

# Tollington Ward Partnership - Survey results

## Background

Tollington Ward Partnership, led by your local Ward Councillors Flora Williamson and Richard Watts, decided to use the Community event on 20 January to find out what services local residents want in the local area and from the new home of Hanley Crouch Community Association at Brickworks Community Centre.

50 residents completed the survey, with the majority providing contact details so we can follow up and see if they wish to become more involved with the centre.

## Survey results

### Question 1

**How worried are you about the below issues for you, your family and neighbours?**

Top six responses in order of priority:

1. Loneliness for yourself or someone you know
2. Physical health of you or your family
3. Changes to Welfare Benefits
4. Quality of housing
5. Cost of housing
6. Access to services and opportunities for young people aged 16-25

**Residents were then asked to provide more details on their priorities**

### **Priority 1 - Loneliness for yourself or someone you know**

From the survey local residents suggested a day where over 50s can come in and play cards and interact with other. They mentioned a great need for more activities for older people to be involved. Generally, residents want more activities during the week and weekend to give people the opportunity to feel a part of the community. Along with additional services to provide specialist advice.

“We are a healthy country. People shouldn’t be forced into homelessness.”

“Women need help and support, being lonely.”

“Places for the elderly to meet.”

“Living in London can be difficult when you’re fit and able when you’re elderly or vulnerable its very difficult.”

We currently run a weekender's Lunch Group on a Fridays at 12pm for £3 where we Provide a healthy warm meal for over 50's in a friendly & welcoming environment. It is a culturally diverse group that celebrates all religions with special events throughout the year.

Weekender's also offer regular day trips during the summer to a variety of places

### **Resident Suggestions**

- We are starting coffee mornings in March which will be led by local residents and we aim to develop a growing group for the space on Holly park and also a series of workshops starting with fire safety;
- Tranquil wellbeing workshops which we host every month – the next will be themed around therapies to alleviate depression;

### **What can we offer in the future?**

- Develop a befriending service for residents who are isolated;
- Regular community events;

### **Priority 2 - Physical health of you or your family**

There seems to be a growing concern with the issue of physical health as residents and community members feel like not enough is being done to tackle this issue and feel there needs to improvements through engagement and physical activities locally. There are residents mentioning affordable activities.

“Children need places to go, without community we have nothing.”

“More dance classes for children and activities for seniors, there is nothing to do. Everywhere is so expensive”

### **Resident Suggestions**

- Table tennis contest
- Dances classes
- Healthy eating classes
- Badminton
- Pilates
- Cricket
- Football
- Indoor Bowling
- Aromatherapy

### **Our current offer**

- Boxercise
- Yoga
- Capoeira
- Women only sport

- Zumbini (For ages 0 – 5)
- Zumba gold
- Slimming world

### **What can we offer in the future?**

- Pilates
- Tai chi
- Healthy eating courses (starting a course on 2 March with “Bags of Taste”)

### **Priority 3 - Changes to Welfare Benefits**

People are worried about the changes in their benefits which they are unable to cope with, to combat this we provide contact details/information for local authorities that deal with the issue. Also many local residents do not have access to a computer or cannot afford internet access. (around 30%)

“Cuts to welfare benefits spoil the opportunities for whole families to be aspirational. More aspirational families from all backgrounds leads to benefitting all the other issues I have highlighted as concerns. Families who struggle typically withdraw into survival mode and while it works for the residents it does not work for many others.

#### **Our current offer**

- Provide free Wi-fi
- Computer and internet access
- One to one sessions with local councillor to discuss any issues

### **What can we offer in the future?**

- Advice & information drop in (I – Works)
- Housing Drop-in sessions
- Part of the North Islington Employment Cluster

### **Priority 4 & 5 - Quality of housing and Cost of housing**

There is a growing concern that many youngsters who have lived in this area their whole life will not be able to afford their own home in the future. From the survey there is a growing concern that the housing in Islington is extremely expensive and is not affordable. They also mentioned that some of the housing that is provided is small and impractical for people with families.

**“Main concern that housing is expensive for my adult children and trying to get them to be able to own their property seems impossible.”**

**“Housing is in poor quality. Repair services are not doing their job. Housing benefits not set up correctly- I don’t know how I will pay rent. Pay as you go gas and electricity is too expensive.”**

“Cost of housing does not match people’s wages.”

“We live in private rentals with good landlords, but worry about longer term, if I am required to move on. Good private rentals at reasonable prices are difficult to find.

“Housing becoming unaffordable in a area where redevelopments and house prices is growing rapidly.”

### **Resident Suggestions**

- Housing ‘drop in’ sessions
- Advice & information

### **Our current offer**

- I.T access for searching housing advise
- Councillor surgeries to discuss housing issues

### **What can we offer in the future?**

- Drop in sessions for housing advice

### **Priority 6 - Access to services and opportunities for young people aged 16-25**

From the survey the views of the community are that once children leave school there is no support for young people aged 16-25. There are not many opportunities where they can progress to find work. It was mentioned due to the lack of oppotunities they participate in illegal activities.

“Young adults are causing trouble and joining gangs, where is the help for them.”

“16-25 need support, there is no help for our youngsters, they have no future.”

### **Resident Suggestions**

- Help to look for work and education courses
- Woodcraft
- Apprenticeship fairs for young people
- Employment cluster meetings for young people
- Youth Ambassadors for the centre

### **Our current offer**

- Dance and drama group (starting in June)
- Chess Competition
- Volunteer/work experiences opportunities

### **What can we offer in the future?**

- a drop in session for local apprenticeships
- Provide information for college courses
- Job/ apprenticeships fair
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### **Question 2 - Are there any services, courses or activities which you would like to see the new centre run?**

- Help for disable people
- Activities for old people
- Dance classes
- Craft sale
- More services for children and young adults
- Cooking classes
- Help and support for locals
- Program for the homelessness
- Speeding in the area
- Heathy eating program
- More specialist advises workers
- More community centre and funding
- Weekend activities
- More mental health support
- Worried about noise and social behaviour
- Music classes
- Low cost activities
- Kids dance classes
- Eat healthy for families on low income
- Signing classes
- Parent and baby classes
- Gardening
- low cost activities
- Self-defence classes
- Access to shops and building for disable people
- More police on the street

### **Question 3 – For some people obstacles and inaccessible places can block off parts of the local area and community to those with mobility issues, in wheelchairs, or with young children. What other issues are of great concern?**

- Dealing with high crime rate
- Unaffordable housing in Islington
- Dealing with homelessness

- Drug dealing in the area
- Gangs
- Bogus callers
- Being lonely
- Council repair housing
- Housing benefits being cut
- Young adult support (work and having somewhere to live)
- Poor road and pathways
- Noise and antisocial behaviour
- NHS is over stretched.
- Street cleaning is poor
- Dog fouling

**Report: Colin Adams, Centre Manager, Community Brickworks**

**Date: 2 March 2018**