

CREATING A FAIRER FUTURE FOR THE CALLY

Workshop Two Report for the Jean Stokes Community Centre

WE ARE
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Making the Jean Stokes Community Centre a space for all

On 14 December we held a second workshop on proposals to improve the Jean Stokes Community Centre. These plans have been developed using feedback from meetings with local people, users of the centre, local community groups, and voluntary organisations such as Help on your Doorstep. Public Works, the architects, presented ideas around:

An improved entrance on the street with easier access

From conversations with regular users, it has become clear that the main entrance on Carnoustie Drive is not very visible or accessible and many residents do not know it exists. A new, clearly signed, friendly and spacious entrance would improve the centre by making it easier to find about and more accessible. The new improved entrance should include:

- a new reception area, part of a small community canteen
- improved noticeboards and screens to provide regular updates on the activities offered at the centre
- a new public green space on Freeling Street that could be developed with Cultivating Cally.

Moving from an 'appointment only' to a 'drop in' centre

The new entrance should help the centre become a place where the local community

can find support and advice and where residents can drop by for a tea in a safe and welcoming environment. It should also offer free work/meeting area for local residents and free access to WIFI.

A basement space designed for Cally VCS organisations

A number of Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) organisations would like space in the centre. By opening up the basement and connecting it to the already active ground floor, the project hopes to create a lot of additional space to house organisations working within Bemerton. These additional spaces could be:

- workshop / event / canteen space
- additional meeting rooms
- desk and creative based workspaces
- affordable office and co-working spaces with free IT services for local residents.

Please come and have your say at our final workshop:

Creating more community spaces for all at the Jean Stokes Community Centre

Online discussion

Monday 11 January, 6.00pm-7.00pm

Book a place at:

www.islington.gov.uk/jeanstokes

Examples of the design ideas we could use at the Jean Stokes Community Centre

Here are some examples of the design ideas we could use at the Jean Stokes Community Centre:



Enfield Business Centre



DK-CM School



Granville Community Centre entrance

Monday 14 December 2020

Workshop Report for Jean Stokes Community Centre

Design process:

Public Works presented some early design options and the latest preferred option for the Jean Stokes Centre refurbishment. The preferred option offers a new improved entrance to the centre which can also provide access to the basement by a lift and a staircase.

Two main options were considered at the start. Option 1 would create a small extension on the front of the building and Option 2 would mean all of the new work would be done inside the existing building.

The key aim of both options was to create a new connection to the basement with a staircase and lift and to create a new entrance area with a reception.

Both of these options offered benefits however Option 1, with the proposed extension, was preferred as it added additional floor space to the centre, which would allow more community activity to happen in the future and would allow the centre to become a drop-in facility. The problems with Option 2 were that it actually lost space on the ground floor and there were potential structural issues because it would require removing some key structural walls which would be expensive. Due to this Option 1 has been developed further and has received positive feedback from local residents, Councillors and existing users.



Preferred option

Preferred option (Option 1): Small extension with new reception space

This option will create a new entrance with a reception that connects to the existing kitchen. It moves the main entrance more central to the building making it more visible and more accessible. The new entrance space could also be used as a drop-in area for residents or workshops

making the centre more welcoming. It also means it is easy to get to the basement via a staircase or a new lift making the basement a part of the centre.

The construction would only have a minimal disruption on the existing centre and wider building.

Monday 14 December 2020

Workshop Report from the Jean Stokes Community Centre

Feedback from local people

1. Can you see the proposed new entrance and the new space supporting you and other local residents?

- “A receptionist to get information would be really useful - currently people cannot get in because nobody is there.”
- “I like the entrance design and the way it makes activities visible”
- “We could use the (front) space for Coffee mornings. At the moment we are a bit tucked away while it would be nice to have more light and a more open space”
- “The propose extension would give the centre a more community feel”
- “It is better to have a more present and well lit entrance. Currently the centre blends into the estate and it is not recognisable”
- “I am very excited about these glass frontage”
- “Great that every space is accessible through the new plan”

2. Would Jean Stokes Community Centre work better for you if it was a drop-in community centre?

- “Jean Stokes as a drop in centre would be good. Perhaps it can open late but close early on a weekend. This would be great for elderly people who struggle from isolation. It can be a place where people come to meet.”
- “Yes, I like the drop in vibe - It opens up the centre”

3. Based on your knowledge of the area what advice would you like to share at this stage?

- “The community centre should be the heart of the Cally - nobody can see it at the moment, it could be a great place and we need to support it”
- “Part of the space in the basement could be perfect to house creative activities and would help from a mental health point of view as many people will really benefit from new programmes around craft and art. We would need more natural light and a more open feeling. That’s the only issue”
- “Add the opportunity for a spaces to organise events. Currently there is not enough affordable space for the community to have gatherings. Some events can have 50 + people. We need more equipment needed for events though”
- “Can see that the proposed new entrance provides a much more secure feeling, as you can always go through the front instead of the back. Wheelchair users or families with buggies currently need to enter the centre from the backdoor. The new frontage, with the stairs and the ramp meeting in the same point, will mean that wheelchair users are not being treated as a second class citizen”

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Next steps

You can find out more and give feedback online at:

www.islington.gov.uk/jeanstokes

Hard copies of the workshop reports and feedback forms are available at and can be returned to a new 'We are Cally' letterbox at the entrance of the Jean Stokes Community Centre.

Timeline:

Summer 2020 - Architects are appointed
Autumn/Winter 2020 - Public Consultation
Spring 2021 - Works to start on site
End of Summer 2021 - Works to finish

Residents workshops:

Following the workshop on Monday 14 December, you are invited to see and discuss our advanced plans on 11 January at our next workshop before our consultation finishes.

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You can comment on our plans until **1 February 2021**.

We will submit a final application for Planning approval in February 2021.

We are Cally

'We are Cally' is an exciting project aimed at creating new opportunities, improving local facilities and unlocking the potential in the Cally and give the Cally a fairer future. To achieve this we're working on a number of projects that will help us deliver our ambitions:

- improving the Jean Stokes Community Centre
- creating an employment hub at West Library
- making major improvements to Barnard Park
- setting-up a Caledonian Road Trader's Association for local businesses
- creating more affordable workspaces for small businesses to provide local jobs for local people
- running a scheme of small grants for local community organisations

You can find out more at:

www.islington.gov.uk/wearecally

Contact details

If you have a query, please contact us at

Email: wearecally@islington.gov.uk

Tel: **020 7527 3858**

Web: www.islington.gov.uk/jeanstokes

Alternatively, you can contact the architects at **079 2671 0660** or

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If you would like this document in large print or Braille, audiotapes or in another language please call **020 7527 3858**