

## NOTES OF 19th CANNING TOWN RESIDENTS' STEERING GROUP MEETING

Thursday, 17 February 2022 at 6pm via Zoom

### AGENDA

	Item:	Item Lead:	Time
1.	Welcome and introductions	Howard Mendick, Newman Francis	6:05pm
2.	Minutes and actions	Howard Mendick, Newman Francis	6:07pm
3.	Engagement Update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- HNS</li> <li>- New panel members</li> <li>- Regeneration hub</li> <li>- Carpenters Estate – study visit</li> </ul>	Algina Kamara, Resident Involvement Manager	6:15pm
4.	Regeneration update	Maeve Dowling, Senior Regeneration Manager	6:45pm
5.	Newman Francis Update	Howard Mendick, Newman Francis	6:55pm
6.	Security Issues - open access blocks	Maeve Dowling, Senior Regeneration Manager	7:25pm
7.	Any other business	All	7:30pm
8	Date of next meeting: <b>Thursday, 17 March</b>	All	

#### Present:

##### Steering Group members:

Ibironke O

Sheila A (SA)

Mustaf M (MM)

Edward R (ER)

Judith J (JJ)

Ameera (AS), observing

##### NewmanFrancis:

Kamahl Ahmet – Project Worker (KA)

Howard Mendick (HM) – Chair

Clare Maybury - notes (from recording)

##### London Borough of Newham:

Algina Kamara (AK) – Resident Involvement Manager

Santokh Kaulder (SK) – Regeneration Manager

Maeve Dowling (MD) - Senior Regeneration

Emma Taylor (ET) Acting Head, Regeneration

##### Apologies for absence:

## 1. Welcome and introductions

1.1. HM welcomed everyone to the meeting and outlined what would be covered.

MD was thanked for leading the Design Stages training workshop for the Steering Group.

## 2. Minutes and Actions

2.1. Minute 4.3 **Visits**: this was discussed at 3.5 and 5.4 below.

2.2. **Refurbishment** schedule –

**ACTION: MD** to follow up with the Repairs team and pass the response on to the group

2.3. Minute 6: **Open access blocks**: Newman Francis had written to Darren Levy to ask about additional security measures, as a number of residents had raised this. They had also requested information about open access across the borough, as this was now an out-dated model. Mona St and Becton Rd were likely to be ahead on this, in the programme.

2.4. Minute 2.3 **Public realm**: Works on the green spaces would happen in the next six weeks.

2.5. Minute 2.4 Residents had not noticed **communal noticeboards** being used to update them.

**ACTION: NF** to follow up with the Repairs team on the use of communal noticeboards.

## 3. Engagement Update (AK):

3.1. The **Housing Needs Survey** was still only 47% complete, with a target of 70%. Outreach had begun on 15<sup>th</sup> Feb and members were encouraged to check with friends and neighbours that they had completed it, and to pass on any gaps to NF.

Outcomes from the survey would have an important impact on the Design Team's work and there is now a tight deadline to meet the target at the end of the month.

3.2. New **Steering Group members** are needed as numbers had decreased and additional members were needed to extend the number of panels, including in areas such as Community Initiatives and the Procurement panel, which were already in place. The Welcome Pack has been signed off and it is currently with the Communications Team. Residents would be able to apply on paper or online and there would be information, training and support. Currently around 70 people were interested. AK and HM would be working together on recruitment.

### **ACTIONS**

- **All** to pass on names of anyone interested in becoming a panel member to AK/HM.
- (Previous action) **AK** to talk to IO about the film clip once the welcome pack is signed off

3.3. The launch of the **Regeneration hub** at the Trinity Centre is still pending. It would be the main location for residents' drop-in sessions and an events and social hub, and would give the regeneration programme a presence in the community. Both the Trinity Centre and Canning Town library has been considered and, while neither was ideal, a start would be made at the library, to be reviewed in a few months' time. The Hub would be open in the coming week, subject to confirmation, from 10:00-16:00pm, one day a week. This was likely to be a Wednesday or Thursday, and evening sessions may be developed, based on demands.

Responding to questions from IO regarding opening dates and times, AK explained that the proposed dates / times could increase over time, but that this was an initial trial based on venue and staff availability, as well as expected visits from residents. Considerations would also be given to early evening sessions to catch those at work and to monthly weekend reach-out days, which were working well at Custom House.

3.4. AK mentioned that the **Community initiatives** plans has been signed off by ET, and the task group would restart shortly.

**ACTION AK** to contact interested members concerning the Community Initiatives task group.

3.5. The **study visit to Carpenters Estate** had been planned for 25 Feb. Following discussions, it was agreed to postpone the visit to a Friday in March.

**ACTION AK** to seek new dates and times for the Carpenters visit from all involved.

3.6. It was agreed that the **visit to a refurbished home**, postponed due to the severe weather, would now take place on **25 February**, and would be open to all residents.

AK was thanked for her update.

#### 4. **Regeneration Update** (MD and SK):

4.1. As explained at the workshop, some of the **Project Stages** would move faster than others, and things were now moving into a more active stage. Procurement had taken place and the preferred bidder had been chosen. Further internal checks and signing-off would be needed before official notifications are made.

4.2. There is a preferred bidder for **Project Management Services**. Once this is agreed, they would be a technical team to support the redevelopment work and they would attend some steering group meetings.

4.3. MD informed the group, informally, of the appointed bidder for the masterplan lead consultant Jestico and Whiles. They have experience of large regeneration schemes, a good knowledge of the local area and would use smaller teams of sub-consultants to help in developing designs, which should be beneficial. MD thanked the Steering Group members who had given residents' input to the procurement process. The contractor would be invited to steering group meetings once discussions had begun on the way forward.

MM and IO agreed the chosen company had put a lot of research in and had been Enthusiastic, including talking about ways to bridge Canning Town north and south.

It was noted the masterplan design team would be working with the Steering Group for at least a year.

As part of the process in Custom House, the steering group there were receiving a workshop on aspects of design, and one on waste management. Interest from the CTRSG was gauged and the response was positive.

**ACTION MD** to send dates to members for workshops in Design and Waste Management.

4.4 Asked which 3 **estates** she had been referring to in her project stages workshop Presentation (p3), MD explained that this had been agreed last year as a way for the GLA to categorise and describe the existing redevelopment area, namely:

- north of the A13 (Mona, Aviary and Beckton)
- south of the A13 (Lawrence St, Forty Acre Lane Maisonettes, Formunt Close, Kennedy Cox House, Bothwell Close), and
- Across the road from Forty Acre Lane (Edwin and Ferrier).

4.5 SK referred to 'homework' given at the recent workshop: Had anyone visited to look at the **new bins** between Rathbone St and Morrisons, and could report who was using them? MM and SA had both seen the new, underground system in operation and had been impressed with the innovative, hygienic design, which included recycling, but queried the disparity with other bins nearby. SK explained this was among the first trials of the design in Newham and showed the importance of good design in waste management.

Residents were encouraged to continue looking around the area and getting ideas to feed into the consultants' plans.

4.6 A letter would be going to residents to confirm that, following government guidance, the **Covid test centre** currently on a vacant site at Trinity St / McDowall Close would shortly be decommissioned and removed by March.

4.7 The **Countryside storage compound** access point at Formunt Close was due to begin use in the coming week. Residents confirmed the work had already started. It was noted that income generated from the rent of the site would go into the Community Initiatives Project.

Asked whether the late start on the project – two months after the planned date - would affect the overall timetable, SK explained that the final date for the works had been specified and would need to be completed within that time. Only part of the site was being used.

MD and SK were thanked.

## 5. Newman Francis Update (HM/KA):

- 5.1. The **Housing Needs survey** would continue to be collected from this week onwards, and there would be an increase in door-knocking and community contact, with an on-site presence at least twice a month until the Hub site was operational.
- 5.2. Steering group **training** would be arranged and delivered, and the **newsletter** produced.
- 5.3. Residents were asked if they wanted to follow the Custom House group in starting to hold **in-person meetings**. It was noted that the Council would pay for childcare costs for a registered childminder if this were needed and suitable. In discussion, it was agreed that further consideration was needed, but that a combination of both real and virtual could work best, i.e. a physical meeting with a zoom link for those unable to attend in person. This would require Wi-Fi in the chosen meeting-space. A follow-up, shorter zoom meeting with those unable to attend was on trial at Custom House, and daytime meetings could be considered.
- 5.4. The **visit to Lawrence St** planned for 18 Feb had been postponed. (see Action below)
- 5.5. **AS** had been attending meetings as an observer and wished to join the Steering Group. She spoke about her reasons and how she had managed to push for improvements at Forman Close since moving in a year ago, and she **was warmly welcomed to the steering group**.

#### **ACTIONS:**

- **Newman-Francis** to contact the library concerning the possibility of evening shifts
- **Steering Group** to discuss further a possible transition to in-person meetings
- **All** to send preferred dates for Lawrence St visit to HM/KA

#### **6 Security Issues - open access blocks (MD):**

6.1 This was discussed at item 2.3

#### **7 Any other business:**

- 7.1. **ET** introduced herself and looked forward to working with everyone.
- 7.2 **SK** noted this was his last meeting before going on paternity leave until June. He thanked everyone for their dedication over the last 19 months and looked forward to hearing progress on his return.
- 7.3 There was a **mouse infestation** in the Formunt Close building and others locally, which seem to be escalating. The Housing Officer had been made aware and the issue had been raised with the council before.

**ACTION All** to discuss and receive update on the mouse infestation at the next meeting.

7.4 There was a discussion of problems accessing the LBN website (My Newham portal) at weekends. It was noted there had been some recent updates and that one solution may be to create a new password and try again.

7.5. **ACTION All** to send agenda items for the next meeting to NF.

The meeting was closed

**8 Date of next meeting:**

Thursday, 17 March 2022 at 6.00pm