

WOODBERRY DOWN COMMUNITY ORGANISATION

Board Meeting Minutes

Thursday 15th December 2022

7.15 pm Redmond Centre

Attendance

Philip Cooke	William Sheehy	Elaine Gosnell
Andrea Anderson	Geoff Bell	Oonagh Gormley
Jackie Myers	Mina Faragalla	Euphemia Chukwu
Kristina Zagar	Ngozi Obanye	Omar Villaba
Hilary Britton	Jacquie Knowles	Leonora Williams

Guests Included

Hermione Brightwell, Jaime Powell, Cllr Caroline Selman, Jane Havemann, Nichola Hudson, Neil Sams

Simon Slater, Roda Hassan

Section 0 - Introduction

0.1. Apologies for absence

0.1.1 Apologies for absence were received from:

Kalu Amogu, Barbara Panuzzo, Philip Dundas, Tracey Lavers, Eoghan Mitchell, Adrian Essex, Jason Morgan

0.2 Minutes and Matters Arising

0.2.1 Roda reported that Hackney Health and Safety are waiting for a report from Berkley Homes in response to the request regarding the windows. The Board agreed to keep this action for Cllr Sarah Young open on the tracker until an update is provided.

0.2.2 Roda gave an update on the NHG actions: Neil and Jada attended a meeting with the Chair of Maplewood on the 6th December. The ITLA also arranged a meeting with NHG, the Chair of Maplewood and R&R. The meeting was held on the 14th December in which they discussed NHG and R&R strategy for dealing with rodents. There was no update on the action for NHG to share the outcome from the WGN investigation/report on the sewerage system.

0.2.3 ACTION: Roda will email NHG for an update.

0.2.4 Jane Havemann updated that there is a fast track for the repair contact centre in which residents have the option for a surveyor to survey the home within 5 working days for any damp and mould. Information on the incidence of damp and mould cases on

Woodberry Down Estate is being collated and current data from Housing Services indicate there are 16 cases of mould and damp which vary in severity. The Regeneration team and Head of Housing Services are looking at a strategic approach for surveying older parts of the estate that are part of the masterplan. Cllr Selman reported they have submitted casework and their concerns to the Scrutiny Panel, they are also due to discuss this with the Cabinet member.

- 0.2.5** Andrea Anderson asked what residents renting privately in Woodberry Down should do if they are experiencing issues with damp and mould. Jane Havemann explained residents renting privately should contact the Private Sector Housing team for guidance. Cllr Selman has also suggested that they could attend the ward councillor Saturday drop-in session where they can assist them. A Board member raised concerns about the lifts being out of service at Wensleydale House for several weeks. The ITLA have raised this with the Hackney Lifts Manager and has chase this to find out what the completion date is.

ACTION: Jaime will be inviting Rendal and Rittner to the next meeting.

Section 1 - Presentation

- 1.1** Petra Roberts, the Strategic Service Head for Culture, Libraries and Heritage and overseeing the library study, gave a presentation on the overview of the borough-wide Hackney Library strategy and how it relates to the potential new library in Woodberry Down. The strategy which was co-designed with 8,500 residents responds directly to what residents wanted from all their libraries. The council provides 8 libraries and the library services are well used with over 1.5 million visits.
- 1.2** Petra shared the key themes from the public engagement and the impact libraries have on residents: it is considered a community hub, a place to socialise to help combat social isolation and to connect with other council services. The library serves as a hub for high-quality information, access to digital resources, and a place to celebrate local heritage. Library services also provide a wide range of social activities and events as well as providing the opportunity to network. Hackney led a library design competition with 1200 school children. Young people said they wanted access to more study spaces in libraries, access to digital resources and longer opening hours.
- 1.3** Petra explained that recent discussion with local stakeholders explored the cultural strategy priorities and the associated community's need for a new library in Woodberry Down. The library service currently runs a voluntary-led library at the Redmond Centre. The library has been run by volunteers since 2007 but it is supported by Hackney Library services. When research was carried out with the library review, it highlighted that only a small number of residents in the immediate vicinity of Woodberry Down accessed the library facility. From the borough wide response, it was clear that there is a need for access to digital resources. The Library at Woodberry Down only has two PC's and very little study space. Residents have also stated that some of the barriers of accessing their libraries is that they do not know what is on offer. Hackney is working on better promotion of the cultural services to residents which could also positively influence the Woodberry Down

library service. However, further research is required to establish further inside to the needs of the Woodberry Down area.

- 1.4** The new library requires a significant financial commitment from the council because of this it recommended that a feasibility study is conducted first to see if the proposed project is needed, if it's viable and sustainable long term. The Council have appointed a consultant, Architecture 00, to lead on the feasibility study for a new library as part of the proposals for Phase 4. The Architects have been reviewing policy and data, library need/demand, mapping local services, strategic fit, spatial requirements (initial thoughts), user profiling and developing assessment matrix.
- 1.5** The next phase will include a more focused engagement in consultation with the residents and stakeholders. In the meantime, they are trying to assert a broad framework of what the options are in terms of the capital and revenue cost to facilitate a library provision.
- 1.6** Hermione gave a brief update on the feasibility study and the three options that are considered to test the feasibility. The feasibility study sets out to develop a potential user profile. They are mapping local services, activities and looking at how a library could fit with the other activities and spaces in Woodberry Down.
- 1.7** Cllr Selman highlighted the importance of capturing the perspective of young people, temporary housing residents and child-minders.
- 1.8** Hilary suggested that existing facilities like the school should be considered as resources. This would be a more effective use of funding and a more immediate solution to the need for study spaces.
- 1.9** Omar asked why this is being looked at now and why this wasn't considered earlier in the regeneration before the old library was demolished and moved to the smaller space in the Redmond Centre. Petra could not comment on the past, however, the Phase 4 public consultation, cultural strategy workshops and library focus groups highlighted that there is a request from Woodberry Down area residents for better library provisions.
- 1.10** Hermione and Petra are aiming to arrange a workshop for WDCO in the new year.

2 Section 2 - Partner Update

- 2.1** Hilary asked why the Redmond Centre and Council facilities are closed down over the Christmas period. This is a crucial period when those who are alone or isolated need these facilities to be open.
- 2.2** There was a written question from Geoff. Jamie gave a verbal update; the partners have been working on a revised engagement strategy which Berkeley will share at the January Board. There will also be an update on the structure and process for the masterplan at the January Board.
- 2.3 Landscaping Task and Finish group:** An election will be held in the new year.
- 2.4 AOB**

Meeting ended 7.30pm.