



Minutes of WaCoCo Networking Meeting – Wed 1st March 2017

Attendees:

R Bridge – Chaplin Close Residents' Association, WaCoCo Chair

S Coyte – Lambeth Council

D Clarson – The Bridge at St John's, Waterloo

E Elkington – WaCoCo administrator

K Hamilton – Waterloo Community Development Group

Apologies:

M Beach – Blackfriars Settlement

Rev G Goddard – St John's Church, Waterloo

R Leech – Oasis UK

1. Conflicts of interest: No conflicts of interest were reported.
2. Minutes of last networking meeting: Minutes of the Networking Meeting held on Wed 1st February 2017 were agreed and signed off.
3. Matters arising
London Eye Community Chest – 2017 round
The Chair reported that he had met with Alex Valenzuela of the South Bank Employers Group and Natalie Bell, a consultant working for WaCoCo. Ms Bell had been commissioned to review all the award's documentation (i.e. application form, grant letter and report templates) so that they are all coherent and consistent. This was to make it simpler for award applicants, winners and assessors alike.

It had been agreed that the Assessment Panel would consist of WaCoCo board members with no conflict of interest, Alex Valenzuela, the CRS executive from the London Eye, and two Bishop's Ward councillors.

The draft timetable for the next round was as follows:

- Application forms available from 27 March 2017 and programme advertised
- Deadline for submission of applications
- Natalie Bell to provide assessment of applicants to Assessment Panel by 8 May
- Assessment Panel meeting: 23 May.
- First two weeks of June: notification to all applicants whether they have been successful or not and issuance of grant letters and grants.
- All projects ended by end of February 2018.

The Chair noted that Merlin Entertainments had not yet declared the London Eye's profits for 2016/17, so the exact total sum to be awarded was not yet known but it was

hoped to be around £57,500 for grants. In addition WaCoCo would take its usual £7,500 administration fee of which c. £3500 would be paid to Natalie Bell for her work and the rest would support WaCoCo's annual admin costs.

Conclusion of website update

The Chair showed those present the upgraded WaCoCo website's new features. The changes had been designed to maintain the existing site's look whilst making the site more navigable, with clearer descriptions to some menu headings that had been deemed a little ambiguous before. It was now possible to sign up for the Newsletter from the home page and the list of member groups had been streamlined visually and links to members checked and updated. The changes met with unanimous approval and the cost - £600 – was deemed reasonable.

4. Financial Report

The Chair referred to the pre-circulated finance statement for WaCoCo at 28 February 2017, showing that the group's finances were in a healthy state with £4,930 in the bank account of which £2433 was unrestricted and formed WaCoCo's reserves. In 2017/18 we had the prospect of the London Eye Community Chest award administration fee mentioned above as well as possible funding from the Lambeth Forum Network.

It was noted that the only main expected costs going forward were administration fees at around £200 or less per month and the audit fee at £350. Our current reserves were therefore more than sufficient to cover at least six months of running costs even without the further income mentioned above.

The Chair thanked S Coyte for her suggestion that the group should consider applying to the LFN for a small supplementary bid, but felt its relatively healthy financial situation meant that it did not merit it.

The Administrator confirmed that she had already approached the auditor for the previous two audits and that he had said that he would be able to carry out the 2016-17 Audit for a fee of £350 and in time for the 7 June AGM. The Administrator agreed to supply the auditor with all necessary documentation in the first two weeks of April and to notify all would-be attendees by email, when the March networking meeting notes were circulated, that the AGM would take place on 7 June, alongside the monthly networking meeting.

The Administration agreed to submit her invoice for March work before the end of March, and the end of the WaCoCo financial year.

5. Update on VID I Media project and verbal report from sub-group on possible mechanisms for handling disbursements of funds

The Chair reported that there had been delays with the project going live, not least because of the site owner, LCR's, requirement for a large sum - £360,000 + Vat – to be placed in an escrow account by VID I Media before they would activate the agreement. Those present expressed sympathy and their hopes that the project could still progress.

D Clarson reported that he, in collaboration with other Board members, had prepared a paper looking at how the potential income could be distributed amongst the Waterloo

community in a clear, accountable and transparent way both for small grants and maybe also more substantial grants.

Possible solutions being explored by David and Ro Leech were to hire Natalie Bell, or another consultant with disinterested, expert knowledge of Waterloo community groups, to manage the process much as we do now for the LE Grants; hand the process to the Walcott Foundation (D Clarson added that he and Ro Leech were meeting them on 2 March to discuss this) or to hand the process to the London Community Foundation, who he was about to contact. He said that he would have outline proposals from each of these by the April networking meeting.

6. Any Other Business

- S Coyte thanked the Chair, on behalf of herself and LBL colleague Gerry Evans, for his useful suggestions as to who to contact for their recent survey of Lambeth groups' challenges with connecting with the Lambeth. She added that the study, of a qualitative and limited nature, had generated useful data that was now being analysed by the council.
- S Coyte enquired whether the local community had yet been formally involved in discussions with TfL and Lambeth Council's Highways Department about their consideration of re-configuring the roads and public realm around the Imax cinema.

The Chair responded that TfL and Lambeth Council's Strategic Director of Neighbourhoods & Growth, Sue Foster, had discussed this at the most recent South Bank Partnership meeting. Concerns had been voiced about the possible negative effects of the proposed changes on traffic flow. There had been scepticism about the often over-optimistic nature of TfL's usual predictions for delays to traffic for major changes bearing in mind the problems at the Elephant and Castle. It had been requested they published raw traffic data so that independent analysis could be made of the predictions. TfL were resistant to this and Sarah Coyte was asked if feedback could be given to LBL to promote this idea.

7. Date of next meeting: Wed 5th April 2017, 8.30 a.m. start, New Cut Housing Association meeting room, 106 The Cut.