

## **Golden Lane Community Centre Consultation – 5<sup>th</sup> May 2015**

### **Background/Purpose of the meeting**

The Golden Lane Community Centre lease is up for renewal next year (2016). Initial consultation with Golden Lane residents, via a survey, was undertaken to gauge people's ideas of what they would like to see happening with this lease. Four main themes came out of this survey so they were put into the consultation options that formed the second round of consultation with residents on 5 May 2015.

The aim of this second consultation session was to see what people liked and disliked about these options in these groups.

### **Meeting Exercise**

People were asked to get into groups and look at four options for the Golden Lane Community Centre Lease. These were:

1. Remain as it is (Brief – All responsibilities would remain with the Golden Lane Community Association)
2. Education Centre (COLCEC) – (Brief – COLCEC are leaving their current location and looking for a new home. In this option the structure of the community centre would remain the same. However, City of London and COLCEC would need to work together to ensure the centre meet different needs.
3. Different Management and without alcohol – (Brief – Explore management options with others e.g social enterprises. No alcohol. City of London likely to be more involved in the management of this)
4. Other Bespoke Ideas (Brief – a combination of proposals or things that have not been included in other options)

Here are the findings of the things that people said they liked and disliked with each option:

### **Remain as it is**

#### **Likes**

- Activities in more traditional sense to provide services
- Run by estate residents
- Somewhere for people to go and get out of their flats
- Has a premise license so can be used for residents
- Serves the older community
- Can build up to wider community usage

#### **Dislikes**

- Has to change
- No attractive provision for others on the estate
- 0-5 years or elderly residents have nowhere to go

- Old fashioned
- Doesn't work as a residents resource
- Business model not working, doesn't allow improvements
- It is not managed for the benefit of the whole estate. Need a new committee that has a better understanding of where and what the community is and how to meet their needs
- Publicity/advertising – there isn't any

### **Education Centre (COLCEC)**

#### **Likes**

- Competent, responsible people in management
- Longer-term opportunities. More inclusive, more varied use
- Reduce business rate charges for residents
- Will bring more people into the centre
- Great for dual use – education and community. The two go well together
- Keep COLCEC local and easily accessible

#### **Dislikes**

- More traditional community use cannot happen if minimum of time allocated towards community use
- What happens if they don't want to go here?
- COLCEC have other priorities and responsibilities i.e. to the wider public
- Removes a residents only resource

### **Different management and without alcohol**

#### **Likes**

- Less noise if no bar
- Gets us to rethink the use, marketing engagement with centre
- Needs different management, focus more on coffee
- This could be more of a community centre, less focus on external groups coming in

#### **Dislikes**

- Should be used more for community type activities e.g. dance classes, children's activities. COL management would be better than social enterprise
- Would prefer COL to manage, NOT Fusion
- Others do not really have residents interests
- Keep alcohol license for other activities
- Alcohol license if fine but we don't need running bar

### **Other options/ideas**

- Centre for people with dementia and respite care. Percy Circus closed down.
- 'Redevelop' as a new type of centre run by COL with links to COLSEC etc.. Create newly inspired community hub.

- License for Alcohol but not a fully functioning bar
- Flats are small and diverse groups of people need to get out. Provide space for café and bar and support playgroups, youth groups, social events etc.
- Use for more public events such as talks, public meetings, cinema, theatre etc. Day centre, drop-in, social centre, café, after school club
- Opportunity to take time to see who is living on the estate now, what the community is and what their needs are. Needs to be a multi-purpose centre that is open and inclusive to all residents
- Continue with social club but with other viable use of hall alongside resident's views.
- It is not the running of the building itself that means the centre isn't used. We need to think about engagement with residents generally on the estates and how we ensure people use it.