

FRESH THINKING FOR GOLDEN LANE COMMUNITY CENTRE

February Update

The Golden Lane Community Centre is currently closed. The City of London Corporation has carried out a number of face-to-face consultations with residents of the estate to establish a way forward for managing and financing the Centre. An outline approach based on drawings made by the City Surveyor was presented at a meeting held with residents in November. This meeting, externally facilitated by Southwark Mediation, raised many questions and comments, which were documented and passed to participants and the City of London. At the GLERA meeting in November, it was decided that further more detailed discussions should take place seeking the views of a wider range of estate residents. In response an online survey was conducted before Christmas 2015 with over 110 responses and a report¹ summarizing all the findings circulated to all residents on the estate and to Jacquie Campbell, Assistant Director Housing & Neighbourhoods in January 2016.

Key observations from the survey were:

1. The response was large and enthusiastic
2. Nearly 50% of respondents said they would be interested in helping in one way or another.
3. Residents want events and activities for the whole community, particularly for the elderly and children.
4. There is considerable interest in healthy living but not sport.
5. There is little enthusiasm for moving the Estate Office into the building and concerns that this would make staff cut off from the running of the Estate.
6. The survey indicates that there is time, energy, enthusiasm as well as a great desire for community to be nurtured and developed, the challenge for all of us is to harness this commitment for the benefit of all who live and work on the Estate.

The City in the December Estate update provided responses to the questions raised at the November residents meeting.

What is happening now?

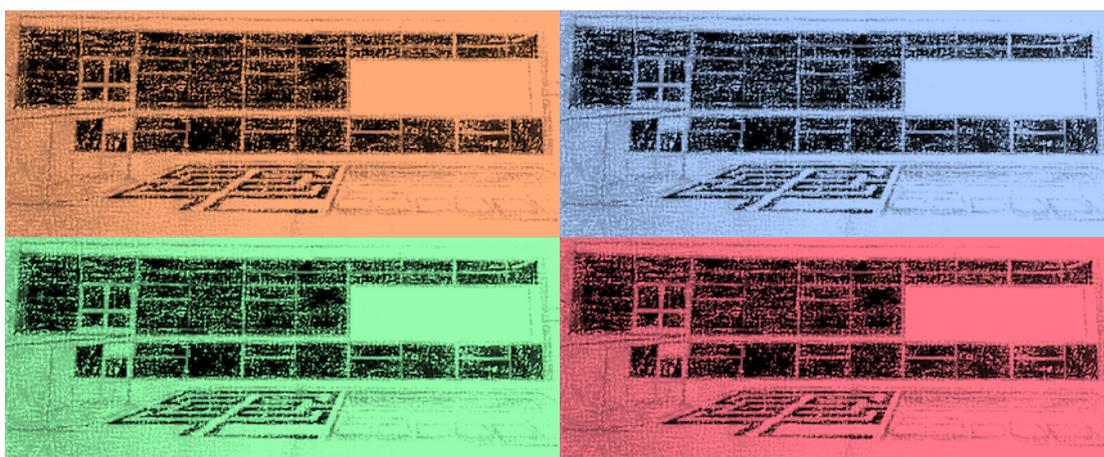
Following the publication of the survey results an invitation was sent to all residents asking those interested in being involved in defining and enabling a community centre for the 21st Century to a meeting on 26th January in the Community Centre. 23 people attended the meeting with apologies from another 13 residents.

At the meeting a summary of the position, as understood by residents, was given including the status of the possible relocation of COLCEC. The meeting discussed what the real need was, including a discussion on the size of the population of elderly residents (over 65) 27% and children (under 14) 9% on the estate and the likely growth in local residential population with the development of Bernard Morgan House and the new school and social housing on the old Richard Cloudesley site. The meeting also discussed the study on Social Isolation conducted by Goldsmith, University of London during 2015. It was agreed that COLCEC would make an ideal partner as they could meet the need for learning and social interaction expressed by the survey respondents, however it was understood that this may not be possible and that a meeting with the Head of Adult Skills and Education should be arranged as soon as possible.

A working group was established with 3 groups looking at different aspects of a future model. These were:

- Blueprint for a community centre
- Potential partners, and Costs
- Potential funding and business case.

Each group will report back at the next meeting on 16th February so that the working group can be in a position to enter into meaningful discussions with the City to work together to best meet the current and future needs of our residential community.



Further details are available on www.goldenlaneestate.org

February 5, 2016