

Haringey Community Centres Network

Standing up for Haringey's community-run Community Centres of all kinds, linking up and supporting each other throughout the sector, and celebrating the widespread and vital range of services and activities carried out on behalf of our communities

Contact HCCN c/o haringeyccn@outlook.com tw: @haringeyccn

Revised Minutes of Core Group held at Selby Centre 4th August 2015 @ 6pm

Attendance included:

From Community Centres - Markfield Project (Sarah Miller); **Haringey Asian Centre** (Santhosh Chandran); **Haringey Irish Centre** (Tony Brennan); **Hornsey Vale Community Centre** (Lynne Brackley, Bob Packham); **Selby Centre / Trust** (Sona Mahtani); **Lordship Rec Eco-Hub** (Dave Morris); **The Ubele Initiative** (Yvonne Field).

Apologies:

Cypriot Community Centre (Susie Constantinides); **Lord Morrison Hall** (DauAldolphus, Philip Udeh);

1. Background to the meeting

1.1 Since the HCCN Deputation to the LBH Cabinet, the core group of the Community Centres has met twice. No minutes were taken at the first meeting, which was an action meeting prior to the proposed call in. This is the first formal meeting of the Core Group since the launch meeting.

1.2 The purpose of the meeting was to give shape to the campaign to save our community centres in Council buildings following the cabinet decision to institute rent hikes and short leases.

2. Dave Morris agreed to chair this meeting.

3. Appointment to Officer Roles for HCCN:

3.1 The following officers were appointed by the meeting:

- Chair – It was agreed that there would be co-chairs – Sona Mahtani and Lynn Brackley, reflecting east and west of the borough.
- Secretary – it was agreed that there would be a joint secretary – Sarah Miller was appointed until December 2015 and supported by Bob Packham.
- Treasurer – it was agreed that Philip Udeh be asked to be the Treasurer. **Action: SM**

4. Call In Process and Outcome:

4.1 The call in process had involved considerable effort, and although unsuccessful, raised considerable awareness amongst councillors of all persuasions about the key issues following the Cabinet decision to approve the report concerning the review on 14th July 2015. It should be noted that this was not the review itself – a full Report has yet to be released.

4.2 It was noted that there had been some press coverage, including a letter from Cllr Vanier to community centres in the Ham and High. Tottenham press would be checked. **Action: LB to circulate**

5 **Contact and Dialogue with Executive members** for regeneration and adults services were visiting centres and would be encouraged to visit all member organisations.

5.1 It was AGREED that the network would lobby councillors to seek further discussion within Labour Group and elsewhere in order to influence this policy and engage the Council in constructive decision making in partnership with community centres to achieve positive outcomes. This would culminate in a lobby of the next Full Council meeting on Nov 23rd.

5.2 It was NOTED that some members felt that the deputation was not the primary tool, and that the energy should focus on community mobilisation.

5.3 It was agreed to invite relevant officers or councillors to the October meeting to ensure that the same Council information was being given out to all centres simultaneously. **Action: Invitation in August to Councillors / Officers – Future Meeting Agenda**

5.4 It was NOTED that there was an urgency on raising independent resources. TB highlighted the potential of a lottery. TB to outline how this would work and identify any regulations and start-up costs at a future meeting. Interested members would consider doing a pilot. **Action: Agenda – Future meeting/Questionnaire**

5.5 It was AGREED to lobby and maybe have a deputation at the next Full Council meeting on Nov 23rd.

5.6 It was AGREED to arrange a meeting between HCCN and relevant Council reps.

6 Future Goals and Direction:

6.1 A broader discussion of the Network's strategies took place and it was agreed that this topic warranted detailed attention. **Action: Questionnaire drawing other members**

6.1.1 **Mission Statement:** The following text has been agreed, based mainly from the launch publicity, the deputation, and the views of the launch meeting:

Community-run Community Centres provide an unparalleled range of diverse services and facilities throughout the borough, based mainly on self-funding and extensive volunteering, saving uncountable sums of money for the Council and statutory services. We promote community cohesion, awareness and empowerment, and all kinds of cultural, educational, social and economic opportunities.

Our Centres are vital and popular community facilities, involving hundreds of the borough's community groups and tens of thousands of local residents who use their facilities. To thrive, such Centres need secure, long-term and affordable leases which enable, promote and guarantee community empowerment and self-management.

Haringey Community Centres Network stands up for Haringey's community-run Community Centres of all kinds, links and supports all those throughout the sector, and celebrates the widespread services and activities carried out on behalf of our communities

6.2 The Community Ownership and Management of Assets (COMA) project was highlighted by Yvonne Field, our Relationship Manager on the First Steps Project. Through this, visits and discussions were being held in other areas including Barnet and Manchester that may highlight good practice e.g. Barnet had 2 centres that were being knocked down and rebuilt for local communities to own and run. In Peterborough there were 21 and in Manchester 15 sites were being mooted.

6.3 It was agreed that the establishment of the network was not simply focused on the Community Buildings Review. The Network's potential was still evolving and it was advised that it was important to have these conversations and make time for them at a future meeting, perhaps after gaining feedback from other members. Some members felt that it was important to build the capacity of centres too and that resources

should be identified and drawn down for this purpose. **Action: Agenda – Future meeting/Questionnaire**

7 Campaigning:

- 7.1.1 It was AGREED that the key messages to get across were that essentially, there was a disconnect between LBH policies and the infrastructure to deliver it as:
- 7.1.2 Not for profit organisations were being unfairly threatened to be charged market rents;
- 7.1.3 Services were being provided by these not for profit organisations at free or no cost;
- 7.1.4 These same not-for-profits were attracting resources into the borough to provide these services and look after facilities;
- 7.1.5 These provisions were relevant to local strategies which could not reasonably be delivered without dynamic and thriving community centres;
- 7.2 It was AGREED that the network would purchase a banner, subject to agreeing a motto/strapline for itself. Various options were considered including:
- 1) Serving the community /
 - 2) supporting the community /
 - 3) empowering the community /
 - 4) valuing people first /
 - 5) centres led by the people we champion /
 - 6) driven by those we seek to serve /
 - 7) led by those we seek to serve
- Action: If you have any ideas, please email the group – do it now!**
Action: Decision required by email for to be on 19th September 2015 – vote now!
- 7.3 It was AGREED to have a Community Centres Week in the first week of November and a Campaign as follows:
- 7.3.1 **9th September evening @ 639** – national launch of Ubele’s report supported by Locality with excellent networking to launch “A place we can call home” about 51 centres from across the UK led by African diaspora centres, (with some local input) – all network members invited. **Email yves@gmail.com for more details**
- 7.3.2 **19th September** 12.00 noon starting at Eric Allin Community Centre, Northumberland Park – March for Homes has been helping to publicise the need for genuinely affordable homes for all. It was AGREED that the HCCN would attend and support the March.
- 7.3.3 **10th October** – Markfield’s Annual General Meeting would highlight the campaign and share information with parents and colleagues.
- 7.3.4 **23rd October** – Catherine West will be running an advice surgery at the Asian Centre.
- 7.3.5 **A Community Centres Week 2nd to 7th November** would incorporate regular and new activities of all kinds run by staff, volunteers and community groups at centres throughout the Borough and enable visiting to the community, councillors and supporters. **It would include:**
- 7.3.6 **Tuesday, 3rd November 7pm @ Asian Centre** – Support Our Centres public meeting. Please invite concerned members of the community and community groups to the meeting. David Lammy and Catherine West will be invited. **Action: Co-chairs and relevant members to invite – date tbc**

7.3.7 **Friday, 7th November 6.30pm @ Irish Centre** – Community Awards Ceremony – TB to provide a written outline for discussion at a future meeting. **Action: TB – Agenda – date tbc**

7.3.8 **Mon 23rd November @ Civic Centre, N22.** Lobby and possible deputation to the next Full Council meeting.

7.4 Communications:

7.4.1 Facebook/Twitter – it was agreed that SM would enable this to happen. **Action: Members AGREED to send in photos for facebook** to info@selbytrust.co.uk

7.4.2 A questionnaire asking about members issues and needs with around 10 questions or less for surveymonkey would be prepared by DM and SM. **Action: DM/SM**

7.4.3 **Contact details** of other members would be circulated on a list. **Action: SM**

7.4.4 **Network New Email Address:** It was agreed that the network's new email address would be hccn@gmail.com [note: haringeyccn@outlook.com has since been set up] and that SM would enable this to be set up. **Action: SM**

7.4.5 **Petition:** DM agreed to prepare the text for a Haringey focused petition. The target was a minimum of 2200 people via the Council's webpage, in order to trigger a debate at a Full Council meeting. **Action: DM**

7.4.6 **Freedom of Information** requests may be needed to access the full Review Report and background data, to ensure that the decisions were being made, utilising the social value reports and identifying future plans.

7.4.7 **Blog:** In the future, articles can be posted on this. This should be set up in wordpress. **Action: SM.**

7.4.8 It was NOTED that resources from our 'First Steps' Locality grant would be available for those willing to take on key tasks and for events proposed in the campaign. Requests would be sent to Philip at info@communitybuilders.org.uk

7.5 Support needs of centres:

7.6 Legal Advice Workshop:

7.6.1 SM of Markfield explained the offer of a trustee with legal expertise in property contract law in the form of a workshop once he had returned from leave. Individual advice to centres was not possible but a workshop may assist centres. **Action: SM of Markfield**

7.7 Support from YF:

7.7.1 YF's remaining time as our relationship / support manager was paid for separately from the resources through First Steps through Locality's support programmes. She asked for feedback about how the network would like to receive support in order to use her time for maximum impact. **Action: Feedback to YF – Network members to discuss**

7.7.2 **University College London – Undergraduates:** YF confirmed that she was in touch with UCL and will be able to attract some undergraduates that could focus on a project to support HCCN e.g. assessing the information and preparing it for dissemination regarding social value reports.

Date of next meeting: 7th September 2015 [changed to 14th Sept, 7pm at Irish Centre. All Centres welcome.