

## **Introduction and purpose of this update**

This report is to provide you with an on the outcome of the questionnaire I conduct on behalf on WDCO.

## **Purpose of the Questionnaire**

WDCO developed a questionnaire designed to collect key information from community groups. The questions aim to understand details such as the community groups' missions, operational schedules, current meeting spaces, and specific facility requirements. The questionnaire also seeks information on the number of participants / users, the geographic reach of the attendees, and the groups' funding and management structures. These responses will provide a comprehensive understanding of the community's operational needs.

**Initial Steps:** To identify and engage local community groups. We tried to utilise various resources and approaches. Below is a summary of our efforts and findings:

### **1. Redmond Community Centre**

As a central hub for local activities, the Redmond Centre was a logical starting point for identifying groups that use its facilities. Unfortunately, due to data protection policies, the centre was unable to share details about these groups directly. However, they agreed to distribute my contact details to the community groups that use their facilities, allowing them to respond voluntarily.

### **2. Local Schools**

I also contacted local schools as they often serve as connections to various community groups and organisations. Despite reaching out to local primary and secondary schools, we have not received responses to our emails. I also recognise that an oversight occurred in not directly contacting the local Jewish girls' school. To address this, I have spoken to Interlink, an Orthodox Jewish Community Membership Organisation and talked to them about local community needs and requirements.

### **3. Library Feasibility Study and Social Life Report**

The Library Feasibility Study and Social Life provided valuable insights as well as identifying some active groups, however they were the groups we were already aware of and in contact with i.e Fame Star Youth, Woodberry Aid and Friends of Woodberry Down.

### **4. Block D Inquiry**

I also contacted Hackney Council to inquire whether they had received any bids or expressions of interest for the Block D space from local community groups. This step was aimed at identifying any additional groups interested in utilising the available facilities. I am still waiting to hear back from Hermione.

I propose that Board members leverage their WhatsApp groups to ask residents if they are aware of any Woodberry Down community groups that we may not have identified. This collective effort will help ensure that no group is overlooked.

Here is a summary of the completed questionnaires received so far. I hope to provide a further update in the coming weeks as we identify additional community groups and receive more completed questionnaires.

### **Woodberry Aid Questionnaire**

Woodberry Aid is a mutual support group based in Woodberry Down, focusing on aiding vulnerable residents such as low-income families, the elderly, and the homeless. The group provides food support, befriending, and connects residents with statutory services. They meet weekly at Unit A, Hartingtons Court, serving 40–60 attendees per session, with most participants coming from the estate, then Hackney with a very small portion 3% from neighbouring boroughs.

The group operates with 17 volunteer staff and requires facilities such as a shop, a full kitchen, storage space, toilets, a small office, and a meeting room. They are funded by Hackney Council and Woodberry Aid is managed by a team of six individuals.

Woodberry Aid clearly plays a vital role in addressing poverty, food insecurity, and social isolation in the Woodberry Down community. Its high attendance and broad scope of activities underline its importance as a support system for vulnerable residents. However, its operational needs—such as space and facilities—are extensive, suggesting potential challenges in securing adequate space.

### **Fame Star Youth Questionnaire**

Fame Star Youth is a non-profit organisation based in Woodberry Down, focusing on empowering young people through filmmaking and media training. Its activities aim to enhance creative skills, promote social inclusion, and encourage independence among local youth. The group also seeks to deter at-risk youth from crime, providing mentorship and skill development opportunities that can lead to improved educational outcomes and future employment.

The group meets weekly at The Edge Youth Hub and occasionally at Unit A, Hartingtons Court, with approximately 10 members regularly attending. Attendance has dropped due to members being displaced into temporary accommodations. Fame Star Youth requires facilities including a hall for events, training and meeting rooms, a kitchen, toilets, and specialised spaces like a recording room and stage. The group currently relies on project-based funding without dependable long-term financial support.

Fame Star Youth provides a valuable service to the Woodberry Down community by fostering creativity, building confidence, and promoting personal development among young people. The group's focus on media and filmmaking is unique, offering practical skills that can lead to employment opportunities in a competitive industry.

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