the key principals are that we're looking for in a group

James:

- Thinks there are two elements: structure and what we're here for
- Suggested voting at another time to decide what do we want to do
- Wants a place where we can get information about people who are coming to do things

Andreas:

- Would like a greater mix between local artists and a general mix of people
- Would like a clearer definition of membership
- A forum where key concerns have a space

Jay:

- Would like to see the basics of governance e.g. AGM, membership, formalized minutes
- Would like these basics to be shared

Rebecca:

- Would like useful information that we can help each other with
- A quarterly financial report to understand what needed to be spent

Lucy:

- Would like it not to be exclusively a cultural group

Tracie:

- Would like transparency and no conflict of interest

Gill:

- Suggested that the notion of sub-groups: seems to be really successful, for example a community action group that is more linked to the community

Lucy:

- Suggested linking into spaces such as Hub 67

Cobey:

- Would like a gallery sub-group to share information

Rebecca:

- Would like to have an actual action group: to get an understanding of initiatives such as community land trust, to gain intelligence for development so that these can be challenged
- Dealing with big developers and would be useful to have a forum to challenge

Jay:

- Spoke about it becoming unwieldy – sub-groups that are managed by a board (small group of people) that governs attendees

Tobi:

- Interesting to connect to other places in London
- A place in Haringey has become very political
- More interested in having businesses and artists

Jay

- A group where residents, businesses and stakeholders represented

James:

- A group where you get to have the opportunity to meet others

Abbas:

- Going in the right direction which is progress
- Feels it's important that everyone has to adhere to the same rules. Would like an equal platform where everyone's ideas are welcome, where everyone adheres to the same rules
- The constitution will be key to ensure that it protects everyone
- What made the CIG special was it being open – protected from someone having more power than someone else

Lucy:

- Would like more opportunities other than once a month meetings

James:

- So many of us so don't always have the same objectives
- What is good for one group isn't necessarily for another

Juliet:

- Would like it to be clear what constitutes membership – is there a form, what does that membership do?

Andreas:

- The idea of transparency is really important because there's so much pushing into the area. The group needs to have a clear mandate so there's a clear understanding between new organisations/people coming into the group as to what is going on and an openness
- Membership is crucial and understanding who's a visitor

Nancy:

- Seem to be unanimous agreement for a broader based umbrella group that has rules and is transparent
- Underneath that there are the sub-groups

Understanding that there are terms of reference.

Are people looking for a broad based group that governs with a series of sub-groups?

What happens to people who aren't here?

Gunther:

- Suggestion that there should be a conversation whereby a sub-group who sorts out governance makes representations for other people to make comments.

Will C:

- Will's interest is running a business-to-business forum rather than a broader community group.

UCL:

- Feels that what is being voted on is quite a wide description and wondered if it might be two separate votes, one vote on the umbrella group and then the sub-groups

Nancy:

- Agrees with this notion and proposes a vote on an umbrella group that has a broader community focus
- 26 in the room, no votes against, 7 abstentions
- There should be a sub-group set up initially to propose a set of rules for the operation of the main group
- 26 in the room, no votes against, 7 abstentions

Jay:

- Suggested that people make recommendations and then that's voted on separately

Tobi:

- Wanted clarification that this umbrella group would be separate to the CIG

Will C:

- Yes, it's separate to the business to business forum that takes place during business hours

Andreas:

- Feels the CIG has been "let's do it together for Hackney Wick" and that there are still things that are untangled with the notion that the CIG is now considered a business to business forum. For example, he feels the mailing list should be shared

Will C:

- Has been thinking about how to make the mailing list shared but recognises not everyone would want to be part of a community
- Suggests that he can send an email about the new umbrella group so that people can make a decision about whether they come to both groups or one

Cobey:

- Asks what would the objectives of the new meeting be? Would they discuss different things?

Andreas:

- It would not be a business network and it wouldn't have a single structure
- It would be a shared ownership governance

Sara:

- Raises that we haven't defined what the group will be

Nancy:

- The CIG is a business to business group, that could be a sub-group of the umbrella group

Rebecca:

- Thought she was participating in a community forum by coming to the CIG
- It was only afterwards that she found it difficult to get information

Juliet:

- It can happen that things merge into another, that this isn't unusual

Tracie:

- Didn't agree to be part of a business to business network
- Definitely still needs to be more clarity around what the CIG is

Will C:

- Said that it's always been about a sustainable creative community
- This is the step to representing that

Andreas:

- From his experience sub-groups are formed because big groups can't work on things – it's a mechanism to manage things. Should have the umbrella group before creating too many sub-groups.
- It's good if interests are emerging to take things on board
- First task is to clarify its constitution and its governance and one group would take that on

Nancy:

- Proposes to the group how it wants to achieve that transition

- The new forum will be involved in rules and arrangements around the constitution and how the group will work in the future

### **People put up their hand that would like to be part of this group**

Lucy  
 Andreas  
 Tobi  
 Rebecca  
 Gunther  
 Richard  
 Cecil  
 Tracie  
 Janine Evans-Pollard

- Group agreed that we need a proposal to ensure that different parties are represented. This is just a group to set up the governance for the organisation. This is not the final group and others who would like to join are invited.

Gunther:

- Made point about that we need to define the group. These people will establish governance.

Abbas:

- The mechanism that you feel would be important in this environment – proposed to Tracie that she is a great touchstone for involving those who are not necessarily naturally involved
- Who might be involved to make sure that those people can still be central to this

Tracie:

- Thinks it's about defining the group
- Something that would appear to be more inclusive
- Using venues such as Hub 67
- Tracie doubts very much if you'd get residents involved at this stage but once there's more definition and how they can contribute and what's expected of them then can pretty much guarantee that people want to be involved

Paddy:

- There will be lots more people involved in the Hub from down the road shortly

### **3. Terms of reference for the CIG**

Nancy:

- How do we want to move forward

Andreas:

- Back in Will's court

Will:

- Would still like people to come along to the CIG
- Drafted these terms of reference with local stakeholders (Gunther, Gill at Plot, Juliet, Richard, Darren, Lee, LLDC, Hackney, Here East)

Tracie:

- Does the membership now belong to Will?
- Recommends that Will changes the title as feels it's misleading
- Feels then that people can choose where they associate themselves (or both groups)

James:



- Re-naming both would be better for clarification

Will C:

- Has built up the mailing list over the last 5 years
- Asked for email addresses but doesn't feel people have contributed much to that

Tracie:

- Feels that she has

Will C:

- Thanked Tracie for her contribution to the CIG

James:

- Feels that Will's proposal is reasonable – the mailing list is something that he's built up and need to be careful of data protection but the two groups should be clarified to the whole mailing list and be open to everyone
- People can choose to remain on a list

Jay:

- Agrees with James
- Feels the most important thing going forward is how we publicly represent that and how we're communicating this evening, if we're giving people the choice to remove themselves from one mailing list and put themselves on another
- Wondered whether Will wants to have time to think about renaming the group

James:

- Thinks we need to set up another meeting for the new group

Andreas:

- Doesn't feel the CIG represents him and doesn't want it to and feels it needs to be clear that it's not a cultural representative

James:

- Suggested a joint statement: someone nominated from the new group and someone from CIG which is circulated to confirm how things are moving forward

Jay:

- Seconded James' proposition

Nancy:

- Email to the mailing list with an over-arching statement about what has happened at this meeting and two representatives

Jay:

- Recommended, as Chair, that Nancy writes an opening summary of the meeting

Helen:

- Thinks it would be biased if an individual writes it

Cobey:

- Gets her fulfillment out of the CIG
- Not sure she can put much more in

Nancy:

- There will be a transition over the next couple of months
- Those who volunteered themselves to move forward the new group will get together at the end of the meeting so that it can be sorted before the next CIG if possible

Jay:

- Should we agree that Nancy writes the statement?

**Group agreed that Nancy should write a short summary**

Andreas:

- Thinks it would be useful to give other people the opportunity to be involved

Will:

- Aims for the 1<sup>st</sup> month to circulate the minutes and agenda for the meeting so it would be useful to include in that

Nancy:

- Thinks the sub-group should get together after the meeting

Gunther:

- Can we stop calling it the sub-group
- Confirmed that people came together and decided to start a new community organisation

James:

- Does take away elements from previous group

**Questions around what the new group should be called – temporarily The Forum**

Will C:

- Someone from the forum can always give an update in the CIG

Andreas:

- Would like it not to be called CIG

Jay:

- Said that the statement refers to the CIG being about community rather than economy
- Should be a business community if it is a business to business network

Rebecca:

- Needs to be clearer and then there can be cross-overs

Nancy:

- Transition group forum needs to work out how it gets together
- Not sure that there is much more we can do in the group this evening

Abbas:

- Naming of the second group will sort out the meaning of both groups
- Imposed our needs on the CIG and now feel that our needs can be improved by two different forums

Gunther:

- Shouldn't see the word business as too narrow e.g. political parties and social enterprises
- Can be a lot of business discussed that isn't necessarily a profit

James:

- Anyone who has the skills to set up a way for people to put proposals up for the planning group. Suggestion to set up a google doc

Tracie:

- Said thank you for to Nancy for chairing

**Meeting ended 19:55.**

**Following the meeting, those who nominated themselves to help set up the new group provided the following statement:**

**HWFI Collective:**

The Hackney Wick & Fish Island (HWFI) Collective is going to be an independent organisation that is for all those who live, work or have a vested interest in HWFI. The HWFI Collective will connect all residents and organisations in the community. It will be overseen by a committee who will be voted on by you and will be representative of HWFI. The committee will be transparent. It will be an umbrella organisation for HWFI, disseminating information, promoting the area and bringing our HWFI community together. A precise mission will be borne out of early meetings, to which everyone can attend, but in broad strokes, we will be advocating for the protection of our HWFI heritage, we will be ensuring that Hackney Wick and Fish Island retain the reasons why they are attractive places to live, and we will be trying to improve facilities for local people, ensuring people can live, work and enjoy HWFI together. We would like you to be a part of it.

If you are interested in the new HWFI Collective then please email [HWFICollective@gmail.com](mailto:HWFICollective@gmail.com) and you will be added to the circulation list. Emails will be kept confidential and will be managed by the committee (when they are voted in). It will be possible to remove your email at any point.

Initially the group will meet on a Monday from 6pm - 7.30pm. The first meeting will be on Monday 13th April. Address of the meetings will be tbc.

**Signatories:**

Lucy Oliver-Harrison  
Tracie Trimmer-Platman  
Gunther Juncke  
Andreas Lang  
Rebecca Feiner  
Cecil Sagoe  
Richard Brown  
Jay Miller  
Matthew Carter  
Anna Maloney  
Tobias Hug  
Janine Evans-Pollard  
Ashton Mullins