

# Hackney Wick Fish Island | Cultural Interest Group

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Minutes of the meeting of Friday 9th May 2014  
Held at: Here East, Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, London E20

*"Helping to establish a permanent, sustainable, creative community in Hackney Wick."*

## **In attendance:**

Rachel Falconer (Space Studios – The White Building)  
Chris Charley (Random Dance)  
John Long (Igloo Regeneration)  
Ashton Mullins (Hackney Wicked)  
Silvia Dudslyte (Hackney Wicked)  
Jenni Carbins (Mark London/Here East/East Village)  
Adriana Marques (LLDC)  
Daren Ellis (See Studio/Wick Newspaper)  
William Chamberlain (Chair)  
Coby Walsh (Stour Space – secretary)  
Gill Wildman (Plot London)  
Emily Keightley (Loughborough University)  
David Buckingham (Loughborough University)  
Tom Seaton (Counter Café/Crate Brewery)  
Neil McDonald (Stour Space)  
Mara Ferreri (QMUL)  
Hajni Semsei (Arbeit/Arebyte)  
Lorenza Peragine (Arebyte/Spontaneous Combustion Festival)  
Ozlem Edizel (Hydrocitizenship)  
Lee Murrell (E20.org)  
Leanne Hoogwaerts (Legacy List)  
Lucy Oliver-Harrison (The Yard Theatre)  
Will Teasdale (LB Hackney)  
Simon Cole (Hackney Tours)  
Nancy Stevenson (University of Westminster)  
Paddy Looney (CadPlan)  
Clare Pike (Gainsborough Primary School)  
Jason Vincent (Lendlease)

Items discussed:

## **1. Here East update - Gavin Poole, CEO**

Gavin Poole gave a presentation on Here East, what it is and what they hope to achieve.

- Formerly known as iCITY, Here East is a joint venture between Delancey and Infinity SDC. 3 years in the making, Here East will take over the ownership and responsibility of the 1.2 million sq ft site on the Olympic Park formerly known as the International Press and Broadcast Centre. It will become “a campus that combines business, technology, media, education and data in the pursuit of innovation” and will be the first of its kind.
- Here East was expected to get the keys to the building on the 14<sup>th</sup> May and from that point on they can start the development and construction of the site from Autumn 2014.
- The overall aim of Here East is to be “made of its makers”, a theme heavily emphasised by Gavin Poole during the presentation. They are aiming to be a hub of innovation in making (for example new 3D printing developments) and their structure will very clearly be focused on this concept of makers.
- Gavin stated that although they are funded by property developers (Delancey), they are not property developers themselves.
- Gavin and Here East recognise what is going on in Hackney Wick and they want to act as a kind of “handshake” between Hackney Wick and the Olympic Park. They are in talks with SPACE Studios about space management roles within their company.
- It was stated that Here East is not just a building project, they have a long term commitment to the local community and social supply chains. They have turned down large companies that wanted to lease the entire space as the goal is to have small businesses fill the space. There will also be retail space available, for food, cafes etc along the gantry of the building.
- The project will be completed in 3 stages from 2014-2016, with the entire site completed and open in April 2016.
- Next year, Here East will be host to the Maker Faire (<http://makerfaire.com/>), which marks the first time the Faire has been hosted in London, and is expected to bring footfall of approx. 50,000-80,000 visitors per day over the course of the 4 days of the Faire.
- They will be producing a short film of the site soon, using drone cameras and this will be released, to demonstrate the huge potential of the space.

## Q&A

Q: “Does Here East have an integration strategy to Hackney Wick?”

A: Not yet formally published, but they are fully committed to cementing that integration. Gavin also noted that they feel this is a two way street and Hackney Wick should also be looking at ways to integrate also.

Q: “Do you have any plans to incorporate sports/leisure in some way into the building?”

A: No, they won't be putting in a gym or any sports centres into the space. As Gavin put it, they are surrounded by sports centres of the highest calibre, so why compete? However they plan to develop a cycle hub in the space, to cater for the large amount of cyclists they hope to attract.

## 2. Fish Island Labs – William Chamberlain

Will announced at the meeting that he is working with The Trampery and the Barbican to bring a new venture, Fish Island Labs, into the 1<sup>st</sup> floor of Swan Wharf.

Aiming to open in June 2014, Fish Island Labs will encompass a digital laboratory of up to 50 emerging practitioners of new technologies, and they are accepting project applications now. See <http://www.barbican.org.uk/fishisland> for details of what they are looking for in applicants, and what else will be going on in the Labs.

### **3. Spontaneous Combustion Festival 2014 at Arebyte Gallery - Lorenza Peragine**

- Lorenza gave an update on the Spontaneous Combustion Festival happening this year at Arebyte Gallery. A 2 day festival on July 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup>, there is currently an open call for dance/performance artists to take part.
  - Please read on for more details from Lorenza: "Spontaneous Combustion is a festival of dance and performance.
  - On its 4th year, the festival aims at creating opportunities for artists and audiences to exchange knowledge and continuing a debate on the definitions of dance, performance art and theatre. The festival features a two-day programme of performances happening in outdoor and indoor locations in Hackney Wick and Bethnal Green, free and open to all. A 2-week residency programme will invite artists working across visual art and performing arts. A selection of free workshops will offer the opportunity to various audiences to engage their body and try different dance styles."
- <http://www.spontfestival.com/>

### **4. Hydrocitizenship - Ozlem Edizel**

- A new project based from Middlesex University, Hydrocitizenship is a 3 year project looking at water in relation to urban areas. It will focus on 4 case studies including Bristol and the Lea Valley area.
- They will conduct a pilot study and a cultural mapping study. They will be conducting a weeklong session in Swan Wharf from the 20<sup>th</sup> June, more information to come at the next CIG meeting.

### **5. CIG Updates**

- The Hackney Wick.org website is due to be updated and developed in the near future. Funding is needed for this, hence the delays in its development.

Q&A:

Q: "What are the costs of the CIG, as members we would like to know where the donations are going in terms of keeping this running?"

A: The CIG will soon have a formalised list of what donations are made, what they are used for, and it will be transparent and available for public reading. As a note, Will stated that it is support as well as donations that keep the CIG going, for instance people donating their time for free and the use of free studio space in local buildings.

### **6. Hackney Wicked Update**

Submissions for Hackney Wicked are open, with a deadline of 1<sup>st</sup> June. They will start publicising this shortly, for more information please visit <http://www.hackneywicked.co.uk/programme/event/submissions>

Reminder: Please send Will emails to add to the CIG mailing list, and please remember to circulate the CIG emails to your own contacts.

**The next CIG meeting is at 9.30am on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> June at the Cre8 Life Style Centre,  
The Old Baths  
80 Eastway  
Hackney Wick  
London  
E9 5JH**

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