

# **WOODBERRY DOWN COMMUNITY ORGANISATION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES**

Tuesday 23<sup>th</sup> July 2024

7pm Zoom Meeting

**Attendance:** Adrian Essex, Jackie Myers, Phil Cooke, Kalu Amogu, William Sheehy, Leonora Williams

**Apologies:** Andrea Anderson

## **Section-0 Introduction**

### **0.1 Minutes:**

0.11 Minutes reviewed for accuracy and agreed on.

### **0.2 Matters arising:**

0.21 The Executive Committee members agree that the car boot sale at Woodberry Down Primary School should proceed. They see this initiative as a potential benefit to the community and believe it is worth the effort to make it successful, even if it doesn't work out in the long term. As Jackie mentioned, activities like this can significantly contribute to strengthening community ties, similar to how they benefit other areas.

## **Section 1: Major Topics**

### **1. Outcome from July Board**

1. 11 Adrian noted that the NHG presentation took a significant amount of time at the Board. He mentioned that NHG sent Mica Joseph, who he felt shifted the blame onto Roda while NHG did not have clear or adequate answers. Adrian expressed clear frustration and displeasure with their tendency to push blame onto others.

1.12 Roda explained that NHG had requested 10 minutes from the Chair to introduce their new Places & Estates department, but the presentation ended up taking much longer than anticipated. Jackie agreed that if they had known beforehand that it would be a lengthy presentation, they would not have allowed it

during the Board meeting. However, Adrian noted that no useful information was provided in the presentation.

1.13 William raised concerns that NHG seems increasingly unwilling to collaborate, moving away from partnership working. He noted that they have shown little willingness to work in partnership with WDCO.

1.14 Adrian pointed out that NHG has made numerous mistakes recently. He emphasised that, rather than allowing NHG to shift the blame, Board members should take responsibility and hold NHG accountable for their actions.

## **1.2 Phase 3 Community Satellite Space**

1.21 Roda reminded the Executive Committee that Hackney has proposed a submission for a proposal concerning the Phase 3 community space. The space in question is currently owned by NHG, which is also considering MHD's proposal. A year ago, Hackney discussed the possibility of WDCO moving into this community space. Roda noted that she recently met with Jackie to discuss what the proposal should entail. They reviewed the current use of the office, which serves as a crucial resource for many community stakeholders. WDCO has effectively managed the space, hosting various activities and services such as weekly ITLA drop-in sessions, drop-ins for local councillors, meetings for WGN Rowan and Hornbeam TRA, NHG and police drop-ins, and regular meetings for the Labour Executive. Roda reviewed a previous questionnaire shared by Hilary and suggested that WDCO engage with community groups to determine their space needs.

1.22 Members inquired whether it would be more cost-effective for Hackney Council to relocate.

1.23 Roda, with input from Hilary's questions, proposed creating an expression of interest form to be sent to all local community groups interested in utilising the community space. This form would help assess whether WDCO, in the new community space, could engage other community groups currently lacking space and determine if these groups could be accommodated under WDCO's management.

1.24 Adrian inquired about the potential benefits for the ITLA. Roda explained that there would be no immediate changes for the ITLA; they would continue to use the WDCO office for their weekly drop-in sessions, whether at the current location or in Phase 3, provided the office remains accessible and WDCO permits ITLA to use the space. However, Roda noted that, in the long term, there could be benefits for WDCO if they moved to the new community space, allowing them to manage it similarly to how they do now. The new space is intended to be a community hub, whereas the current office is ultimately a commercial space that Hackney rents from Berkeley. She also highlighted that the lease for the current space is expiring, which is a significant reason why Hackney wants WDCO to consider the new space. Roda also mentioned that moving to Phase 3 might be more financially sustainable for Hackney, as the commercial space is likely more expensive than the proposed community space in Phase 3, making the latter a more viable long-term option.

1.24 The Executive Committee members suggested that they visit the new space for evaluation. Adrian questioned the need for change, noting that the current space is functioning well and wondering why they should consider a move if there isn't an apparent issue. He felt they might be trying to solve a problem that doesn't

exist. William has been asked to take the lead on this matter and meet with Hackney and Roda to discuss it further.

### **1.3 Constitution Review Workshop:**

1.31 William noted that WDCO shouldn't have to constantly refer to the constitution whenever an issue arises. Jackie and Adrian agreed that the constitution should not be the sole basis for decision-making.

**ACTION:** Adrian, Jackie, and William will meet to discuss strategies to reduce the Board's reliance on the constitution for decision-making and explore potential changes to the constitution if necessary.

### **1.3 Partnership agreements:**

**ACTION:** The Executive Committee will address this issue as a primary topic in the next meeting.

**ACTION:** All Executive Committee members are requested to review the Partnership Agreement along with the feedback from the partners and submit their comments.

### **1.4 Outcome of Elections:**

1.41 Roda noted that the election meeting was highly successful, with a great turnout. However, there are still two vacancies—one at KSS1 and another at Woodberry Grove North.

1.42 Adrian noted that the Hidden River festival is being managed by the Manor House Development Trust. However, he felt that the trust contributed very little during the Funday meetings, with Roda effectively taking the lead. Adrian observed that Roda appeared to be better prepared than the trust representatives.

### **1.5 Items for the Liaison meeting:**

1.51 Since there will be no Board meeting in August, the Executive Committee members agreed to cancel the Liaison meeting as well. Roda mentioned that Berkeley has indicated they plan to submit the final proposal for the masterplan. Although the exact date of submission has not been confirmed, Berkeley has expressed a desire to present the final proposal to the Board before submitting it in August. A specific date for this presentation has not yet been agreed upon, but the meeting will take place in August.

**ACTION:** Roda will email Berkeley to try and get a date in the diary for the meeting.

### **1.6 AOB:**

1.61 Jackie pointed out that the summer newsletter has not been discussed, even though the season is nearly over. Roda agreed, noting that a draft should have been circulated as agreed at the Round Table meeting before it is finalised.

**ACTION:** Roda will send an email to follow up on the status of the summer newsletter.

1.62 Jackie notes that there haven't been any special gatherings with the WDCO members recently. Kalu adds that there isn't a dedicated budget for such events and that typically, something is organised at the end of the year.

1.63 Roda proposes that when new members join, there could be an informal introduction and gathering, which could also serve as a farewell to outgoing members.