

Dalston Square Culture and Community Engagement Forum
7pm, Wednesday 10 July 2013
Education Room, Dalston CLR James Library
MINUTES

Present: Carolina Caicedo, The Decorators
 Charlie Collins, local resident
 Ellen Cosgrove, Dalston Square resident
 Fiona Dufellen, Dalston Square resident
 Andrea Enisoh, Hackney Unites
 Melek Erdal, Café Route
 Juliet Formby, Age UK
 Lloyd French, Trinity Centre
 Camilla Holloway, Work experience student, LBH
 Carmen Karuse, Dalston Square
 Lucy McMenemy, Cultural Programme Officer, LBH
 Anna McSweeney, Dalston Square resident
 Ted Rogers, Head of Libraries, Heritage and Culture, LBH
 Xavi, The Decorators

Apologies: Gubsie Agolia Aspinall, Keswick Lodge resident
 Eileene, Rhodes Estate
 Dominic Ellison, Managing Director, HCD
 Cllr Michele Gregory, LBH
 Setura Mahdi, Hard Hat
 Suzanne O’Connell, The Decorators
 Cathy Olmedillas, Anorak Magazine

Notes: Minutes by Lucy McMenemy (LBH)

Item		Action
1.	<u>Welcome/Introductions / Apologies</u>	
2.	<u>Minutes of the last meeting</u> The minutes were approved.	
3.	<u>Update on premises license application for the square / new PA system</u> The application process for a Premises License for Dalston Square is still underway – Hackney’s Pollution team have proposed a different set of event times to those in the application, which would end all cultural activities at 8pm every day of the week and weekend. The Cultural Development Team are exploring this further with the Pollution and Licensing teams, as this would require TENs licenses to still be applied for should there be any events that take place later than 8pm. Since the last meeting, four film screenings by the Lost Picture Show took place in Dalston Square. From feedback at the events and afterwards, it is clear that the noise levels at those events	

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	<p>was too high for several residents.</p> <p>As a result of that feedback and with the advice of the appointed acoustic consultant, Hackney Council has invested in a new PA system that has been calibrated especially for the square. There is a noise limiter attached to it, which means that the noise levels will always be maintained at a reasonable level.</p> <p>The new PA system was used for the first time at the Mimbre Acrobatics event on 22 June.</p>	
4.	<p><u>Review of recent events in the square</u></p> <p><u>Dalston Children's Festival</u> A new festival is underway to promote children's activities in Dalston throughout the summer. It is seed-funded by the council with all participating organisations funding their own events. Café Route is a sponsor of the festival and has contributed to the creation of festival publicity materials.</p> <p><u>1. Launch events for the Dalston Children's Festival on 25 May:</u></p> <p>The launch event in Dalston sq included a climbing tower, 16mm scratch film-making workshops by the Lost Picture Show, a scavenger hunt and the film screening of Buggy Malone by the Lost Picture Show and the young people they have been working with. A barbeque was also held during the day and in the evening.</p> <p>The day was successful for all of the festival venues. Within Dalston Square, the climbing tower proved to be the most popular day-time activity.</p> <p>In the evening, the short film made at the film-making workshops was screened at the same time as the live performance of a new piece of music composed by participants of the Big and Small workshop at the Vortex earlier on in the day.</p> <p>The screening of Buggy Malone went well, approx 80 people in the audience. The end of the screening was accompanied by a custard-pie fight (as fitting for the film), which many children took part in.</p> <p>One member of the forum had heard that burgers were being sold for £6.00 each. This was not the case – they were homemade burgers and they sold for £4.00, popcorn for £1.00 and drinks were £1.00.</p> <p><u>2. Dalston Children's Festival Events on 26 May</u></p> <p>A map-making workshop was held by Community Releaf during</p>	

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	<p>the day. There was very low attendance at this event.</p> <p>In the evening, the screening of Searching for Sugar Man was very popular, approx 200 people in the audience.</p> <p><u>3. Dalston Children's Festival Events on 31 May</u></p> <p>In the evening, the screening of Howl's Moving Castle was very popular, approx 250 people in the audience.</p> <p><u>4. Dalston Children's Festival Events on 1 June</u></p> <p>Artist Julian Wild brought 'Making the Connection' back to Dalston Square after previously delivering the same sculpture workshop last autumn, There was very low attendance at this event, possibly due to low temperatures.</p> <p>In the evening, the screening of Ghost Busters was very popular, approx 200 people in the audience.</p> <p><u>5. Dalston Children's Festival: Mimbre Acrobatics Day on 22 June</u></p> <p>The Mimbre Youth Group performed to a good-sized crowd. The following performance by the professional acrobats was hampered by wind and rain and was cancelled after approx 10 minutes due to health and safety concerns for the performers. (Their crash mats were moving around and the set was also unstable. Conditions were slippery.)</p> <p><u>6. Junior Cricket drop-in training, every Monday 4.30-6pm, until 19th August</u></p> <p>(LM forgot to talk about this at the meeting. Just to say that after a slow start (and some disappointingly early departures by the coaches), there is now a small group of children regularly taking part in the cricket sessions. The sessions are being delivered for free by the English Cricket Board.)</p> <p>NB – since fencing has been put up around the fountains, the cricket has not been able to take place – further sessions to be confirmed or cancelled asap.</p> <p>In conclusion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the climbing tower was good value and worth bring back again • the day time arts events have been less popular, but possibly affected by the cold weather • the evening film screenings seemed to be very popular with a broad cross-section of people. They also gave the 	

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	<p>participating young people (who chose the films to be screened) a platform to introduce the films and 'host' the evenings, developing their sense of ownership of this new public space</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the film screenings were too loud and should not be delivered at that volume again in the future • the barbeque did not disturb the people at the meeting in terms of smells etc. • if funding is available, it would be worth finding another opportunity to bring back Mimbre and their youth group to do a performance on another day, as they are a local organisation with an international reputation, and they entertained a good-sized crowd, while their performances lasted • the cricket training sessions are popular with children who live in the immediate vicinity and would be worth organising again in the future 	
5.	<p><u>Reports on forthcoming events</u></p> <p>Andrea Enisoh, Hackney Unites, re Dalston People's Festival, 13 July (delivered by Hackney Unites) Andrea updated the forum about the event which will include information stalls by local community groups and an open mic. Volunteers are still needed. Hackney Unites will use LBH's new PA system for the square.</p> <p>Lucy McMenemy, LBH, re Dalston Town Tales: Childrens Author Encounters, Sat 27th July and Fri 30 August in the library and square, 11am-5pm (delivered by LandSky, in partnership with LBH) Workshops and talks from well-known children's authors and illustrators. Plus live, amplified music from Mrs H and the Singalong Band in the square. Famous-name authors to be announced soon.</p> <p>Lloyd French, Trinity Centre re Soft Play on 7 August, as part of the Dalston Children's Festival (delivered by the Trinity Centre) Lloyd explained that the date of the event has been changed to 7 August (from 27th July), so that it can be part of National PlayDay. The event will be low key, comprising play equipment and face painting. No music or amplified sound.</p> <p>Lucy McMenemy, LBH re Anorak Summer Fete on Sat 31 August, as the closing event for the Dalston Children's Festival (delivered by Anorak Magazine in partnership with</p>	LM to put all forthcoming activity into a new Newsletter for residents.

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	<p>LBH) The event will include colouring walls, kids bingo hall and more traditional elements such as hopscotch, tug of war and a teddy bear's picnic. Also, the Poetry Takeaway, an old burger van staffed by poets, will 'cook up' personalised poems for children.</p> <p>Carolina Caicedo, The Decorators update on their on-going project Since November 2012 The Decorators have been developing relationships with the residents at Keswick and Parton Lodges, to learn about their interests and to understand their needs in terms of accessing the public realm in Dalston. Their findings have shown that there is a need for comfortable seating outside the lodges, for better nutrition and also for more opportunities for being sociable. The proposed project involves designing seating for use outdoors in the square which can be moved around and has integral wind break features. The Decorators are proposing to hold some events in the square in September using the seating, including workshops by older residents, talks about the aging process, communal meals etc. Further details of those events are to be developed.</p> <p>A legacy of the project will be that the chairs will be offered to the cafes and library surrounding the square, to enable them to improve their existing offer for older residents – and to enable the older residents to take advantage of the local café culture. The seating will still be available for use at cultural events in the square as well. A graphic identity sticker is being developed for the project which will enable cafes etc to show that they have become part of the project longer-term.</p> <p>(This project is being developed with the support of an advisory group that includes LBH staff and other agencies that are experienced in working with older people.)</p> <p>House of Amau Summer Weekend – presentation to be made by Ngoma Bishop at the next forum meeting.</p>	
6.	<p><u>AOB</u></p> <p>Charlie Collins told the forum about the history of the square and his role in its design. Charlie outlined how the completed square will include a number of memorial trees and a plaque to commemorate the children who died in the New Cross fire. He expressed concern about the state of the trees, about noisy activity taking place in the square and also expressed frustrations about communications with Barratt Homes and the council.</p> <p>A Dalston Square resident has proposed that there is a community event to celebrate the switching on of the fountains in Dalston Square. All agreed that this is a good idea. Date to be</p>	<p>LM to keep Charlie Collins informed of the cultural programme</p> <p>TR and LM to read up on planning documents relating to the</p>

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	<p>confirmed once more info is available from Barratt Homes about the fountains and when they will be working.</p> <p>Ellen Cosgrove mentioned the Whitecross street party on 20th and 21st July. All are welcome. (Apologies, LM offered to forward a publicity flier about the event to the forum members, but did not have time to do this in the end –apologies again.)</p>	<p>square</p> <p>LM to confirm date for a fountain celebration event with all once more info is available. (FYI, LM will be away from 31 July – 19 August)</p>
7.	<p><u>Date of Next Meeting</u></p> <p>7pm, Wednesday 25 September, at Dalston CLR James Library, in the Education Room (2nd Floor)</p>	