

## Community Meeting 11.11.2024

**Laerke, Adam, Isobel (Chair), Yann, Gaetano, Abby, Raph**

**Apols: Fabiola, Howie, Louis, SJ**

### **'24 accounts**

Accounts ending april /24 have been filed and we made more money than we thought (or rather didn't spend as much as we thought). Therefore need to review forecasting. CR's business model runs at a loss, 20k grant funding needed per year to run. Current grant money runs out end of tax year '26.

Action: ADD THE FORECAST when meeting minutes are circulated.

Volunteer Howie has helped with forecasting and accounting in the past. The meeting discussed putting out requests for accountancy support (next newsletter?).

### **Review and update drop off points**

The meeting discussed that the 'drop off points' project has been something that has been worked on over last year, with funding applied for (not successful) and stakeholders approached. Pros of project:

-cover more canal network with potential for the collections to be completed 'more efficiently' and therefore offering customers a cheaper way of accessing the service.

Agreement had been made with CRT for a drop off point at Pickett's Lock. Change of regional manager, break down in communication. Meeting attendee reported that they heard from CRT that they no longer had the £££ to support the project,

3 options discussed- raise the money ourselves// buy it ourselves // just do it // Crt stills do it?

Howard or Robert (the two managers) they are north of Stonebridge (harbour master of east India dock is the boss south of Stonebridge).

Action:

Visit canal community garden by Vicky park to see if drop off point there could be viable.

Continue to explore other options in east london.

Approach CRT to say that CR will cover cost of building the drop off point facility.

### **Review and update re. the wick lane site**

We have wanted to process the poop ourselves for ages for many reasons, have been looking for a site, identified a site by Vicky park, Crt owns it, SJ connected with growing concerns who used to be there before and a joint bid was considered with them. However, as it was found that there is no sewage on the site and the business rates (let alone the ground rent- figure unknown) is so high. The direct application from CR wasn't brought forward. The only info. Given by letting agency was that business rates for this site are advertised as £10k/annum.

Canal garden hub (CGH) is also applying for that site- Isobel met with them-> "we want it too!"-> CGH included CR in their proposal bid to CRT without much further communication as a partner.

The CGH proposal was circulated at the meeting. CGH is proposing that they manage the site as 'master letters' and CR could sublet from them.

The meeting attendees raised that CDT (another partner named on the CGH proposal) are suspicious- kicked lots of other organisations at other sites? We are in a similar spot as what CDTs previous renters happened?. The meeting discussed that CRT are likely looking to want to get a lot of £££ for the site and the CGH proposal doesnt offer this. Other potential letters could give the commercial rate.

The meeting discussed: If canal CGH proposal is successful- what do we want to do?

Action: To convene a community meeting to discuss how to move forward is CGH proposal is successful.

The meeting discussed if anyone had any contacts re. site/land that we could partner with for access to site /discuss drop off point options.

The meeting discussed that potential 'use' of the dry material we collect is that it could heat saunas. Raph is an architectural designer and can design saunas! Abby knows a person in Dartmoor with a sauna and big land?

Action:

Get in touch with Roding? SJ can maybe?

Contact Wilders (a charity that Raph has connections with) to see if they would be up for collaborating (land or hosting workshops..)

Contact Hackney bath saunas

### **Workshops**

The meeting discussed that a composting workshop had been run and that the plan is to also hold workshops for compost loo building and vermicomposting. Isobel raised that these projects are an important part of the CR vision, but mindful of time and resources within the team. It was raised that money could be applied for for such a role/responsibility when making funding apps.

### **Next steps**

Fundraising will need to be focus of the 2025 workload

The meeting discussed:

- that a specific fundraising meeting could be convened. Maybe adding marketing too?
- including payment for a fundraiser when applying for grants.
- adding a "give donation" option website

### **Maternity cover**

SJ is covering it and doing a great job!

The meeting discussed convening 'working days' again maybe. Comms to go out via whatsapp group.

### **Survey to gather data for a drop off point price point**

The meeting discussed drop off point price points and considered how much would people pay.

The meeting discussed:

- Make an online survey and share it everywhere? Or do it in person and drop off papers on boats?
- Laerke suggested she could drop newsletters to boats.

Action: newsletter before Christmas and include the survey there. and make a paper one too to include in customer's caddies and consider dropping to individual boats also.

### **Software**

Positive feedback was about the software

The meeting discussed:

-Do we want only text or add email options too?

Action: For the length of the SMS texts sent to people to be shortened by creating a tiny URL