

Minutes Moorings

22nd March 2021

Virtual Zoom Meeting

Attendees:

Beatrice Anaman (BA)

Kate Batchelor (Peabody)

Patrick Eggleston (PE)

Deborah Frimpong (DF) Chair

Claire Hallinan (CH)

Keith Hawe Jones (KHJ)

Gez Kellaghan (Peabody)

Sanaa Khan (SK) Community Researcher

Tracey Megson (TM)

Thelma Obirai (TO) Community Researcher

Giles Piercy (GP)

Derek Sewell (DS)

Welcome

DF welcomed TO and SK

Thelma and Sanaa talked about the community research model they are putting in place in Thamesmead Moorings. This being a paid opportunity for two local people to become community researchers.

Update on lighting

KHJ talked about trying to arrange a walkabout to check on lighting. The aim is to understand what is happening about lighting – are lights working, are there timing issues e.g. some lights coming on during the day in Birchmere Park.

KB talked about Gareth Plunkett from Peabody's Electrical Contacts Manager who has been doing an audit of all lighting across Thamesmead and making emergency repairs when they see lights not working. KB has shared the presentation and google docs map from KHJ and DS with Gareth and he is keen to participate in the walk around.

Also KB's boss Phil Askew, Peabody Director Landscaping and Placemaking would like to join that walkabout. But KB's advice is don't wait for Phil and book time with Gareth.

GK mentioned that Kate is looking at the Peabody lights but the presentation has also been shared with colleagues in RBG and hopefully we will be able to tackle the lights managed by RBG as well.

DS thanked GK and said how helpful it was, as he has been trying to contact RBG unsuccessfully for the past few months.

The Community Research Team introduction

TO and SK were asked if they had other information to share and said they didn't.

KB asked if everyone could do anything they can to support the promotion of the Community Researcher role. DS has already shared the role through the other networks - link below:

Docklands International Festival - update

Adriana Marques (Peabody) and Bradley Hemmings (Greenwich and Docklands Festival) joined the meeting to discuss the plans for this year's festival. They are very keen to work with the community.

Adriana shared a presentation (see attached / link)

Bradley reinforced how keen he is to work with the community to help shape the festival.

In 2021, hopefully, they won't have to do so much social distancing face masks etc.

Thinking for this year and suggestion is that the focus should be on Children and Young People. Bradley showed an image of a giant "playful sculpture" - this would be something that people create on the day - very engaging and fun.

Also talking to Unicorn Theatre, based in Southwark, (the country's leading children's theatre) they are keen to do something with the festival in the Moorings. Also, a hip-hop dance company could be something that could work for the festival - have discussed with Hawksmoor Youth Club.

Finally, Just More productions - interactive food show - very family-friendly.

These are just ideas but want the view of local people. Thinking would be on the August bank holiday weekend (Monday). But could potentially be doing prep work that could be supported before the actual day.

This is part of the overall, Greenwich and Docklands Festival (GDF) which runs from 27th August to 11th September. Everything is free for local people. Happening across Greenwich, Tower Hamlets, Newham and the City of London. In 2021 will be focussed on highly localised work - going to audiences rather than getting people to come to town centres. Also doing events in Royal Docks and Canary Wharf. It is London's largest and longest-running free festival - supported by Peabody amongst others.

Any questions please feel free to contact Adriana on Adriana.Marques@Peabody.org.uk

GK asked if possible to spread over more than one day - Bradley said that he believes there is something special about concentrating things on one day - "circus coming to town". There is also a cost-benefit of doing everything on the same day. Asked what do people think?

Bradley also said working with a local engagement person, starting soon, Alyah Rawat.

Tidy Central Thamesmead - next steps

DS shared a presentation relating to changes he has made to the MNF website relating to the "Tidy Central Thamesmead" initiative.

He has also set up a local Facebook group (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1365450140454847>) and encouraged people to join this group. Keen that it does not become a catch-all for all local concerns but remains focussed on tidying issues - there are a proposed set of rules that Derek has created and asked for feedback on these

The website also has a link to the recent website for reporting litter issues. It does work - don't expect updates but they will respond. DS said that RBG will pick up rubbish but issues to do with lights are being ignored.

Also talked about the local caravan that has been dumped about which there has been a lot of discussion recently. DS has been in touch with the council about this - they were very helpful but did say that the team is under quite a lot of pressure. Council contact told Derek that they are putting up secret cameras to try and catch people fly-tipping. Satti Heir is also happy to come to a future forum meeting(s).

DS mentioned the events they had at the beginning of March. There were two teams out. The key issue is that there are areas where land ownership is "disputed" which causes problems.

KHJ also talked about another area where there is a three-way confusion about who owns the land Peabody, Thames Water or RBG? This lack of clarity allows everyone to say "it's not us".

KHJ mentioned an area where taxi drivers are using it as a toilet and then throwing wet wipes into the brambles – the issue is that the area is not that visible from the road. KHJ's suggestion that Peabody looks at the landscaping of the area and potentially make it more visible. Asked if could get KFC / McDonalds restaurants to look at - could it be made into a sitting area. Currently, there is masses of rubbish: fridges, bags of clothes etc. KHJ has also contacted all three local Cllrs, but had not had any response, which was disappointing. DF mentioned that dates had been changed to accommodate the local Cllrs but that no one has attended since then.

KB responded to the issue of confusing land ownership between RBG and Peabody. This is an ongoing issue and KB stressed how important it is that these issues are highlighted by local people and strongly encourages everyone to keep flagging these issues and happy to help in any way.

KB also mentioned the interesting observation that KHJ had made about landscaping - mentioned that Peabody about to launch a "make a space for nature" grants programme - can get up to £2,000 for green projects such as what KHJ was suggesting. This should be launched in the next few weeks.

KHJ has mentioned doing litter picks with local neighbours. KHJ mentioned another local, notorious, place (near Butts Wood) where there is fly-tipping - is this a place that could be a focus of the "making space for nature" funding?

CH suggested putting up a sign where they are litter picking - and also CH happy to help with getting young people involved.

BA suggested getting chairs and making the space that KHJ suggested a nice place to sit.

DS said that what will make a difference is getting more people involved and supported the idea of advertising that “this is an area being kept tidy by the Central Thamesmead Tidy team”.

AOB

GK will share some the details regarding of some focus groups held on 4 and 14 April. The idea is to reach those who isolated from all other services. There will then be some follow up with the researcher. GK would appreciate our help in cascading this.

CH shared that Hawksmoor Youth Club is hosting lateral flow test from Monday (22) 8am to 8pm today till Sunday.

KH raised the question of how we get can more people to engage with us and TCT. There was a brief discussion. Hawksmoor Youth Club offered to let the building be used for tea coffee and a chat. Other community groups can use their building, just let CH know. DF knows that some do go on Zoom because of their camera. She suggested that we can say to people that they can have their camera turned off. TM encouraged us not to give up for people should get involved when they see what we are doing.

DS thanked Peabody for their effort in the community.

GK reminded us about the Community Voting Day Saturday 27th March 2.15pm-3.30pm. It is an online 'Dragons Den' where residents, get to decide what projects get funding in your community!
<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/thamesmead-mooring-community-voting-day-saturday-27th-march-215-330pm-tickets-142367048675?aff=ebdsoporgprofile> April 19

DF Regarding the Community Researchers, there needs to be a person from the committee or the forum to sit on the interview panel. We do not know the date but will send out a request when available.

Next Meeting: Monday 26 April 6pm