User and Providers Group, Workshop 1
30 January 2025

ATTENDANCE

- **Sandra Sutherland,** Harmony Gardens
- **Nicolette Nichols,** Moselle Community Hub (Fridays)/ Active Change Haringey
- **David Pitcher,** Wheeley Tots and Active Change Haringey
- **Chris Setz,** BWF Resident and Haringey Fixers
- **Ganna Shklyaruk,** BWF Resident and volunteer
- **Firat Bektasoglu,** BWF resident
- **Ruth Green,** local resident and Harmony Gardens volunteer
- **Mike Downs**, local resident, Harmony Gardens and Friends of Lordship Rec
- **Augustine Yeboah,** BWF CC Building Manager, LBOH
- **Baldeep Heer,** Neighbourhoods Project Officer, North Cumberland Park NRC, LBOH
- **Ione Braddick**, BWF Urban Delivery manager, LBOH
- **Angharad Chapman,** BWF Socio Economic Regeneration Manager, LBOH

Facilitators

- **Lisa Taylor**, Coherent Cities
- **Andrea Nolan**, Architecture00
- **Joe Ridealgh**, Architecture 00
- **Alex Russel,** Augarde and Partners
- **Valeria Carrizo**, Augarde and Partners

AGENDA

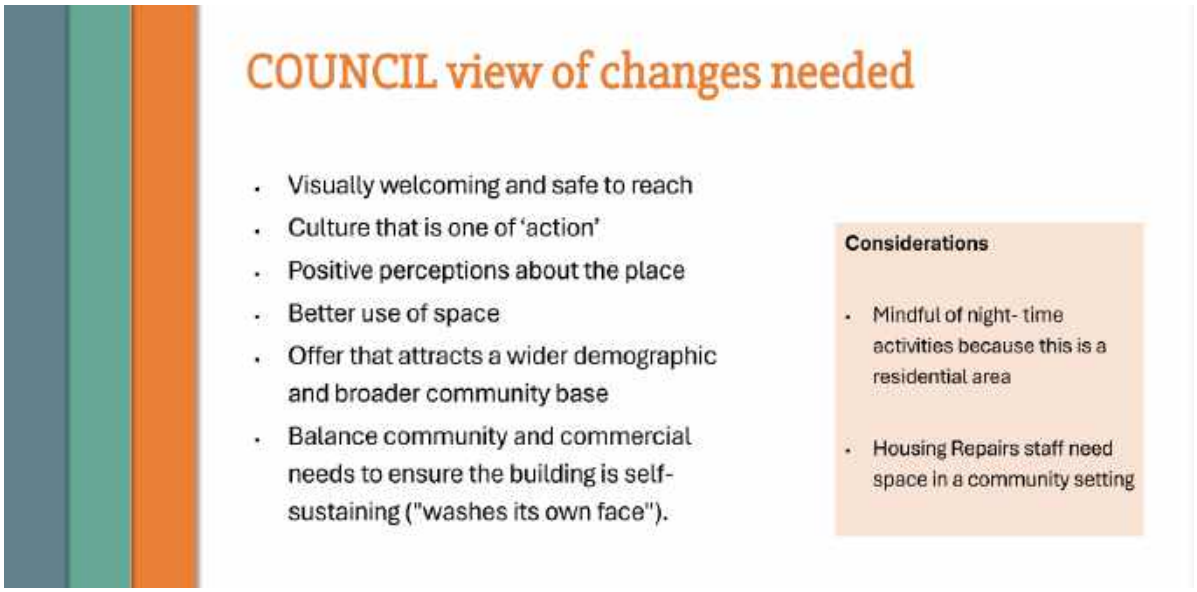
11:00 am	Arrivals, coffee/tea/healthy snacks, hellos
11:15 am	Welcome, thanks & introductions, workshop guidelines
11:25 am	**What we know about the site so far:** Alex & Valeria share the info they've gathered for the group to sense-check
11:50 am	Comfort, coffee/tea break
12:05 pm	**How could specific areas of the site be used differently?** Working in groups and guided by the team, you'll have time consider how spaces inside and outside could work for different users, uses and times of day / week
12:55 pm	Programme next steps and next workshop date; if you can stay a bit after, share feedback on the session

NOTES

1. What we know about the site so far?

Valeria, from Augarde & Partners, summarised some of their findings so far and ask participants if there was something of substance missing.





COUNCIL view of BWF strengths

- Strong local community ties, engagement and established network of partners
- Wide variety of activities on offer
- Accessible to estate residents and the wider local community
- Gateway between the estate and Lordship Rec
- Next to Children's Centre, schools, park and retail units
- Provides valuable link between Council services and residents

USERS AND PROVIDERS GROUP needs

- Collaboration with stakeholders, co-production, transparency and community involvement in decision making
- A hub for intergeneration activities, wellbeing services and community-led activities
- Connection with broader green and public spaces
- Environmentally sustainable improvements
- Better physical access and a welcoming atmosphere

USER AND PROVIDER GROUP view of changes needed

- Better maintenance and infrastructure
- Community perception: stigma attached to the area impacts usage
- Engage under-represented groups and address barriers to participation
- Clarity on management models and whether the centre is a leisure or a cultural space
- Diverse programming
- Improved cleanliness
- Better links with other local centres, green spaces and cultural initiatives: create a network

Feedback from participants

Bigger resident sample? More accurate

- This/today's info is the base: we will go out/seek more information.
- Also, this/ today is to recognise work/time shared to date.
- Also seeking young people's opinions and there's a new survey out at the moment, seeking more input.

Approach: Subsidise (more/all activity) vs Commercial?

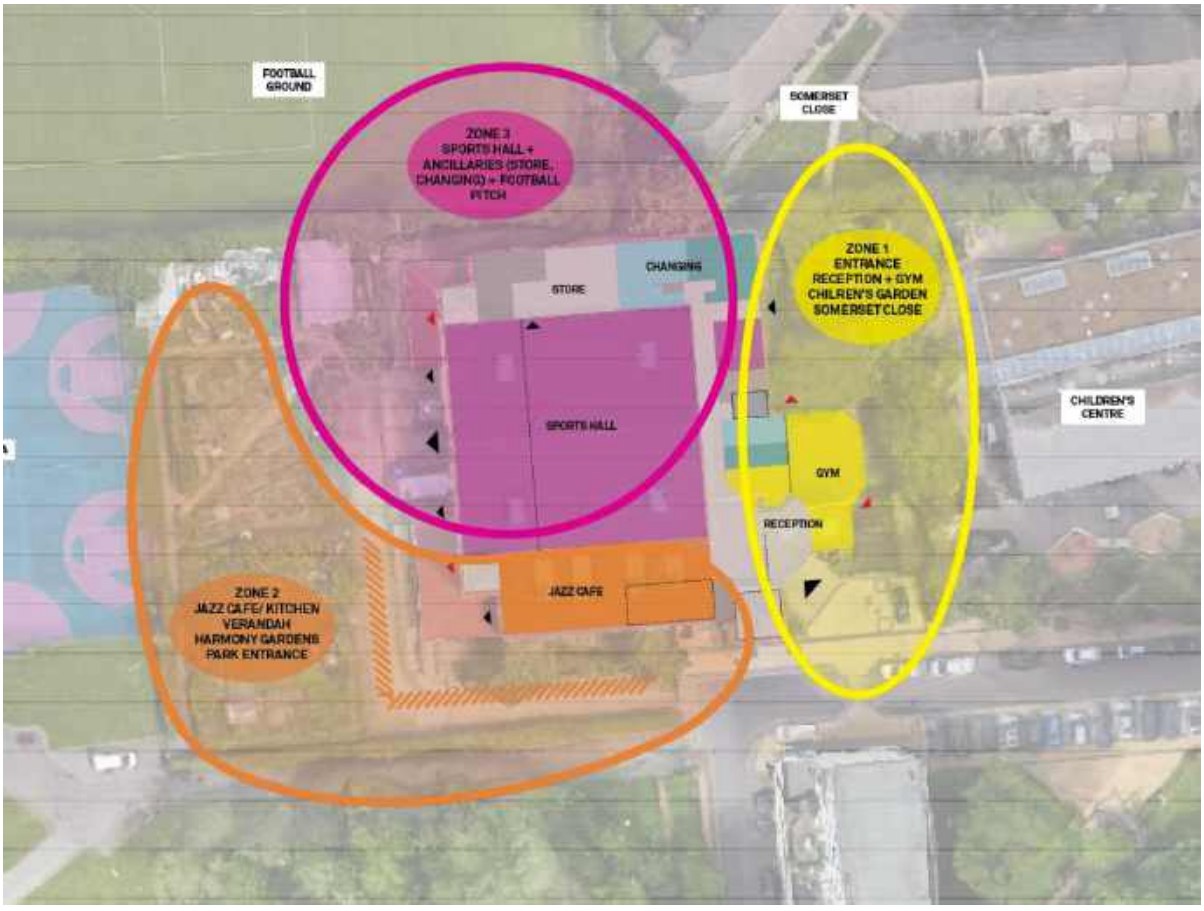
- Not aiming (to turn the centre into an) all businesses/ commercial but will needs some income, sustainable activity, too.
- But what is that (income) from? How much, what percentage (of overall activity?

Gathering information (not) via internet, be creative!

- Ghanaian / Turkish groups / Lordship Rec
- Anyone meeting here, as for 5 min
- Use this group as ambassadors, gathering news.

2. How could specific areas of the site be used differently?

Working in groups and guided by the team, participants considered how spaces inside and outside could work for different users, uses and times of day / week.



Zone 1 (yellow): Entrance, reception, gym, children's garden, Somerset Close

Participants: Valeria (facilitator), Baldeep, Nicolette, Chris and Mike

Storage

- Room at the back of the Main Hall:
- needs another door which allows people to enter it from the corridor (next to the changing rooms) without having to interrupt what's happening at the Hall.
- can be split in 2 and used as a meeting room as well as storage.
- There is another, smaller storage room at the back of the Jazz Café, accessible from the outside. Used by Clasford.
- Storage is currently monopolised by one user.
- Could storage be brought into the main hall? This would free up great space at the back, which can be used for something else.
- Overall agreement that the storage rooms need to be decluttered, and space allocated to current leases and tenants in an equitable manner.

Wayfinding

- Create a route map to get to the centre from diverse locations

Entrance & reception

- Open it up – remove the high doors, make it inviting and relaxed
- Use it for community meetings
- Set up a café selling beverages
- Needs accessible door
- Have a timetable at the front of the building!
- Lots of wasted space – make the space welcoming but putting tables, chairs and a space where people can gather.
- Could put a canopy at the front of the centre, extending from the front door to the steps.

Gym

- Turn it into consultation rooms & bookable spaces
- Example of shared space: The Trampery, Tottenham Living room. Nicolette used to manage it and the community had free access to the rooms

Children's Garden

- The project has been supported by Kew Garden's Grow Well project: wildlife garden, fruit trees and other stuff
- The children centre overlooks the garden, children can see the frog hotel through the fence.
- Open it up to them, with a lockable gate? Feeling that they enjoy the idea of going on a day trip to the garden, as it is at the moment, because they have to leave the school by the front gate, walk down the road and come next door.
- Set up a small stall selling coffee at the reception of the building, with tables and chairs (kitchen is too far, on the other side of the building) so people can sit outside and see their children play in the garden.
- Could improve the linkage with the front of the building and use it as a spill out area for a café (that could be operating from the reception area)

Opening up to Somerset Close

- Should be mindful of ASB – people used to gather by Harmony gardens, at BWFCC veranda, where there is no CCTV. They ended up burning one of the sheds.

- Not completely against the idea of opening it up, but would have to be only during the date, closing the gate once it gets dark, otherwise too much trouble.

Zone 2 – Jazz Café and Gardens

Participants: Joe (facilitator), David, Ganna, Ruth, Harry

Relating to context / Lordship Hub:

- What happens in BWFCC should be complementary to the programme in the Lordship hub. This means scheduling different times of workshop and having a good working relationship - if the yoga grows too large for the space in the hub It could move into BWF. (even though hub is cosy).
- Residents don't feel welcome into the hub and don't recognise the offer there (don't align with or understand the activities happening there)
- There is a playground right by the hub – should there be a playground here?

Gardens / Security:

- Harmony Gardens oppose the idea of taking down perimeter fence, as there is regularly produce stolen from Harmony Gardens.
- Suggestion of CCTV – who watches the garden when the volunteers are not present.
- What if people were around when we are not here? Pro of having more activities in the café that spill out.
- Outdoor training suite for gardening skills/ horticultural training.
- Café /garden relationship – coffee grounds as fertiliser, there was an event where apples grown in the garden were juiced in the café and juice is sold.
- Car access is still needed to the garden, but not necessarily lots of parking – potential of exploring a shared surface.
- Exploring having a water butt underground.

Schools:

- Willow kids learn about plants and animals in the classroom – why not learn outside?
- Fox forest behind the schools – there is a network of spaces to plug into – in the forest they do bushcraft activities.
- Playground by the school is very popular despite being small, but then parents need to walk to the off license or the fish and chips shop at the end of the road for a drink.
- Active Change lead Nordic walking sessions – He had difficulty arranging an intergenerational walk between old people and children at the school – people were sceptical, but it was really well received by the participants – forcing connections helps everyone in the end.
- School classes / children's centre an important connection.
- Children's centre – funding / capacity makes collaborating quite difficult.
- School trips out onto the street and next door.

Outdoor Activities:

- Parents and children
- Parents are key: important that families feel safe, generally they do at BWF
- A playground within the grounds that can be watched from the café, newly opened out to the park corner
- Under the awning is a sunny spot that is pleasant to sit.
- A secure play area, where kids can't run away
- Bar park / street gym like in Northumberland Park
- Water park like in Finsbury Park paddling pools
- SEND Neurodiversity garden / sensory.

- Business Opportunity – Small opp for outdoor business to use the space (I'm not sure exactly what was meant by this)

Kurdish / Turkish communities

- A big community, currently not using the centre, that travel far to use facilities elsewhere.
- Often host events with outdoor cooking and eating - Bbq / Oven.
- Also, keen interest in having growing space, but wanted to have their own plot

JAZZ CAFÉ

General spatial:

- Bins outside to be repositioned so people can easily walk past it, with recycling point.
- Want to see a functioning café that is open most of the day, with projects like Moselle on the other days.
- Seeing in and out of the café is important
- Consider moving the fire door / making that wall feel more open like a regular entrance.
- Café side hatch / we never use the awnings but we should or open exit. – potential hatch through to reception.

Activities:

- Daytime activities should be able to happen while the café is functioning e.g. digital skills, drop ins and project 2020.
- 2 different digital skills sessions happening – people need to trust the provider.
- Table tennis is not compatible with other uses – Potential to move table tennis to sports hall – but have had complaints that it conflicts with the noise in badminton.
- How long is the café open until?
- Café is mainly morning and daytime, and evenings it should cater to classes.
- Food bank: there are 3 food banks currently, could become one. The Food bank in the Jazz café usually uses the fire door entrance anyway.
- Against opening up the café to the sports hall - Football is on every evening and should be contained to the hall, not opening the café up to serve it – there could be other non-football things going on in here in the evenings.
- Evening activities could include: Creative workshops / activities, Youth/ music festivals / movie nights

Other comments:

- Basketball hoops in sports hall have been broken for years
- Aim to work towards a holistic hub, a one-stop-shop – there are lots of names for different projects, how can they come together to get cohesion.
- Funding for independent community groups is a huge challenge – how can they all come together in a strategy?

Zone 3 – Sports Hall

Participants: Andrea and Alex (facilitators), Ione, Sandra, Augustine, Firat

People need in-person connection, especially post-Covid.

Sound baths + older generation classes should take place in more intimate space than the sports hall, though having a tall volume is good so residents feel they can breathe!

LBH should recruit community group leaders to encourage engagement

Current use:

- Main vacancies are weekdays before football, and weekends 9am-1pm (events start at 2pm) Weekend events £1020 + security/ day (2pm onwards) – capacity of hall is 450-500 seated/ 1000 standing
- Football is great for kids up to 14, but after that older boys prefer outdoors/ gyms/ calisthenics in the park

Other activities and proposed uses

- Always though they should have more children's activities, including trampolining, football parties, boxing (they have punch bags and a competition ring, but if they bought training rings they could be really successful!) Portable equipment essential.
- Could there be a permanent soft play that could just use a sliver of the sports hall to make the most of the height? e.g. Sobell Leisure; Quilt Club exhibition was well received.

Older people

- Need opportunities for conversation, talking about culture, heritage, history. Classes and events need to support ageing bodies and wise minds (movement and conversation), e.g.
- Slow stitch sessions (already take place)
- Information sessions with police on security which is a big concern for older people
- Council services providing info including health sessions w/ doctors on diabetes prevention, adoption, baby clinic etc
- Cultural and heritage conversations – with specific subjects/ themes advertised
- University of the third age? Heritage conversations
- Invite external entrepreneurs for employment/ skill fairs/ talks / market stalls / job clubs to expand skill sharing "you could" fair sharing old skills with young people
- Older people's conversations/ interests are also often gendered, as can teenage people's interests

Community notice board – more visible, reason to draw people into building/ share ideas/ events.

Some space for women only or YP only or older generation only.