



Adrian Essex <omotng@gmail.com>

Chair update

2 messages

Roda Hassan <roda.hassan@publicvoice.uk>

5 February 2026 at 12:12

Cc: Simon Slater <simon.slater@publicvoice.uk>, Ameera Hassan <ameera.hassan@publicvoice.uk>

Dear Board members,

Please find set out below the Chair's update on a number of matters:

Age Without Limits Day.

Woodberry Down will be celebrating Age Without Limits Day on Wednesday the 10th of June.

NHG will support this through the Social & Economic Investment programme. Their wider partnerships such as Active Within, Friends of Woodberry Down, Citizen's Advice, The Zen Project, WDCO and MHDT will be involved. More details of Age Without Limits Day can be found here: <https://www.agewithoutlimits.org/>

Note that experiences of ageism are being sought on this page. Please submit your experiences if you have any.

Trustees for the Manor House Development Trust.

The Manor House Development Trust Board of Trustees would like to recruit new members. The trustees are seeking new members with the aim of bringing fresh ideas and energy to the way our local charity is run and to the uses and activities that take place in the Redmond Centre and across Woodberry Down.

The Board of Trustees currently meets quarterly, and it is proposed that this timetable should remain with alternate meetings taking place online and in person. Our estimate of how much time you would need to devote to being a trustee is in the order of 12 hours per month.

Being on the Board of Trustees also requires that you will become a director of the limited company that conducts the business of the charity. A full explanation of what all of this involves will be provided during the trustees' induction process. It is nowhere near as demanding as it may at first sound.

Should you wish to explore this opportunity further and get in touch with me at a board meeting, by email (omotng@gmail.com) or using my phone number 07970705411.

The Naturalist

The Naturalist has now closed. It was originally offered for sale at £870,000—the same price Young's paid Berkeley for the c.300-year lease. Young's held it at peppercorn rent, with their main expenses being operational costs, business rates, and service charge contributions.

I have spoken with Dhanica, who managed the pub throughout the sales period. She has no information about next steps. The shuttered windows and removal of advertising material suggest this closure is permanent rather than temporary. Despite efforts from both WDCO board members and residents to offer support and encourage greater use of the pub, Young's adhered strictly to their corporate business model and ultimately shut down the operation.

Some have suggested that Wetherspoon would be better suited to this location. Berkeley's have approached Wetherspoon, who have declined interest in the site at this time.

The prolonged vacancy of two significant ground-floor units within 50 yards of each other—their windows now blanked out with no immediate prospect of occupation—presents a concerning appearance for the estate.

The property details remain visible on Rightmove (marked as withdrawn): https://www.rightmove.co.uk/properties/148270034#/?channel=COM_BUY

Attendance at Board meetings.

We're pleased to report that our hybrid meetings (combining online and in-person attendance) have worked well over the last two months. We'll be implementing further equipment in February to make these even more seamless. We very much hope you'll be able to join us for our monthly WDCO Board meetings—whether in person or online—as your input is invaluable to our work.

Woodberry Down History.

I'm sure you will all be aware that there is a series of notice boards outside The Naturalist which cover some of the history of the Woodberry Down Estate since 1936. Tom from Berkeley Homes has made the images available to me, and I have added them to our website as a blog. This provides an opportunity to study them, perhaps at greater length and in more comfort than is possible in the open air. They are splendid images and contain a lot of detail.
<https://wdco.org.uk/2026/01/the-birth-of-a-dream/>

Contributions of further blogs would be very welcome.

The Community Forum

Roda has asked for comments as to what should make up the community forum. Please do respond to her.

--

Adrian Essex

Chair, WDCO | Manager, London Heathside Vets | Facebook Gopher, BMAF | BSc (Hons) Lower Second Psychology (1972)

Mobile and WhatsApp: 07970705411

Adrian Essex <omotng@gmail.com>

3 March 2026 at 12:02

To: "gitasootarsing@btinternet. com gitasootarsing@btinternet. com" <gitasootarsing@btinternet.com>

[Quoted text hidden]