**Transition Leytonstone AGM 2021**

11th July 2021, 2.30 pm, Church Lane Community Garden

Agenda:

1. Welcome
2. Apologies
3. Minutes of AGM 2020
4. Project reports:
   1. Community fridge (Diana)
   2. Community garden (Shannon)
   3. Local produce stall (RoseMary)
   4. Resilience Hub (Steph)
   5. Community Energy Project (Phil)
   6. Transition Library (Ros)
   7. Green Directory (Ros)
   8. Participation in other activities (Ros)
5. Financial report (Rezina)
6. Election of steering group
7. AOB

**In attendance**: Shannon, Ros and Peter, Diana, Ann, Perveen and Omair, Fran, Phil, Maureen, RoseMary and Peter, Steph, Lanka, Sam

**Visitors and guests**: Shaunna, Zalayka, Zeenat, Lemzi, Helen, Emma,

**Chair**: Ros

**Minutes**: Steph

**2. Apologies:** Rezina

**3. Minutes of AGM 2020:** approved unanimously.

**4. Projects**

**4.a** – COMMUNITY FRIDGE (Diana)

Modus operandi changed a couple of times due to Covid-19.

Deliveries of grocery bags to 30-40 addresses during lockdown, twice a week

Fridge reopened in July 2020.

Leaky roof got fixed.

Strict social distancing in place with hand sanitisation and wearing of masks.

More volunteers have come on board: on average, 5 people at every session.

The logistics of the fridge were explained to the audience.

Very few donations: from an average a high of £85 (December 2018), down to £3 a week nowadays.

Grants and micro-grants e.g. North West London Authority for an extra fridge & freezer for building work + installation of solar panels at our storage garage to power the backup fridge & freezer (gift from Bosch since 2018). Will come in handy for frozen foods since there’s been a recent increase in donations.

Customers of the fridge have changed over the months: from white middle-class people interested in food waste, to more diverse communities who actually need the food. The Fridge offers plenty of opportunities for educating everyone to reducing food waste.

We donate back our excess and receive surplus from other organisations – an informal exchange system in place with other communities.

**Q:** How many people do you see at each session?

**A:** 30-40 people each visit (potentially 40-50 when including children). Quite a few regulars.

Volunteers were publicly thanked.

**4.b** – COMMUNITY GARDEN (Shannon)

Reopened as restriction measures eased.

Workshops towards end of summer 2020: one on wild mushroom identification.

Shut again in winter (lockdown).

Feb-March 21 reopening as normal, including planting.

Distributing plants to community. Giving seeds. Planting workshops. Inviting people in.

Pergola built last year: grapes growing on the structure (rest of the infrastructure unchanged).

New raised beds (oak boards). The older beds (2012) will need rebuilding soon. The biggest one will require more work. Plan in the pipeline.

Finance: lots of donations. £800 in the kitty.

**Q:** Do people come to volunteer?

**A:** Yes, on and off.

**Q:** Any classes or workshops going on?

**A:** Yes, as of next month (August), for growing salads and veg’ through the winter.

**A:** (Phil) There are more seats available, so do sign up!

**4.c** – VEG’ STALL (RoseMary)

Outside Matalan, run jointly with OrganicLea. Also affected by Covid: people are no longer allowed to help themselves and now get served by the volunteers, with tables in front of the produce. This has worked well.

Donations of veg from people’s gardens.

Looking to set up a subgroup. Tried more advertising: slight increase in interest, but not enough to secure the stall’s future, especially not as OrganicLea are looking to increase profit. Will most likely run till late September, with negotiations ongoing.

The stall also serves as an info hub. Lots of hope for the subgroup to help make the stall live on.

**4.d** – HUBREN (Steph)

Steph relayed the notes from Amy, who is leading on this.

* We are halfway through our 3-weekend participation in the E17 Art Trail, which is going well. Please come visit us at 18 Longfield Ave E17, from 5-8 on Fridays and 12-6 Sat & Sunday.
* On Friday 16th July (5-8pm) we will be hosting an ‘Ask a Climate Scientist’ session with Simon Lewis, author of *The Human Planet* and Professor of Global Change Science at UCL. PLEASE COME!
* We are fundraising for the bike trailer build - <https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/hubrentrailerbuild> - please donate and share! (The website hubren.org was shared orally for convenience)
* We are developing a workshop that can be taken into a school or a community space, to creatively explore feelings and ideas around climate and the future, and to co-create posters that could be used in the hub.
* We are still creating posters, writing, gathering art.

**Q:** Lanka’s suggestion to get in touch with Khevyn Limbajee, Councillor for Grove Green Ward.

**Q:** Suggestion to promote Hubren at future art projects in Leytonstone.

ACTION: it was requested that Steph circulate Amy’s photos + Amy’s address by email

**4.e** – COMMUNITY ENERGY PROJECT (Phil)

Phil gave a brief outline of the context. Transition Leytonstone are partnering with the HEET Project, who are leading on this. The project has funding from the GLA for a feasibility study to organise training for retrofit of external solid wall insulation, and to install an array of solar panels. The project began by looking at the construction college on Cathall Road, but this turned out to be unsuitable.

We are now working with Waltham Forest College, who will provide training for construction workers, in consultation with installers.

There will also be a training scheme for energy champions in the community. They will then be able to advise people how to make their houses much more energy efficient.

Hoping for at least 10 volunteer energy champions. They will also be offered a 3-day course in Energy Awareness, leading to a level 3 City and Guilds Qualification. This could potentially lead to paid work.

We will also offer a short training session to social workers, care workers, who go into people’s homes and can signpost people to where they can get help.

Solar panels: trying now to work with schools. Some interest, despite very slow response.

Trying to emulate Transition Ealing who have succeeded with ~30 schools.

More to come on how to signpost people on energy efficiency.

**Q:** Where would the champions be recruited from?

**A:** Word out in the community. Mailing list. Walthamstow Hub.

**Q:** Poster?

**A:** Yes, although teaching materials are still being generated.

**Q:** Has the Council offered any support?

**A:** Not much more than moral support for now. They are most likely waiting on the project taking off more substantially (when the structure is more built, more established)

**Observation:** (Shaunna) This borough is “7th worst place for fuel poverty…”

**4.f** – LIBRARY (Ros)

Currently in storage. Looking for a venue.

Quakers suggested having a library in each place of worship. Would require duplicating some of the more popular books, getting rid of some…

Other places of worship being considered (for example, the Muslim community is environment-oriented).

**Q:** Which books might be considered useful? e.g. What about books that are just about nature, not campaign books?

**A:** All books are related, so potentially of interest. Maybe we should find out where the demand is.

Diana keen to donate more books.

Some communities might benefit from being made aware of recycling basics.

**4.g** – GREEN DIRECTORY (Ros)

Online list of businesses – suggestions for new additions welcome

More promotion needed.

Ros is the main contact: invitation to get in touch.

**4.h** – OTHER ACTIVITIES (Ros)

Pastures Youth Centre being redeveloped as a community project.

Jubilee Gardens too (details not immediately relevant here).

**5. Financial Report**

Rezina still preparing the report.

Over £11,000 - a lot of this is ring-fenced for the Fridge and the hubRen project. Including the garden kitty (about £800) means we’re doing well.

**6. Election of the Steering Group**

Show of hands – everyone standing again.

Adrienne + Rezina were asked but haven’t yet replied.

Proposed by Peter B, seconded by Perveen.

Steering group re-elected.

Attendees were invited to stand if they so wished (no volunteer).

**7. AOB**

* STONE MINI MARKET:

Diana explained how they’ve been key to raising our profile (as well as theirs). Eco-shop refill station. Adrienne couldn’t attend due to running the shop. A warm acknowledgment was given in Adrienne’s absence.

* If we have fruit to donate (e.g. glut of cherries), any outlet to offer that out? It was suggested to use the newsletter, although not always the best option due to the necessary short turnaround (perishable goods).

**NEXT MEETING:**

Tuesday preferred. Choice of 10th, 17th or 24th Aug (TBC)

The group expressed a preference for in-person meetings and the Community Garden was agreed by all as the ideal venue, to add to the conviviality (weather permitting).

ACTION: Ros to communicate the final date by email to the steering group.