

Redmond Community Centre/ Manor House Development Trust
Report prepared for WDCO meeting 20th Jan 2022
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Redmond Community Centre

Recent events:

In December we hosted lantern making workshops with Berkeley Homes and Architects DPQ to design lanterns which were paraded around Woodberry Down at the Christmas event. The lanterns were then displayed in the window of the Redmond Centre. A small selection remains on display.

The centre closed over Christmas and was deep cleaned. While the centre was closed, Growing Communities' have installed a new shed in the garden for their food bag collection which will restart on 26th January. Hackney works have renovated their office to make it more covid safe.

The library has reopened on Tuesdays and Wednesdays 10am – 6pm, and will extend this to include Friday too. The Woodberry Connect project continues, supporting people to get online.

Future events:

We have a number of regular events taking place in the centre. These include: the Girl's Friendly Society, over 50s chair based exercise, Muslim prayers, weekend church services.

COVID-19 update:

We were due to have a number of other regular bookings, but these have been cancelled due to covid-19 and they are taking place online.

Enquiries for bookings are increasing, especially for weekend parties.

The building:

Berkeley Homes have just very kindly refitted the kitchen and it is looking fantastic. We are in talks with them to update some other areas of the building which need a bit of care. We have applied for funding from the National Lottery for capital costs for some refurbishment work, but are yet to hear back.

Woodberry Blooms

Woodberry Blooms is the trading subsidiary of MHDT.

It is doing well given that it has had to be closed during covid so much since it opened in 2019. We are currently revising the business plan and working on the marketing of the shop. We will promote it further afield, especially to cater for weddings in the area. We will be

having a sale in store in Feb in time for Valentine's day, so please pop along and support the trust by buying goods at Woodberry Blooms!

We are investigating the potential to move Woodberry Blooms to Block D where it will be more visible and get more footfall

Block D

In our expression of interest to LBH last year MHDT said that its preference would be to lease the whole building and then sub-let to organisations which are delivering or will deliver social impact across the area. This would be combined with commercial activities to ensure Block Ds future financial sustainability.

We are not sure when the next stage of the process will be issued by LBH but while waiting we are meeting with potential partners who might be interested in joining in with us. If anyone would like to get in touch, please email me or Simon to arrange a meeting.

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 food partnership with Hackney Council and Woodberry Aid. MHDT have completed 14 Track & Trace referrals since Dec 2021.

Volunteering and opportunities

We currently have two local volunteers who help with Community Fridge on a weekly basis. We have recruited a new digital ambassador who will help support the Woodberry Connect project.

We have the following ongoing volunteer roles available: Community Fridge co-ordinator, digital ambassador, track and trace food delivery, gardening, kitchen assistant. We particularly need volunteers for food delivery.

We are also looking for a volunteer with digital marketing experience to support Woodberry Blooms.

Funding bids and reports

Successful: We put in a funding bid to the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) for winter community support. However, we have not yet heard back with a timeframe.

Waiting to hear: In the last month, we have put in one funding bid for capital costs for the refurbishment of Redmond Community Centre. We have put in a bid to deliver led bike rides and learn to ride sessions with Cycling UK.

We have now completed the impact reports for the Blue-Green project with Middlesex University, the Virtual Community Centre and our COVID-19 emergency food reports. They are in the process of being finalised and designed and we hope to be able to share these soon.

MHDT's written reports

This is the first time MHDT has given a written report (as far as I'm aware). Please let me know if this is the kind of thing you want to hear, if there is anything I have missed or if there is too much detail in any areas.