

13<sup>th</sup> November 2024 – Vice Chair Communications Report to the board

I have attended meetings of:

- Regeneration Communications Group
- Winterfest Planning Group.

I have commissioned the updating of the Contacts page on the WDCO website with the new members names and contact details.

I have added an information page to the website <https://wdco.org.uk/2024/11/wdco-is-pulling-its-socks-up/> setting out some procedures and concerns

Last year WDCO held its second Community Forum,

### **Regeneration Communications Group**

Jackie and I attend this Group.

At this meeting the revised approach of the group was distributed, together with a list of contacts.

A winter newsletter is planned , to be distributed (printed and electronic) in sufficient time to publicise Winterfest.

The copy I have submitted is below.

### **Winterfest Planning Group.**

Jackie and I attend this Group.

This group is a sub-group of the Communications Group. Implementation of the Winterfest arrangements has been handed over to MHDT. We are keeping a close eye on how these arrangements are progressing with only three weeks to go.

### **Community Forum**

No plans are yet in place for this year's Forum. A suitable for the Forum might well be the format and content of the Summer Fun Day, Hidden River Festival and Winterfest.

## What has WDCO been up to for the past 6 months?

A brief review for the Woodberry Down newsletter of the main items on WDCO's plate.

### Our elections:

WDCO regenerates on a 3 yearly cycle, and our elections took place over the summer. If you live or work on the estate you could have had a vote. Read more about how this works and who we are on our website <https://wdco.org.uk/2024/11/wdco-is-pulling-its-socks-up/>

The WDCO board is now a mere 32 members. If you like lists take a look at our contacts page <https://wdco.org.uk/contact/>

### Our Business

And what do we talk about when we get together for our regular shindigs on the third Thursday of every month (at most meetings all are welcome)

### Winterfest

Coming up on 4<sup>th</sup> December don't miss this annual celebration bringing us some joy in the depths of winter. Starting at the Rose Garden opposite Sainsbury's with a ceremonial lighting by the Mayor of the celebratory tree, and then moving to the Redmond Centre for indoor festivities. Look out for flyers with more detail, and entries in your social media. Sponsored by the economic partners, with support from WDCO and MHDT.

### Phase 3

Rents and service charges for Notting Hill Genesis tenants moving into Phase 3 – these have come in higher than hoped and WDCO has escalated questions on the topic to the highest level within the Regeneration Partnership.

At a recent meeting actions have been discussed between WDCO, Notting Hill Genesis and Hackney. These actions include extending the timeframes for prospective tenants to make a decision, sharing the calculations of rent to ensure there are no residual errors, reviewing affordability assessments and the measures to be taken if costs are seen not to be affordable, and to bear down on service charge costs. For the long term it has been agreed that procedures will be improved and expedited.

## Block D

This is the still empty block of space at the lake end of Hartington's. WDCO identified this as having potential for community use in 2017, but still it stands empty. We remain hopeful that it will soon be serving the community. Which brings us to the question of

## Community Space

There is no clear statement at present of exactly what use the community (whatever that means) should be making of which spaces on the estate. The whole board has been invited to view the designated community space in Phase 3 (the newly completed buildings between Sainsbury's and Seven Sisters Road, and beyond) and one of our 6 Vice Chairs (William "Billy" Sheehy) has been nominated to the community needs.

## The Reservoirs

The jewels in Woodberry Down's tiara.

The Wildlife Reserve will, for most of 2025, have only limited access while Thames Water carry out repairs to the South Bank, fixing damage said to be caused by climate change.

At about the same time access to the water sports (West) reservoir will be improved, opening up the South Bank with improved bridges across the New River and a new footpath. WDCO has had representation on the steering committee drawing up the plans.

## A Chance to Play Chess

One of our new board members, Necdet Ozturk, runs the Nar Café and Juice Bar in Riverside Gardens, and would like you to take the chance to go there to play chess on weekdays, except at lunch time (12 till 2). He provides the chess board and set and if you get in touch with him [info@narcafe.co.uk](mailto:info@narcafe.co.uk) he may be able to fix you up with an opponent.

## The Friends of Woodberry Down . . .

. . . are frequent visitors to our board meetings.

The Friends of Woodberry Down - Reducing isolation for older adults

Over 50's Coffee & Activity Mornings

Join us every Tuesday from 10am till 1pm (Term time only, no sessions during school holidays) at

The Edge Youth Hub  
7 Woodberry Grove  
Woodberry Down  
London N4 1SN

For more info contact: Amanda Inniss 0787 634 5457, Liz Dodson 0793 184 1024, Tracey  
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