WOODBERRY DOWN COMMUNITY ORGANISATION
Constitutional Review Working group
22nd June 2022

Residents: Phil Cooke (PC), William Sheehy (WS), Adrian Essex (AE), Hilary Britton (HB),

Apologies: Kalu Amogu (KA), Kristina Zagar (KZ),

ITLA: Roda Hassan (RH)

Item		Action
	WDCO Vision and Mission	

1.0	In the past two meetings, the group engaged in discussions regarding the purpose of the Woodberry Down Community Organisation. They examined WDCO's existing vision and mission and considered whether any changes were needed since the constitution was established. After conducting the review, the group has proposed a modification to the Vision statement by adopting the one utilised by the Design Committee. This suggestion is based on the endorsement of the vision by all the delivery partners and WDCO members serving on the Design Committee, as it aligns closely with WDCO's overarching vision.
	
	Currently, the Woodberry Down vision stated in the constitution is:
	
	"We see Woodberry Down as a large, inclusive, sustainable community which is based on both respect for cultural, social and economic diversity and the recognition of common values, where individuals acknowledge their responsibilities to the wider community and their commitment to the maintenance of a safe and healthy neighbourhood.
	
	The proposed change:
	
	"Woodberry Down shall be an open, welcoming place where people choose to live, feel safe, are in touch with the natural environment, benefit from a range of facilities for the community and have a strong sense of pride"
	
	Currently, the Woodberry Down mission in the constitution is:
	
	"Our aim is:
	   1. *to create the kind of community we envisage together with the physical environment which is most conducive to its achievement by securing the active, positive, vigorous and ongoing involvement of each and every section of the Woodberry Down community and all other present and potential partners.*
	   2. *to work for the provision of excellent housing, education, employment, health, leisure and retail opportunities to all residents. "*
	
	The proposed change is:
	
	Our aim is:
	   1. *To work with the partners and to influence their decisions to help bring about the common vision.*
	   2. *To work independently to foster the needs of the community.*	

2.0	**RA, TRA, Elected Board members and Co-opted members**	
2.1		

	The group emphasised the significance and necessity of establishing an effective residents' associations (RA and TRA). The residents' associations should primarily focus on addressing unresolved issues. If the matter remains unresolved within a specified time period, it should be escalated for further action. The question arises as to whether the Board is the appropriate forum for escalating operational issues or if these matters could be addressed in the liaison meeting, as suggested by the Executive Committee. Regarding the constitution, the group asked whether it should it is necessary to have Tenant and Resident Associations Board members, or can the representatives from the residents' association (RA and TRAs) be part of the 24 elected members? The constitution states that: *Residents' Association Members - one Member appointed by:* *(1) each Tenants' and Residents' Association (TRA) recognised by the London Borough of Hackney;* *(2) each Residents' Association recognised by any registered social landlord (RSL) which operates within the designated area;* *(3) any Residents' Association representing at least 50 residents in a private development;* The concern raised was that the presence of residents' associations with a minimum of 50 residents in private blocks could potentially result in a significant number of residents association members serving on the Board. Additionally, with the expansion of the estate, the group also noted that there is a need to have the flexibility to increase the number of elected Board members to accommodate the growth. During the discussion, it was noted that co-opted members should serve in a distinct capacity. It is recommended to consider the implementation of different categories of co-opted members, such as full-term co-optees and short-term co-optees. This approach would allow for the engagement of co-optees on specific projects or working groups, leveraging their expertise for shorter durations. It was also proposed that short-term co-optees should not be granted voting rights.	
3.0	**Next meeting date TBC**	
3.1	For the next meeting, the group will discuss what areas of the constitution they will be focusing on and will report back to the Board their recommendation.	