

Subject: FW: Response to 'Wood Green's Future' Consultation

From: Judith Fairlie
Sent: 07 April 2017 19:00
To: LDF
Cc: Samantha Clarke
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To Haringey Council in response to the 'Wood Green Future' Consultation Process

I have been a working artist in Chocolate Factory 1 since 2000 and during the past 17 years the community of artists has grown, diversified and become more productive and interactive with the community. Many of us are also Haringey residents. With the support of Collage Arts the Chocolate Factory Artists now engage the community in all kinds of ways and at many different levels. We are a unique group of artists and makers in all media who have provided education, outreach, charitable work, and therapy for example, for all ages, but particularly the young in Haringey. It is a resource that has taken many years to build up. What can Haringey Council do to keep this rich resource intact?

People have been able to grow their businesses and practices because rents and accommodation have been monitored and supported and thus the Artists and Makers have been able to make a start and then maintain and expand. What will be the future for this unique centre for artistic creativity?

I know from my own experience that the loyal support of people at every Open Studios from the surrounding areas over the last 17 years that we are valued - because we provide access to creative workshops and studios, that our products are enjoyed and our relationships, which have been built up over the years are a continuing source of enjoyment to the public.

I am very aware that Haringey Council like many in the country has been seriously affected by the damaging Government cuts to funding and that jobs and social housing are a huge priority for the borough which has got so much potential to realise. But can there be space and a continued presence for Collage Arts and the body of artists and makers in the Cultural Quarter of Wood Green. Can there be space for people to continue to run businesses, provide employment and educational opportunities, pleasure and engagement with the arts across the whole spectrum. It is an opportunity and a challenge.

Judith Fairlie
Chocolate Factory 1