

**Dalston Square Culture and Community Engagement Forum**  
**6pm, Wednesday 5 August 2015**  
**Education Room, Dalston CLR James Library**  
**MINUTES**

**Present:**

Jane Bell, HCVS  
 Damien Bouvier, Hackney Rugby Club  
 Carmen Caruse, Dalston Square resident  
 Maria Colucci, Library Service, LBH  
 Ellen Cosgrove, Dalston Square resident  
 Kemi Dowokpor, Mind Your Language  
 Melek Erdal, Café Route and Dalston Square resident  
 Mary Impey, Hackney Rugby Club  
 Max Kennedy, Dalston Food Market  
 Lucy McMenemy, Cultural Programme Officer, LBH  
 Ted Rogers, Head of Libraries, Heritage and Culture, LBH

**Apologies:**

Kate Angus, Age UK East London  
 Cory Defoe, Dalston Town Centre Manager, LBH  
 Fiona Duffellen, Dalston Square resident  
 Kim Finer, Dalston Square resident  
 Juliet Formby, Age UK East London  
 Mark Loftus, Dalston Square resident  
 Cllr Peter Snell

**Notes:** Minutes by Lucy McMenemy (LBH)

| Item |  | Action |
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| 1.   | <b><u>Welcome/Introductions / Apologies</u></b>  |        |
| 2.   | <b><u>Minutes of the last meeting</u></b><br><br>The World Food Market proposal has not progressed since the last meeting and may not take place.  |        |
| 3.   | <b><u>Review of recent events</u></b><br><br><b><u>Film Screening on Sat 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2015</u></b><br><br>This was a one-off free film screening in Dalston Square to launch the Library Service's Hackney Film Club – Turkey East Asia.<br><br>The launch consisted of an outdoor screening of the film Bana Masal Anlatma, a Turkish film (English Subtitles, rated 12A.)<br><br>The event was very successful, with over 120 people attending. Many positive comments were made by audience members.<br><br>The film club now continues in the library, showing films from Turkey and East Asia on the first Thursday of every month. |        |

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| 4.   | <p><b><u>Forthcoming events (already agreed)</u></b></p> <p><b><u>'Super Dads' Games Days in Dalston Square - Sat 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> 15<sup>th</sup> &amp; 22<sup>nd</sup> August</u></b></p> <p>Universal Board Games will be holding a series of 'Super Dads' games days in Dalston Square, as part of a research project about the impact of game-playing on the family, with an emphasis on improving parenting, relationships and wellbeing (particularly in relation to fathers and children) in a low-cost, supportive environment.</p> <p>The first event took place last Saturday (1<sup>st</sup> Aug) and was well attended (45 people). These public events are open to all families living in Hackney and will pique parents' game-playing interests, encourage families to enjoy time playing games together while boosting literacy and numeracy in a fun, low-cost manner.</p> <p>Universal Board Games will use traditional games such as chess, backgammon and dominoes, plus less well known examples such as Mancala from Ghana, Crokinole from Canada, Go from Japan and Carrom from India and many more games from around the world to reflect the cultural diversity of the area.</p>  |        |
| 5.   | <p><b><u>Project proposals (in order of event date)</u></b></p> <p><b><u>1) Fundraising for Hackney French Youth Theatre – 2-4pm, every Saturday in August</u></b></p> <p>Kemi from the local social enterprise 'Mind Your Language' french school described how young people who attend the Mind Your Language French Theatre club are currently fundraising for an exchange visit to their peers in France. This is part of an organised exchange programme and it represents an opportunity for many of the participants to travel out of the UK for the first time.</p> <p>They would like to do some fundraising activities in Dalston Square, to take place at the same time as the 'Super Dads' events by Universal Board Games. Their activities would include selling refreshments and other items made by the young people. A creperie van will also sell crepes and give a donation to the fundraising effort.</p> <p>On the 22<sup>nd</sup> August an additional element will be brought to the square - the fundraising will be supported by some acoustic drumming and dance.</p> <p><b><u>2) Rugby World Cup Trophy Tour – Monday 7 September, 5-9pm</u></b></p> <p>The international Rugby World Cup Trophy Tour is proposed to visit Dalston Square. The tour has taken the Webb Ellis Cup to audiences around the world as part of the build-up to Rugby World Cup 2015. The visit to Hackney on 7th September will mark the final countdown to this year's showcase tournament.</p> |        |

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|      | <p>The event aims to attract local families and will be a great opportunity for Rugby fans and all Hackney citizens to get closer to the Webb-Ellis Cup 10 days before this world wide event starts in Twickenham, London, UK.</p> <p>The event will comprise a large installation in the centre of the square and some small scale rugby taster activities. The event is sponsored by Range Rover and two vehicles will also be parked.</p> <p>The event could link with other community events, for instance it could be promoted at Super Dads events.</p> <p>The event will be high profile, but there will be no PA system announcements or amplified music in the square. All formalities will take place in the library, at a VIP reception.</p> <p>Food selling on stalls in the square can be done by Café Route and possibly other cafes and restaurants in the square.</p> <p><b>3) Garage Sail Trail Launch event – Sat 26<sup>th</sup> Sept</b></p> <p>The Hackney Garage Sale Trail is based on a highly successful project in Australia where people create community garage sale events selling unwanted/pre-loved items.</p> <p>In Hackney, led by HCVS, the project aims to bring together Hackney residents, voluntary sector groups, schools, Children’s Centre’s, residents associations and businesses to run Garage Sales across the borough in a friendly, neighbourly community event.</p> <p>The trail will be promoted on the project website:<br/> <a href="http://www.garagesaletrail.co.uk">www.garagesaletrail.co.uk</a></p> <p>The activity in Dalston Square will act as the launch for the event in Hackney. Stalls confirmed for Dalston Square so far include Dalston CLR James Library (books and old library stock) and Artburst Ltd (children’s art kits). Other groups are being encouraged to take part.</p> <p>This is part of a ‘trail’ throughout Hackney – other organisations / places taking part include St Joseph’s Hospice, William Patten School and Linden Children’s Centre.</p> <p>The event in the square will not involve any amplified sound.</p> <p>There is a charitable element to the project; people &amp; groups taking part will be invited to donate a share of their sales proceeds to the ‘Hackney Giving’ Fund. Hackney Giving is a collaboration led by Hackney CVS and the East End Community Foundation, which channels funding and support to smaller charities in the borough to bring community benefits.<br/> <a href="http://www.hackneygiving.org.uk">www.hackneygiving.org.uk</a></p> <p><b>4) Dalston Food Market – every Sunday, 10am – 3pm, following a 6-week trial, no firm start date set, but September is proposed</b></p> |        |

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|      | <p>Dalston Food Market is run by Max Kennedy, a local resident with 10+ years running large scale events. He has previously run the market at a local school and is now looking for a more central location.</p> <p>Dalston Food Market is a food market aimed at all ages. It combines three elements; high quality produce, hot food and children's activities. The market showcases local traders (e.g. the charcuterie trader makes it all in Hackney and the cheese trader makes it in Tottenham). They aim to champion local social enterprises, for example the bread trader is Dusty Knuckle, a local Dalston Bakery that gives jobs to the long term unemployed.</p> <p>Since opening last November the market has been included in the Guardian's "Top ten food markets in Europe" and regularly in Timeout's "Top ten things to do in London on a Sunday"</p> <p>The market would comprise 30 stalls and some children activities, and would involve no amplified music, no alcohol and no large structures. The market would set up at 8.30 and be gone from the square by 5pm. The stalls are very quiet to set up – they use pop-up gazebos and there would be no loud metal clanking noises etc.</p> <p>The market has a contract with Hackney Waste services and its track record of post-market cleansing at the previous school location is excellent.</p> <p>Max suggests having a six week trial that is reviewed after four weeks to assess the pros and cons of the market. He explained that ideally, if the market is viewed to be a success and there are no concerns, there would be no break between the trial period and the longer term delivery of the market.</p> <p><b><u>Feedback from the forum members</u></b></p> <p>The first three projects described above were welcomed and there were no objections raised.</p> <p>The Dalston Food Market was discussed at length and the following concerns were raised by both people at the meeting and in correspondence from a resident who was not able to attend:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Mess – litter and grease stains on the floor etc</li> <li>2) Too expensive and middle class, excluding poorer residents</li> <li>3) Taking up too much space</li> <li>4) Management / governance</li> <li>5) Regulatory issues</li> <li>6) Regularity</li> <li>7) Competition with existing businesses</li> </ol> <p>In response to the above concerns:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Max explained that the market has an excellent track record of not leaving a mess and the traders are used to working in high quality environments that need to be respected. It is in the market's interest to keep good relations with all involved and to</li> </ol> |        |

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|      | <p>look after the environment.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2) Max explained that the quality of the produce does mean that prices are not as cheap as other markets, but the quality is a key characteristic of the market and cannot be compromised. However, the market aims to engage with all Hackney residents by supporting local social enterprises and also can provide free activities for children to get involved in.</li> <li>3) Max said that the market would not need to take over the whole square and the table tennis tables and grassed area etc. would still be available for other activities.</li> <li>4) In order to ensure that the market is as inclusive as possible and sticks to its original vision, Melek suggested that there could be a board comprising local stakeholders that could contribute ideas to the running of the market and have a role in decision-making. Max was amenable to the idea of working with a stakeholder group, although he wanted to be able to retain leadership of the enterprise.</li> <li>5) Hackney Council will have to ensure that all aspects of the project are sustainable and meet regulatory requirements before approval can be given and the correct service is identified to oversee on-going regulatory compliance. This will be researched by Lucy McMenemy and Ted Rogers, with the relevant colleagues.</li> <li>6) A weekly event will be a significant change to the programming and use of the square and will require further consultation with residents. It was proposed that the trial period can be used to consult with local people about the prospect of the event being on-going. (The findings of the resident survey carried out approx. 18months ago, which showed a high level of support amongst residents for events in the square, did not address the possibility of an on-going event and therefore further consultation will be required.)</li> <li>7) It is important that there are no stalls that compete with the fundamental components of local cafes and restaurants. For example, Café Route is known for coffee and salads. These two things are the main source of income for Café Route and are also central to their identity. Melek said that a coffee stall right in front of Route Café would be wrong. However, if it is important to have these products represented in the market, Café Route would like the opportunity to have a stall and be given priority over other stall holders who do not run their businesses from the square. Max expressed that the welfare of the local businesses is important to him as well.</li> </ol> <p>In conclusion, it was proposed that the following steps would be taken for this proposal before a trial can be agreed to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Lucy and Ted to talk to colleagues within the council to explore regulatory and capacity issues relating to the market.</li> <li>2) Max to devise a community management framework that enables the active involvement of local stakeholders, to ensure that the market keeps to its original vision and is as inclusive as possible.</li> </ol> <p>If a trial is agreed to, another Dalston Square Culture Forum meeting</p> |        |

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|      | will be called four weeks into the trial period to discuss the project again. Date to be confirmed.  |        |
| 6.   | <p><b><u>Date of Next Meeting</u></b></p> <p>Date to be confirmed – at Dalston CLR James Library, in the Education Room (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor)</p> |        |