

**NOTES OF 23rd CANNING TOWN RESIDENTS' STEERING GROUP MEETING
HELD VIRTUALLY ON 16.6.22 at 6pm**

AGENDA

	Item:	Item Lead:
1.	Welcome and introductions	Howard Mendick
2.	Newham Heritage Centre	Rosie Murdoch
3.	Design Team update	Ricardo Bobisse, Shade Abdul
4.	Engagement	Algina Kamara
5.	Newman Francis	Howard Mendick, Kamahl Ahmet
	Any other business	All

Present:

Residents:

Ibironke O
Sheila A
Mustaf M
Edward R
Ameerah S
Fawsia E
Judith J

NewmanFrancis, resident advisors:

Kamahl Ahmet – Project Worker
Howard Mendick – Chair

London Borough of Newham:

Algina Kamara – Resident Involvement Manager

Faraz Kayani – Regeneration Estates Manager

Design Team (Jestico & Wyles)

Sade Abdul – Community Engagement Lead
Ricardo Bobisse - Co-Design process

Presenting

Rosie Murdoch - Heritage Centre development

Apologies for absence:

Faye L
Helen Al

Notes (from recording): Clare Maybury

1 Welcome and introductions

- 1.1. Introductions were made and Howard / Kamahl welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Heritage Centre

- 2.1. Rosie explained she had been employed by the Council to work on a new Heritage Centre in the Canning Town Library, using 'levelling up' funding, to help create economic and social benefit for all. The existing Heritage Service was an archive based at Stratford Library.
- 2.2. The existing archive did not reflect the more recent past and Newham's diversity. Events celebrating Newham Heritage Month could be found at www.newhamheritagemonth.org. Photos could be found by googling "Newham photos Canning Town".

- 2.3. A **“Visioning” workshop** would take place for residents to start getting involved in decisions about the centre, along with businesses and organisations:
- 2.3.1. When? *7 July 1pm-5pm*
 - 2.3.2. Where? *Community Links’ first floor Grand Hall*, including a site visit to the Old Library.
- 2.4. None of those present had heard about the plans. Rosie explained heritage should be about people’s stories and what they think are the important events and asked for people’s memories. These included their memories of using the building for its after-school club, internet facilities and advice-support services.
- 2.5. People said they missed the presence of the library in the area, and felt the new one was too hidden away. The Centre could be a good youth centre and focus for young people in general, as well as their parents, engaging different parts of the community in different ways. An advice centre would also be helpful. Judith added that she was interested in the myths about the area held by those outside, an interest shared by many of the older residents.
- 2.6. In answer to questions, Rosie explained the centre would need to tell the story of Newham; provide a meeting space, and potentially be a gallery showcase for local art or exhibitions. The centre would be in addition to the existing library behind Rathbone Market, working alongside Community Links, with a signposting service.
- 2.7. The Design team had met Rosie and welcomed further opportunities for engagement, including the possibility of “meanwhile use” sites.
- 2.8. Rosie clarified her role would enable her to do further fundraising beyond the Heritage Centre development, (such as from the Lottery), to ensure it could continue to run for the next five years and engage with local communities.
- 2.9. **ACTION: Anyone wanting more information or to get involved in the workshop** on 7 July, to email Rosie: Rosamond.Murdoch@newham.gov.uk. Rewards and recognition would also apply for reps attending the heritage workshops.

3 Design Team update

- 3.1 Ricardo shared a presentation and explained the Design Team’s recent activity in considering **technical implications** of the programme (flooding, air quality, ecology for example), in relation to Planning and other relevant authorities
- 3.2 Rokeya had attended the recent Launch event to promote the **Leap micro-AD system** presented at the last meeting, and the team were working on incorporating her ideas.
- 3.3 The programme for the **Summer** would be very busy, with a focus on resident and family involvement. From September opportunities for engagement would decrease, although there would still be resident input on the design. For now:
- 3.3.1 The team would be at **The Hub** on *Wednesdays and Thursdays from 22 June*, for the duration of the project;
 - 3.3.2 Shade would be interviewing residents about their **life stories**.

- 3.3.3 There would be a **Co-Design workshop** held both on *Thursday 23 June at 6.00pm via Zoom* and *in person Saturday 25 June at 12:00 in the Trinity Centre Hub*, to consider the masterplan and approach, and to see the emerging thinking about the Vincent St site. All were encouraged to advertise the workshops and attend. Booking was not required. The information, gathered and sorted, would be exhibited locally;
 - 3.3.4 There would be at least three estate walks, to be advertised on Co-Create and at The Hub, to progress the team's understanding of the local area. These would have a positive, forward-looking focus;
 - 3.3.5 In mid-July a second workshop about Vincent Street would take place, with some elements of co-design if possible;
 - 3.3.6 Plans were taking place for an exhibition at the Community Hub to share and exchange ideas and thoughts about the development.
- 3.4 Asked about his reference to a "potential regeneration programme" and how secure the programme actually was, Ricardo reassured those present that he had been referring to the fact there would be a ballot for residents to sanction the plans.
- 3.5 **ACTIONS:**
- 3.5.1 **Shade** to contact Kamahl to set up interview dates for the life stories project
 - 3.5.2 **Ricardo** to circulate workshops invitations

4. Engagement update

- 4.1 The meeting discussed May's **Launch Event** at the Canning Town Hub . Asked for feedback, those present talked about activities such as Ghanaian drumming, steel pan, complimentary ice cream, face painting, workshops, and the chance to speak to the Mayor of Newham. The atmosphere had been positive and there was a good level of interest, with over 50 residents in attendance.
- 4.2 There were concerns that the **building** was of poor quality and could have been better organised and signposted, with space for private conversations. Issues such as safety, aesthetics, signposting, access, location and transport needed to be addressed before further events took place there. Custom House Hub was in a far better position for local residents, with transport links and a presence in the community in an existing shop-front. It was agreed that although there could be pop up activities throughout the regen area, it was important to have a permanent Community Hub for Regeneration that people could recognise and get to easily for information and activities.
- 4.3 In response to these concerns, Ricardo explained that, although the points were fair and security issues were important, the Council had now invested money to make the building fit for purpose, and organisation had taken place around its use. Consideration would need to be given as to how to make the best use of the current situation and meet all the various needs, in particular addressing the **North-South divide** and use of subways. Judith suggested using some of the Heritage funding toward ensuring those on the North side of the A13 felt involved, and suggested the Council may need to prioritise this.

4.4 In response to a further question, Algina explained plans to have a full **programme of events**, with the centre open Mon-Thurs 10am-4pm every week. This would be advertised outside the centre and in an information pack delivered to residents in July and regularly thereafter. Newman Francis, then the Design Team, Meanwhile Use Projects and Community Initiatives Project would all be making use of the centre at various times.

4.5 **Special interest groups.** The first, concerning *Estate Services, Repairs and Housing* would be launched shortly, initially via Zoom, to be followed in July by the *Homeowners Forum*. Action plans would be formulated by each group.

4.6 The **Community Initiatives** survey feedback had resulted in three main themes:

- 4.6.1 Community safety
- 4.6.2 Improving where you live
- 4.6.3 Economic inclusion

4.7 Residents had been asked to submit their ideas and these had emerged as feasible:

- 4.7.1 Digital project (inter-generational)
- 4.7.2 Improving green space
- 4.7.3 Entrepreneurship and self-employment
- 4.7.4 Youth services
- 4.7.5 Community safety
- 4.7.6 An art gallery in the Beckton Rd subway

4.8 A meeting of the **CI working group** had been set up to develop detailed practical solutions for delivery. From this the top three projects would be selected, to be voted on by residents, then the project cycle would repeat throughout the regeneration process.

4.9 **ACTIONS:**

- 4.9.1 **Design team** and all to regularly review the use of the Trinity Centre
- 4.9.2 **Those interested in attending the Estate Services special interest group** on 30 June between 5pm and 7pm via Zoom, to contact Algina.
- 4.9.3 **Algina** to circulate publicity about the CI working group following the meeting.
- 4.9.4 **Algina** to contact residents after the meeting about the expenses claims process

5. **Newman-Francis update**

5.1 Kamahl gave an update on **outreach**, including plans for sessions in the coming week. This would include spreading information about the Regeneration Hub and its current activities; advertising the Design workshops and picking up any housing management issues.

5.2. **ACTION Howard** to follow up on discussions about the timing and location (online/in person) of the next **Steering Group meeting**.

6. **Any Other Business**

6.1 **Security company dog:** An issue was raised concerning the dog's presence in Beckton Rd area during the week. Residents had not been warned of the guard's presence and, whilst it was welcome, there had been problems with the dog being ferocious and barking.

6.2 **ACTION** Newman-Francis to follow up and enable the discussion outside the meeting.

All were thanked for attending and the meeting closed.

Date of next meeting: Thursday 21 July at 6pm over Zoom