

NOTES OF 16th CANNING TOWN RESIDENTS' STEERING GROUP MEETING
Thursday, 18th November 2021 @ 19:00 via Zoom

Present:

Steering Group members:

Sheila A (SA)
Mustaf M (MM)
Judith J (JJ) – Chair
Ibironke Oi (IO)
Helen A (HA)
Edward R (ER)

London Borough of Newham:

Santokh Kaulder (SK)
Maeve Dowling (MD)
Algina Kamara (AK)

Presenting:

LBN Repairs team

NewmanFrancis:

Howard Mendick (HM)
Kamahl Ahmet – Minutes

Apologies for absence:

Sade R – Could not make it
Ilona B – has moved out of Newham

1 Welcome and introductions:

Howard Mendick welcomed everyone to the meeting and outlined the agenda and what would be covered. He also led on introductions and introduced the new arrivals to the meeting.

2 Greg – Housing repairs programme

Greg introduced himself and his company to the group, explaining the type of work RMS (Greg's company) has done already for the Newham borough. RMS deliver the responsive repairs maintenance service, renewing 350 kitchens a year and 550 bathrooms is a year at 1.5 million pounds.

RMS have been asked to put together a Meares Repairs Recovery programme. This programme consists of 3000 outstanding repairs. Greg stated that he and his company will be contacting residents to inform them that they are a part of this recovery programme, there are around 190 properties that need to be contacted over the next few weeks. They have a dedicated team who will be working on this.

2.1 After the presentation Steering group members then asked a series of **questions:**

How does the repairs service link into the refurbishment programme? - Howard

The refurbishment programme and Repairs Recovery programme are very interlinked. Jon and Greg discussed this and have agreed that they will work in a collaborative way. They want to get properties up to standard and do not want to "step on each other's toes".

Repairs recovery programme – how do you determine these outstanding repairs? - Ronke

The repairs recovery programme is specific to meares properties. The repairs that Meares didn't do, there were properties that they did not attend. We will be focusing on this.

Who is going to pay for the repairs? – Ronke

Meares said they will pay for the repairs; however this is not for certain. Greg has stated that he has no involvement in who pays, he also stated that Meares have a moral duty to pay for these repairs.

Dami added that it would be the councils legal duty to pay for the repairs in the event that Meares do not.

Maeve and Santokh will be having regular meetings with Jon and his team to keep up to date with the repairs to report back to the group.

The next time Greg comes back, can he demonstrate how Jon and Greg work together?

Greg agreed to demonstrate/present this at the next meeting.

Sheila's neighbour had her shower and kitchen repaired, when the repairs were done, they did not provide her with seats and she cannot see through her peephole – Sheila

Greg took note of the address of the property and will get one of his employees to contact the neighbour tomorrow.

HM thanked Greg for a great presentation, as did everybody else. We agreed to inform Greg on the residents feedback we receive regarding the repairs and Greg encouraged this. Greg left the meeting early but was thanked and invited to stay. We agreed that it would be best for Greg to come every two meetings instead of every month.

3 Dami regarding the Meares situation

Dami stated that there was not a lot of difference with the Meares situation. The residents of Custom House and Canning Town residents have been moving on with their notice, those who are willing to go with the process are being made offers. There are some residents however who are still dissatisfied.

There has not been a policy change from the previous difficulties. When any notable updates do happen, Dami will be sure to report them back.

Judith added that politically the Meares situation was an “absolute mess” that should never have happened. However, Judith is thankful for the officers that we have currently. Judith would also like to remain as the chair of our steering group. Sanktokh thanked Judith for her honesty.

Judith said that it is refreshing to see that these new officers are very caring and she can see a difference.

4 Regeneration hub: Maeve Dowling

The idea of the regeneration hub is for it to act the same as the Custom House regeneration hub. The two location options are the Trinity Centre at Bothwell Close or the Library on the north of the A13.

4.1 Maeve asked what the preference in location would be and would the regeneration hub be a good idea.

There were mixed responses regarding where the best location of the hub would be, however all agree that it is a good idea for it to exist. Regarding the location, it was agreed that people would not want to use the subway in the winter to get to the Library.

Dami added that the hub would need to be located in a place where everybody would walk by, notice it and pop in to take a look at what it is.

ACTION Steering Group: The location of the regeneration hub conversation has been parked for another day, every body should have a think about what the best option would be.

5 Canning Town Times - Santokh

Santokh stated that his group are holding off on releasing the Canning Town times. As the Meares tenant situations have almost passed, there are two blank pages due to the removal of the Meares section. We would like to use ½ of the A4 paper to fill in and speak about the appointment of the design team.

This is the launch addition of the Canning Town Times. After launching this, Santokh and Algina will speak to the editorial panel about the frequency of the Canning Town Times to gauge a better understanding of it. Santokh would also like to get feedback from residents.

ACTION SK: if you have somebody who would like to share a story or anything you think we can include on the other side of the paper please contact Santokh by December's meeting.

6 Newman-Francis update:

KA / HW

First Housing Needs Survey (HNS) session went well. We were able to collect a couple of HNS's back and help residents fill out 6 in the few hours that we were there. It was good to be in the community and have some F2F talks with residents, residents did point out that they preferred this to receiving the paper documents.

A lot of residents were willing to fill the HNS once we showed them how easy it was. The paper document seemed to promote a kind of neglect towards actually making the effort to complete the survey. Walking each resident through it was very effective, as well as explaining why the HNS was so important for their future in Canning Town.

Some of the tenants also were not clear on what they were entitled to. This may be something that we can include on the Canning Town Newsletter we are preparing.

Howard added that it was a very good opportunity to get out into the community and speak to residents about the regeneration. It was evident that the residents are looking forward to the regeneration process. NF's work going forward, we would like to bring new people into the group to ensure that we remain as an active group, working hard for the community.

7 AK Procurement Planning Dates

Action AK: Circulate the schedule that gives you all the different dates for any upcoming events and activities.

The community initiatives projects were launched this year. Algina would love some feedback on the Community Initiatives Survey as well. Sheila and Mustaf were involved in creating this survey along with some Custom House residents, the plan is to get this out in January.

The next meeting is on the 16th December 2021. We would like to have this meeting F2F at the Canning Town library. It is possible to do it earlier, if the Steering Group would prefer this.

8 Other Business:

8.1 MD Procurement panel meeting will take place in Dockside, Santokh and Maeve have agreed to organise cab rides for Judith and Ronke to take them to the meeting. This series of meetings will take place on the 7th, 8th and 9th December.