

Clifton Town Board meeting

17th October 2024

Clifton Cornerstone

In attendance:

Stephen Hackney, Chair
Lilian Greenwood, MP
Clare Ashton
PC Jane Gibson
Insp Steve Dalby
Councillor Hayley Spain
Councillor Maria Watson
Tracy Osborne
Gene Warburton

David Woolley
Sue Whitehead
Charlotte Batterham
Claire McCurdy, Nottingham City Council (notes)
Wayne Norrie, Greenwood Academy Trust
Laura Grant, Freedom Foundation
Stacey Green, Freedom Foundation

Apologies:

Ch Insp Mike Ebbins
Councillor Ethan Radford
Edward Peck
Fiona Johnson
Stephanie Karlonas

Kev Davis
Holly Dagnall
Melanie Phythian, MHCLG
Matt Wheatley, Nottingham City Council
Mark Armstrong, Nottingham City Council

1. Minutes of the last meeting

The notes along with the Confetti proposal from NTU were accepted as a record of the last meeting. In addition to the information regarding contacting Alex Norris MP regarding funding clarification, Lilian Greenwood confirmed that she had met with him, along with other MPs, and had written directly to him to emphasise the importance of the funding to the area.

2. Update on Green Lane developments

Wayne Norrie, Chief Executive Officer of Greenwood Academies Trust (GAT) had asked to give an update to the Board about the developments at the site. Wayne confirmed that GAT were taking on the lease of Green Lane Youth Centre for the standard education building terms of 125 years, and had an allocation of capital funding to amend the space to make it suitable for SEND provision, including installing a lift.

In a significant change to previous discussions, the space that will be made available for community use will be the Sports Hall, outside of school time. GAT remain committed to opening up the kitchen as a community café space and will look to tender for this, either working with an organisation or local provider like Pulp Friction, or a local community member.

The health suites/ music studios will now become teaching space, so there will be no room for the refurbishment of the recording studios as had been explored by NTU. The outside space will be reconfigured, with the current grassed area becoming a car park for staff, and the current car park being a drop off point for buses and taxis. The area that is fenced off and had a basketball court marked out, and the space to the back will become a garden for the students. The dance studio will be turned into a sensory room.

The space that is anticipated that it will be available for community use will be the courtyard/ garden and sports hall after students have left at 2.30pm, and it is expected that any groups who use the space to deliver activities will ensure that their delivery will be accessible to Nethergate students.

3. Introduction: Freedom Foundation

Laura Grant and Stacey Green introduced themselves and the work of Freedom Foundation. They were invited along following a site visit to Green Lane as they have done lots of work with GAT and are hoping to bring their offer to Clifton, working from the space at Green Lane. They currently deliver a lot of activities across the city based around music and movement/ dance, and collaborate with lots of schools including Farnborough. They wish to seek grant funding (e.g. Lottery) to bring these activities to Clifton's young people. Because they will only be able to access the sports hall it will affect the range of delivery they will be able to offer, but are open to working with people to offer as many options as possible. They will also be looking after the bookings for the community use of the space at Green Lane once the site is open.

4. Green Lane - Extended Discussion

The changes provided by Wayne Norrie provoked an extended conversation since it resembled little, if any of the previous Board meeting presentation by Edward Peck (Vice Chancellor NTU) and Wayne Norrie.

Board members discussed the changes to what had been expected at the site from previous meetings, and some of the frustrations over the speed of information being shared both in terms of building use and the funding offered, and that lots of the scoping exercises that have taken place are now redundant. Feedback also was given that it will bring more youth activities to the area, which is good, and that when the funding is confirmed, other venues can be the focus for any developments, especially with young people in mind.

The Chair asked to be noted that the scope of the changes now left the Clifton Community without any meaningful Youth Community Centre – something which the community had specially asked for during its extensive conversation and that the investment of the funds and involvement of NTU could have offered a centre of excellence for local young people locally.

5. Community Centres

All community centres are expected to change the lease arrangement to go from peppercorn rent (£10 per annum) to a commercial lease (around £7,000 per annum) from 31/3/25. In addition to this, the lease will be a full repair lease, and all costs associated with running the centre, which had previously been supported between NCC and the community centres, will be passed to the community centre (insurance, repair as well as utilities including water and waste that centres have picked up this year). This could mean around £20,000 per year running costs per centre.

The Town Board area has two community centres, Park Gate and Clifton Community Centre (The Shed), but also Silverdale whilst just out of the area of the Board hosts activities that Clifton residents' access and will be affected, such as Good Companions groups, should centres increase the charges to groups or close. Community Centres have been invited to submit an expression of interest in continuing to explore a new lease arrangement, and it will be a process of negotiation from that point.

Following discussions, it was agreed that this item will be placed on hold, until we have further details around both funding and need. Possible suggestions are if funding is available to offer a grants programme for community spaces and/or paying for community development time to support grant applications and volunteer development/ capacity building for the groups running centres.

Agreed that since there hasn't been an audit of spaces available to the community that this will be done (potentially utilising skills from NTU students on placement with NCC).

6. Current position and next steps

Awaiting clarity from the government around the funding, and any changes to the programme that will come with funding, and it is hoped that clarity will be given around the Autumn Statement. Claire and Mark will be attending a short meeting with Mel Phythian on 5th November. Board members will be updated as soon as any information is available.

7. Engagement activities

As previously discussed, hosting an engagement event at the time when the usual Christmas lights event would be a positive way of re-engaging with the community. Appendix 1 shows activities and proposed costings. Board agreed to commit £4000 of the capacity building money for the event. Claire to keep board updated with progress before the event.

Other notable dates:

Nov 19th Day of Action around the Flower Park as part of the Safer Streets 5 (Police Crime Commissioner) funded work, which will look at environmental improvements. In addition, the Police have been undertaking lots of work in tackling the racing taking place on the A453.

12th November 3.20-5pm – engagement session for the community to look at NCC priorities. Hosted at Clifton Library.

Date of next meeting:

Thursday 21st November 2024, 5pm, Clifton Cornerstone.