

Hackney Wick Fish Island | Cultural Interest Group

Minutes of the meeting of Friday 13th March 2015

Held at: **St. Mary of Eton Church, Eastway, Hackney, London E9**

"Working to establish a permanent, sustainable, creative economy in Hackney Wick & Fish Island."

In attendance:

Andrew Lock (Lyn Atelier Architects)
James Morgan (Hackney Pearl)
Charlotte George (Green Party, Hackney South)
Ellie Douglas-Allan (Random Dance)
Polly Hunt (Random Dance)
Sally Anthony (Hub67 manager)
Anna Maloney (Hackney WickED)
Andreas Lang (Artist)
Pastor Tony Fawole (Royal Connections)
Hannah Andrews (Fish Island Labs)
Isaac Marrero (The Wick Newspaper)
Nick Sharman (LB Hackney Wick Ward Councillor)
Cecil Sagoe (UCL)
Jacob Fairless Nicholson (Local resident/UCL)
Graeme Evans (University of Middlesex /Hydro Citizenship)
Karen le Roy Harris (Artist)
Lucy Oliver-Harrison (Yard Theatre)
Sarah Henderson (Echo)
Karen Partridge (Echo)
William Chamberlain (Creative Wick/Chair)
Adriana Marques (LLDC)

George Oates (Good Form and Spectacle)
Felix Cohen (Good Form and Spectacle/Manhattans Project)
Julie Daniels (E9 Magazine)
Nancy Stevenson (University of Westminster)
Father Reuben Preston (Vicar St. Mary of Eton Church)
Ozlem Edizel (Middlesex University)
Ashton Mullins (Hackney WickED)
Richard Brown (UNIT)
Sara Karpanen (Artist/resident)
Juliet Can (Stour Space)
Rebecca Feiner (Artist)
Nick Durrant (Plot London)
Josh Strauss (The Wash)

Announcement: A special meeting will take place to discuss the CIG draft terms of reference at Hub67 on Monday 23rd March from 6-8pm.

Agenda:

Sarah Henderson & Karen Partridge (Echo):

- Formally Hackney Shares, echo is a trading network of organisations, working on a time-based currency. No money involved, members trade in 'echoes'
- For every echo you use you can buy another echo from another member
- 600 members, anything with time value can be traded from branding to legal advice to catering
- Why do people join? Cost saving is key benefit for members for example using up dormant capacity. Training for skills is prevalent and valuable. Building community of co-support
- Four workshops a month. About to start programme of workshops in Haggerston, would like to expand to HWFI, aimed around micro-businesses and startups
- If you want to join, it's free at www.economyofhours.com Examples of sessions are: 18th March digital marketing, Podcasting 25th March, Google analytics 21st April. Also host social events with networking benefits for members
- Not trying to formalise informal sharing already present in HWFI, rather would like to bring skills to HWFI that might not be prevalent in HWFI such as accountancy etc.
- Funded through Nesta from Innovation in Giving fund, also London Legacy, grant funded. Looking for ways to become self-sustaining.
- Q. How are echoes are returned, if for example you host a group workshop, do you get as many hours as there are attendants? Members only get one echo
- Q. What happens to communal echoes? If you become a member, you don't currently get a vote to decide what happens to communal echoes. Interested in devolving the power to members

- Q. How is it governed? CIC, board of six directors
- Lee Murrell will try to give update in April on behalf of Share East/East Village and the success of echo there

Charlotte George Green Party, Hackney South:

- Green Party candidate. Day job as a film-maker, works part time for Ice and Fire. Lives locally, Well Street Common
- Mostly attending to find out what the local issues are, and to feed back to the Green Party
- Policies: aware of intense need for housing, fighting for rent control and longer tenancy agreements. Giving power to the residents rather than property investment. Giving power to tenants. Fair Wages (London living wage of £10 per hour), living wage should be a minimum wage too, and working on strategies to help small businesses. Air quality, making sure buses become hybrid or electric buses, improving Hackney Wick transport links. Climate change concern too, the crunch year is 2017 (this is a time when Green politics is overly important). Concern over Swan Wharf and how many small businesses will be affected by development there
- Q. What about human rights and equality? Charlotte George (CG) personal concern for asylum seekers
- Q. How is Green Party getting people to vote? CG accepts people already on social media are probably already invested in the Green Party, trying to push young voters to vote
- Nick Sharman (NS) suggested CG hasn't actually mentioned anything different from current council. Asked how real are the issues, and how real is the Green Party approach? NS doesn't think there's anything unique about Green Party policies. Struggling to see what the Green Party are doing is unique. CG suggested current targets for affordable housing are not realistic
- NS suggested we need to 'draw this off' because it's not relevant for the CICG
- William Chamberlain said that the dominance of luxury and social housing provision will result in the end of the 'HWFI creative sector'. What are the Green Party's plans for the lack of affordable Private Rental Sector for the creative sector? CG suggested that a voluntary register of responsible landlords could mean the long term provision of affordable PRS for creative practitioners.
- Lucy Oliver-Harrison (Yard Theatre) voiced feeling of discomfort, that this should be in a separate meeting and if this discussion continues she will leave

LLDC Local Plan update:

- Richard Brown (RB) gave update on the Local Plan Examination in Public: session for HWFI Sub Area went well, UNIT has been responding over the past year and a half and the session was well attended by HWFI: Jo Hughes (Mother), Gill Wildman (Plot London), William Chamberlain (HW&FICIC) and support from Reuben Jacobs (Grow) and Isaac Marerro (Wick Newspaper). Good to have a voice but other half (LLDC) are made up of paid planning consultants. RB can't help feeling we are really on the weaker side. It's at the stage where the policies really won't change that much, there's probably about four or five word changes that would have any meaningful effect for the area
- RB admitted LLDC did do really good job of defending industrial space, none of the policies have been weakened by 'battering' from developments and consultants
- RB and UNIT fought to make policies stricter and to give clarity on affordable workspace. 'Not the most exciting experience of my life'. Will be interesting to see how the area will be affected
- Q from WC, what's the process? RB said LLDC are publishing as they go along, final version will be released in due course, this was the last opportunity to influence

- NS commented that the Local Plan commitments have great objectives, but the real worry comes when putting these into practice. Should we be looking at something broader, comparative with US communities, for example setting up a trust to form barriers? Otherwise we will be swept away
- Adriana Marques (AM) thanked RB on behalf of LLDC. Appreciates RB and all others for going in and giving up their time, suggests we have got off on right foot, will continue championing affordable workspaces etc. In response to NS point AM said LLDC have conducted study. There are four mechanisms: Community Land trust; Right to Bid; Community Development Trust; Registered Community Assets, for grass roots level that make it possible for change, but these are not widely known. Community Infrastructure Levy also, similar to Section 106. Whereas S106 is on one site, the CIL is about pooling s.106 so it can be spent on community infrastructure etc. NS suggested this would be a great source of funding for this type of Trust
- Nick Durrant commented that the hard thing is the jargon-esque words, and no examples or case studies. NS said would be great to compare with international examples
- Andreas Lang (AL) asked if community land trust and development trusts are not something that the LLDC could set up? If the LLDC is serious, would they provide land for the trusts to emerge, and would they support with funds? AL not sure how public these conversations are, in what forums they are discussed and who has access to the money
- AM responded by saying in terms of LLDC being a landowner, they own very small parts of land, mainly around HW station, so quantity of land is a very big issue. LLDC are fighting for workspace Vs housing
- AL suggested it comes down to the idea of long-term ownership. How could HWFICIG make a good case like this? Very few community land trusts to draw inspiration from

ND gave idea of 1m square land trust to be set up as a useful rallying point for people and to give concrete example of what it means. Then about 'lillypadding' from thereon in. AM will arrange a meeting to explore this in greater detail and share again the results of the Renaisi research into this issue:

<http://queenelizabetholympicpark.co.uk/~media/lldc/local%20plan/local%20plan%20examination%20documents/local%20evidence%20base%20documents/leb17%20lldc%20artistic%20practicesfinal%20with%20prefacelgam.pdf>

- Isaac Marrero (IM) suggested documents are incredibly hard to look through (as some have already). Broader issue of land needing to be decommodified before anything can happen
- RB said UNIT are already looking at proposals for this type of thing and is in support of bigger meeting. Has had amazing support from London Tenants Foundation and Just Space, possibility to bring them on board

Richard Brown and Graeme Evans gave a London Festival of Architecture update:

- Taking place in June, deadline submissions 17th or 20th March. So far UNIT have an exhibition that they want to do including research, proposals etc. Ten years old, started in Clerkenwell. Good opportunity to put HWFI on the map
- Format of festival includes open studios, exhibitions and installations. If anyone wants to be involved in a 'Hub' for HWFI then speak to RB or Graham Evans (GM). Theme is 'Work in progress'
- Anna Maloney suggested Hackney WickED might do open studios early summer, and commented that this would fit well together. Is there an appetite for open studios?
- RB knows 12 architecture companies practicing locally. Will hold meeting after today's meeting if anyone wants to attend

Julie Daniels E9 Magazine:

- First time at CIG. Background in journalism, multi-media. Left The Times to start up own company: E9 Magazine, published for 1 year now
- Free publication, self funded through advertisements, financially and commercially it's doing quite well now, but sometimes a struggle to get things done but coping with help from friends in PR and writing
- Can't pay people at the moment, but utilizes sharing mechanisms
- Acknowledges E9 postcode area is huge, and that the magazine comes from the 'posh end', Victoria Park Road etc.
- Content comprises kids activities, history of the area, food, dogs, fitness
- 5000 issues delivered to various points in the area, cafes (including Hackney Pearl, Stour Space, Counter Café too), voiced desire to be further embedded in HWFI. Interested in what's happening in HWFI, and would like to promote that in a print form. Needs help from people who can write, especially in the arts. Wants to extend circulation
- Q from James Morgan about listings page? Julie Daniels (JD) said there is a 'What's on section' and welcomes submissions

Pastor Tony Fawole (Royal Connections) parking controls on Fish Island:

- Proposing parking controls in Fish Island from 08.30 to 18.30 Mon-Fri. Tower Hamlets are trying to reintroduce parking control in FI. Tony to find out if anyone will be affected in Fish Island. Needs signatures from business residents etc.
- WC asked how local businesses have found parking? Juliet, Stour Space said parking has improved since Olympics and stated it is highly important for businesses to have access to delivery and that when controlled parking was in place during Olympics, there was nowhere to park temporarily.
- Tony suggested Peabody development of 500 homes will increase pressure on parking
- Andreas Lang suggested controlled parking will be detrimental to local residents and businesses
- Julie E9 mag: Council have implemented controlled parking 10-11.30 in victoria park road which is a very short period which allows some versatility, and also stops people parking all day
- Nick Durrant (ND) suggested other more informal parking control already exist in HWFI such as on White Post Lane where graffiti provides a deterrent to people parking their vehicles

Cecil Sagoe UCL Research (and research more broadly):

- Undertaking PhD within Geography department at UCL
- Focusing on LLDC and surrounding area. Interested in how LLDC's plans interact with community visions. HWFICIG is one of biggest groups in the area, and has a large planning focus. Hope to conduct ethnographic research and make his own skills transferable to the group through reciprocity. Will send out statement of intent
- Here to check if CIG members are OK with this. No objections from CIG members
- Juliet, Stour Space voiced an interest in collating and pooling research
- Hackney WickED have been awarded Arts Council funding for a 3 week research project based on an audit started last year. Looking to find out who is attending, who is presenting, how many works of art have been sold etc.
- Jacob Fairless Nicholson also stated brief research project in Community Participation in City Strategies, will contact members for interview. Research involves taking secretary role at CIG for next few months. Andreas Lang (AL) asked how is the CIG Secretary role appointed, WC answered that it is a voluntary position and despite asking for secretarial support on numerous occasions, no volunteers have stepped up so Jacob has taken this position
- AL said some research already present at Wick Curiosity Shop

- WC and Gunther Janke also exploring the possibility of embarking on creative audit of HWFI with Loughborough University, LLDC and UCL
- NS suggested research will be vital for producing responses to planning proposals etc. WC reported that an initial meeting with research institutes to be involved will be arranged within the next 3 weeks or so.
- ND suggested research happening is wonderful because you get a before and after perspective, and tells a useful story in terms of governance. Research is really useful to reveal the story of HWFI
- James, Hackney Pearl suggested that research is important to have from a comparative perspective
- Rebecca, local artist suggested real need for pooling of research. AL happy to host the research resource through the Wick Curiosity Shop website. Stour Space & Wick.info also offered
- Isaac Marrero would like hard copies of research output where possible

Father Reuben Preston from St Mary of Eton Church:

- New Church hall now open, old hall developed into flats. Working with Churches Conservation Trust to put five-year plan together for the site. Church now 'vaguely warm'
- Open call for events or 'happenings' which might be suited to the space, everything is negotiable. In past have had people doing wrestling, dancing, parties
- Welcomes conversation and proposals for use of land
- Please contact Reuben direct on vicar@stmaryofeton.org.uk with any proposals

Karen le Roy Harris (Bow Arts Trust)

- Working with Bow arts Trust and Nunnery gallery developing a project called 'Raw Materials'
- Looking to do three-year project focusing on industrial manufacturing development along the River Lea. First year will look at plastics and Parkesine. Timber yards, furniture businesses along Lea, textile, calico etc then to follow, obvious connection with HWFI
- Partnering with museums and Newham archives, Legacy List, possibly V&A. Will use Nunnery Gallery as space to loan objects and put on display. Also looking to develop an app that will have all objects on
- Another aspect pursued is artist involvement. Will commission artists to work with the archives who use plastics, textiles, wood etc. Desire to connect with local community groups and to connect people with their heritage
- Please contact Karen to get involved karen@karenleroyharris.com

Further announcements:

Will Teasdale (LB Hackney):

- Run Hackney 2015 expecting 15000 runners. 10th May. A lot of people in area, finishes in Olympic Park.
- On Sunday 10th May 2015, Hackney will close its roads to cars and open them to thousands of runners for the second year of the Vitality Run Hackney 2015. The weekend will act as a signpost to the incredible range of sports and recreational facilities accessible across the borough whilst

also highlighting the cultural assets that Hackney has to offer. The Half Marathon will start in Hackney Marshes and pass local landmarks, including Hackney Empire and Broadway Market, before running through the iconic Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park. This Council-backed event is set to offer a truly unique running experience this summer.

- Vitality Run Hackney Half Marathon will start at 9:00am on the Sunday morning and expects to attract 15,000 runners. For many, crossing the finish line will be a lifetime achievement with a large percentage of runners raising money for their chosen charities. In addition there is also the Run Hackney Schools' Challenge event which will begin at 9:20am, once the half marathon runners have set off, with local school children running a mile to complete their half marathon challenge. We also run a free 5K race open to 2,000 local residents on Saturday 9th May at 3:00pm.
- We are really keen to make Run Hackney bigger and better this year with the support of local businesses and organisations. We would like to advertise Run Hackney among the local business community to:
 - 1. Activate local businesses along the route, giving business the opportunity to show what they have to offer, whilst energising runners and spectators along the route.
 - 2. Recruit volunteers to assist in the Race Village and along the route.
 - 3. Recruit bands / dance groups / choirs / entertainers and anyone who wants to make some noise, to perform at the Race Village and along the route.
 - 4. Communicate the road closure and traffic access information to minimise impact on the local community.
 - 5. And of course recruit runners to run in Run Hackney 2015.
- I have attached some information about the volunteer program and entertainment , and will be able to send on the road closure information next week.
- We would be very grateful if you would consider this unique opportunity to be part of a very exciting event and pass this information around your networks.
- If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch with Samantha Allen on samantha.allen@go2events.org.uk.

Sally, Manager Hub67:

- Open 5 days a week. Working with London residents to put on activities. Connect with Hub67on twitter

Graeme Evans and Ozlem Edizel - Hydro Citizenship:

- 22nd March is World Water Day. Lea Valley authority planning a cycle down south on river Lea. Along Thames Barrier park and following Greenway
- Hydro citizenship project will be engaging at the beginning and end of it. Please see details. Free event but registering necessary

Happy dance:

- Will be at Here East Summer 2016. Building studio space for dancers to live (metaphorically). Looking for potential collaborations and to nurture dance artists and other artists from different disciplines

- Similar to Echo project in that they given free studio time in return for creative learning activities with schools and groups in the local area etc. Trading model for the space. Open 2016

Josh Strauss, (The Wash/Wick Radio):

- Recently opened small café in Well Street called 'The Wash'
- Open to activities with local residents. Sara Karpanen will be curating events including film screenings, artists performances etc., planned for May 2015, this will be the first live music event and will be broadcast live on Wick Radio (regular broadcasting live from the café every other Sunday)
- Live musicians need support and so do we. Community oriented events space – would love to keep this going.

HWFICIC/Creative Wick:

- Sara Karpanen and William Chamberlain will launch Creative Wick Art Tours shortly. Contact SK or WC to be included on a tour: sara@creativewick.com or william@creativewick.com
- Running on Wednesdays and Sundays from April 12th

Reminder: Please send any email addresses to add to the CIG mailing list to info@hackneywick.org and remember to circulate CIG emails to your network.

The next CIG is at 9.30am on Friday 10th April, at The Kerb Clubhouse, 105 Monier Road, Fish Island, Tower Hamlets, London E3 2PS

Please send any agenda items to me before then and as ever, please tell anyone you think should be there to join us.