



Minutes of WaCoCo Networking Meeting – Wed 7th September 2016

Attendees:

R Bridge – Chaplin Close Residents' Association, WaCoCo Chair
D Clarson – ex-WCDG
E Elkington – WaCoCo administrator
A Glarin – Waterloo Community Theatre
K Hamilton – Waterloo Community Development Group
M Johnson – Waterloo Community Theatre
R Leech – Oasis UK

Apologies:

M Beach – Blackfriars Settlement
G Goddard – St John's, Waterloo

1. Conflicts of interest: No conflicts of interest were reported.

2. Minutes of July 2016 AGM and networking meeting: Minutes of the AGM and Networking Meeting held on Wed 6 July 2016 were agreed and signed off. No matters arising were raised.

3. Financial Report

The Chair referred to the pre-circulated finance statement for WaCoCo at 31 August 2016, reporting that the group's finances were in a healthy state, with promised funding from the Lambeth Forum Network of £9,690 for the twelve months until 31 March 2017 now received, with £2,150 set aside for core funding. SBEG would be invoiced shortly for the final tranche the London Eye Community Chest programme funding so that it would in turn be ready to pay out to Community Chest award recipients whose final monitoring reports had been received and final invoices received.

4. Update on monitoring of London Eye community chest grants

It was noted that Natalie Bell had recently been appointed to conduct the monitoring review of the final reports.

E Elkington reported that she had sent all nine award recipients the final report template twice – in July and in August – with a reminder that the final report was due back by Wed 14 September. To-date, she had received the final report, with required backup, from only two - Coin Street Community Builders and SOWN. Extensions had been granted to the Oasis Farm Waterloo and Garden Museum projects. EE agreed to chase by email and/or phone all recipients who had not yet acknowledged receipt of her emails. It was noted that retentions of 10% for projects with below £5,000 of funding and 20% for projects with more than £5,000 awarded, was in operation and would only be paid upon approval of the final monitoring report. It was noted that the July hospitalisation of Michael Ball for an injury might delay the return of the Waterloo Community Development Group's final report and acknowledgement of reminders to complete it.

D Clarson asked about the assessment process and was satisfied that they satisfied due diligence requirements.

5. Update on VID I Media project

The Chair briefly outlined, for the benefit of new attendees unfamiliar with the project, how VID I Media's ethical outdoor advertising proposed partnership with WaCoCo would work.

He reported that the year's-worth of discussions for the first potential project were finally concluding satisfactorily with LCR and a Lease Heads of Terms document between VID I Media and LCR would be drafted within the next few weeks it was hoped.

The Board asked the chair about the agreement between WaCoCo and VID I Media and he undertook to get a draft of this from VID I Media and circulate it to Board when it was available for their comment. At this stage all commitments were still verbal only..

It was likely that there would be a very significant amount of revenue available for WaCoCo to distribute to community-benefitting groups in Waterloo.

R Leech remarked that the next step would be to agree and organise the processes by which WaCoCo would administer and release the funds that the project might generate. The Chair referenced our experience and processes for handling the London Eye grant programme as good place to start, especially in relation to broad eligibility criteria and the best practice WaCoCo had developed in assessing and monitoring of grants over more than 10 years of handling the programme. He also suggested that investment of the funds should be aligned with the outcomes agreed in the Neighbourhood Plan once it is agreed.

It was noted that WaCoCo would need to acknowledge and handled appropriately any potential conflicts of interest that might arise with directors of its board who are also involved in local community organisations who might want to apply for funding

Its was agreed that once a formal agreement had been signed by VIDI Media and LCR that WaCoCo would need to seek feedback from its membership and other local stakeholders on priorities and processes for how the funds should be handled. A formal policy and procedure would then be agreed by the Board.

6. Any Other Business

Waterloo Community Theatre (WCT) introduction

Anna Glarin and Mark Thompson, both representing the Waterloo Community Theatre and attending their first WaCoCo networking meeting, introduced themselves and outlined WCT's history, purpose and aspirations. Anna explained that it was focussing at this stage on developing soft skills (ie interpersonal and communication skills) for local people attending its sessions instead of performing, although it intended to do just this at the Waterloo Carnival in 2017. D Clarson applauded this initiative and added that The Bridge at Waterloo, on whose Board he sat, was committed to supporting local youth become job-ready and might be able to support WCT in practical ways.

7. Date of next meeting: Wed 5 October 2016, 8.30 am start, New Cut Housing Association meeting room, 106 The Cut.