

Redmond Community Centre/ Manor House Development Trust  
Report prepared for WDCO meeting February 2022  
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## Redmond Community Centre

### Recent events:

In January we have seen a rise in private hire bookings with the lifting of restrictions. For example, Muslim Prayers on a Friday are seeing about 50 regular users per week.

The gardening club has ordered a new shed for their tools and this is due to arrive shortly.

Over half term we continued with our food programme, Kitchen Social, funded by the London Mayor's Fund. Free lunches were available to families with children on Monday and Tuesday lunchtimes.

On Monday 14<sup>th</sup>, we ran an art workshop for children to design a mural to decorate the cupboards in the hall of the RCC. Two local artists, Charlotte Harrison and Lex Krivickaite ran the workshops and will take the ideas generated to inform the design of the finished mural which they will then paint.

### Future events:

We will be running learn to ride cycling courses for 5 weeks starting at the end of February. These are free and we can provide bikes for people to use. They will take place outside the Redmond Centre. The learn to ride sessions will be followed by a led ride around parks and quiet streets. These sessions are open to everyone. They will be promoted by posters on the bike racks as well as online. The sessions are ran by two local qualified cycling instructors, both of whom are fully insured with DBS checks and are qualified mechanics.

We are carrying on with our Digital Connect Programme and are in talks with Notting Hill Genesis to extend this to include a more structured, face to face group course to increase online and IT skills. This will be free and open to everyone.

### COVID-19 update:

Enquiries for bookings are increasing, especially for weekend parties.

At the last meeting, WDCO board members requested a breakdown of how much the space was being used.

We have an average of 45 users each day (averaged over one week), with this rising to 100 on Fridays due to the Muslim Friday Prayers.

I would note that the usage of the centre is dependent on many factors. A few to note would be:

- The amount of activities being delivered by MHDT itself. This is dependent on funding for such activities.
- The amount of activities and programmes being delivered by other community groups and organisations. Again, this is largely dependent on the funding available to these groups.
- The amount of private bookings in the centre is, again, dependent on a number of factors including: covid restrictions, how safe people feel about gathering in groups, how financially resilient people feel in order to pay for parties etc.

We have had a number of people interested in using the space as a space to work. We have taken this on board and have integrated this into a cosmetic redesign to include provision for hot desking spaces with flexible payment terms.

The building:

We have designs for cosmetic improvements around of the RCC, done by a local interior designer. The design incorporates workshops for staff and local people to contribute to elements, such as designing patterns for tiles for the new welcome desk. We will keep WDCO trustees updated as this project progresses.

We have met with Trevor at Berkeley Homes who has kindly agreed to help with the painting and some of the labour involved.

## Woodberry Blooms

Woodberry Blooms is the trading subsidiary of MHDT. We are having a sale (up to 40% off) to clear some stock and make way for new things.

For Valentine's day we promoted the shop and sold flowers with a low environmental impact. This means that we did not stock roses, which at this time of year, are air freighted from sites in East Africa. We are keen to make sure that Woodberry Blooms is an environmentally responsible store in order to fit with the aims and objectives of social and environmental sustainability that are part of MHDT's core values.

## Block D

We have been in talks with a number of community groups about the space in block D and are waiting for more information about the bidding process.

## Food projects

The MHDT team & volunteers continue to take in weekly food deliveries from the Felix Project which is picked up by groups on a Friday (including Woodberry Aid). We continue to lead on the NW consortium test and trace food project, although we are seeing a large reduction in referrals. However, Kosher referrals are still very high, so we are working closely with the Chicken Soup Shelter to support them.

### Volunteering and opportunities

We currently have two local volunteers who help with Community Fridge on a weekly basis. We have the following ongoing volunteer roles available: Community Fridge co-ordinator, digital ambassador, track and trace food delivery, gardening, kitchen assistant.

We are also looking for a volunteer with digital marketing experience to support Woodberry Blooms. Please get in touch if you would like more information about any of these roles.

### Funding bids and reports

Successful: Cycling UK for the winter cycling projects.

Waiting to hear: One “adapt your business” grant to LBH to make the RCC more resilient in the ongoing pandemic. One “adapt your business” grant to LBH to make Woodberry Blooms more environmentally sustainable. One grant for capital works for the refurbishment of the RCC from National Lottery.

I have received feedback from the last report that we rely heavily on funding. In response to this, I would like to state that yes, we are a charity and a not for profit social enterprise. We generate income through hire of our space, our trading subsidiary and through grants and donations. We are not a commercial venture, but one with charitable aims and as such we regularly rely on fundraising. This enables us to put on programmes and events that benefit the local community, are free at the point of use and are not governed by the logics of free market economics.

We have written a ‘beginner’s guide to community events’ which is currently with a graphic designer. The aim of this booklet will be to formalise and publicise the support that MHDT can offer to community groups to put on their own programmes and events in Woodberry Down.

Our impact reports are currently with the graphic designer.