

Summary of Manor House PACT New River Festival 2013 planning meeting #2

Date: Sunday 13 January 2013

Time: 1-3.30pm

Attendees: Marc McKenna, PACT Project Coordinator; Vivien Macdona, PACT Marketing and Administration Assistant; Jo Homan, Transition Finsbury Park (PACT partner); Hannah Roberson, Transition Finsbury Park; Michele de Broglio; Richard Williams; Gillian Livingstone; David Mosse; Siobhan Stamp; Jonathan Stopes-Roe; Hugh Flouch, Harringay Online; Henny Beaumont, local artist; Sarah Peters, local artist; Ruth Larbey; Will Collins; Geraldine Adams; Bob Hare, New River Action Group; Geoff Bell, Woodberry Down Community Organisation

1. Walk around New River- from the Castle Climbing Centre to Finsbury Park Café (central)

The original group of attendees walked the route, discussing ideas for the festival and sharing knowledge of the area

2. Discussion at Finsbury Park Café

- a. Aims of the meeting: discussion of ideas; recruiting volunteers for the project
 - b. Introductions
 - c. Ideas for the layout of the festival
 - d. Ideas for activities
- The canoe club could collaborate with the New River Festival volunteers and its open day could coincide with the festival date (Sunday 29th September). Possibility of tasters and coaching sessions. The club is currently bidding for funding to work with 19-25yr olds in Woodberry Down. Suggested by Michele de Broglio
Action: Michele to make enquiries with Canoe Club representatives
 - The area further north of the PACT area in Harringay could be opened up – gate/ fence could be opened and access given to the waterway by Thames Water- Suggestion by Hugh Flouch
Action: Thames Water to be contacted
 - Open space next to Rowley Gardens leads down to the New River. This will be opened up in April 2013 providing an accessible area of green space for activities/ stalls. Raised by Marc McKenna and Geoff Bell
 - Skinners School could be a location for activities to take place, either on their playground or inside, or both.
Action: Vivien Macdona to contact head teacher
 - Activities can take place at London Wildlife Trust East Reservoir Centre- LWT are a PACT project partner
 - Finsbury Park Amphitheatre- Park Manager is keen to get this into use more.
Action: Jo Homan to provide his contact details

d. Ideas for activities

- Music centre- steel band, big band, guitar group
Also South Haringey Junior School gardening club
Action: Michele de Broglio to make enquiries
- School projects during summer term 2013 on the New River- results could be displayed at the festival
Action: Draw up suggestions for activities which children could work on. List of schools in PACT area to be made and contact established
- River boat competition- creating rafts to float objects down a stretch of the river.
Action: Seek advice on this regarding wildlife safety- consult London Wildlife Trust and Thames Water.
- Sadlers Wells- aquatic theatre. Look into a photo display or recreation.
Action: Sarah Peters (artist) to find link to Islington blog post
- Offer of use of 200 capacity festival tent from Ruth Larbey and Will Collins, dependent on space and flat surface. Could hold stage and/or café
Action: Contact to be made with Haringey Council re feasibility
- Art project, exhibition and interactive river-route map being set up by local artists Henny Beaumont and Sarah Peters
- Oral History of New River project is being set up by Geoff Bell, Woodberry Down Community Organisation member

Other information:

Links: www.manorhousepact.org.uk- official PACT community website

<https://twitter.com/manorhousepact> or @manorhousepact

Date of next meeting: TBC