

WOODBERRY DOWN COMMUNITY ORGANISATION

Update from the Executive Committee

Update on Governance

In preparation for the Awayday, the Board members during the workshop on 12th January identified several opportunities to enhance governance. The following suggestions were put forth as means to improve governance:

- Conducting a thorough review and reform of all subgroups, including clarifying their purpose, uniqueness, and eliminating redundancy.
- Ensuring clarity on the attendees of meetings and defining their roles and contributions, particularly regarding decision-making authority.
- Collaborating with partners to identify areas of influence and understanding which aspects can be changed and which cannot.
- Identifying key points where WDCO can contribute and influence decision-making by strategically timing crucial decision-making moments.
- Establishing a clear timetable/programme that includes reporting back to the Board.
- Striving for true equality among partners by making collective decisions and agreeing on the programme together.
- Improving the focus and agenda of the Liaison meeting to address Board actions and provide solutions for subsequent Board meetings, rather than repetitive updates from partners.

These suggestions were shared as feedback to the partners during the Awayday, which led to governance being recognised as one of the identified priorities. The delivery partners and Executive Committee have since been working on potential solutions and ways to strengthen governance based on the problems identified by WDCO and the delivery partners.

The partners and Executive Committee were assigned specific actions following the discussions. One of the actions assigned to the Executive Committee was to conduct a review of existing meetings and assess their suitability for their intended purpose. They were tasked with examining whether the meetings were generating the desired outcomes and how block-level meetings could be made more efficient and effective. In order to discuss this matter, the Executive Committee extended an invitation to Board members to attend the Executive Committee meeting on the 21st March.

The partners were also assigned the task of creating an organogram. The organogram, along with additional information (purpose of meetings and attendees), were shared with the Executive Committee. After thorough discussion, the Executive Committee made amendments to the organogram and provided additional feedback to the partners. For further details, please refer to the attached amended organogram and the feedback provided by the Executive Committee. Please note that these are all preliminary suggestion and the proposals have not been approved. The Executive Committee plans to present the proposals to the Board.

Kristina and William on behalf of the Executive Committee participated in a meeting with the partners on June 15th to delve deeper into the topic of meeting structures.

Key points discussed during the meeting included:

- To develop a feedback loop to allow residents outside of WDCO to understand how their block issue is being dealt with.

- Partners to resource the final agreed structure with the required level of seniority – ie a clear escalation hierarchy (there is no point sending the same person to meetings which are supposed to be the point of escalation)
- WDCO Exec are to consider opening up the liaison to WDCO board members – (The assumption is this would be helpful when block specific items are to be discussed).
- Each Delivery Partner to set out a clear step by step guide for residents to raise operational/housing issues.
- NHG to consider how blocks might have informal TRA's where the usual threshold of numbers, 50%, cannot be achieved.
- Partners to consider how we hear the voices of businesses on the estate.
- Partners to consider how Councillors fit in and feed into the process.
- Consider whether there is a place for a quarterly feedback meeting with residents when no TRA exists.

A follow-up meeting is scheduled within the next two weeks, and the Executive will provide an update on the outcome.