

Statement of Community Involvement

Updated 11th January 2019

Background:

Since the initial submission for planning in 2014, much has changed at the property 399 High Road Tottenham. The property has been 'occupied' by a group claiming to be the TWSI (Tottenham War Services Institute) Steering Committee. Despite the fact that this group of people have no connection with the property owners, they purport to present as a Community Action Group concerned about the future of the property. The self appointed leaders of the 'Steering Committee' are unelected, do not represent the Charity, nor do they have any interest in the fulfillment of the TWSI Charitable Objectives. However, their presence does prevent the Charity from carrying out any Community Activities and fulfilling its own obligations.

Given that the Trustees no longer have access to a building that is owned outright by the Trust, and that the 'occupiers' refuse to engage in any meaningful dialogue other than spiteful rhetoric, the eventual eviction of the current occupiers is seemingly inevitable. The building now, rather than being a centre for community activities and its commercial ventures affording the TWSI the ability to provide support for ex service men and women, it has become a magnet for the less desirable elements of inner city living. It is understood that the building continues to be used for parties and other events and should therefore be noted that the licence on the property is no longer valid and the insurance company have refused to provide insurance for the property due to the TWSI not being in control of the activities / people who are in situ. The local police are fully aware of this situation, as indeed are the Charity Commission.

Going forward, the eventual development of the property will once again afford the TWSI the ability to continue its work in the local community, albeit from a change of venue. The address 399 and 399a High Road sadly now has association with

nefarious activities and the continuation of a Charitable concern from the property no longer seems plausible.

The Future:

The TWSI intends to retain a presence in Tottenham. 399 has been home to the *Footsteps Academy* for the past 5 years, and hopes to continue its connection with the school for disaffected young people on an on-going basis. We are actively seeking alternative accommodation for the school, and hope that this will be in the Borough.

Post development, and with the financial windfall the development will bring, the Trust will be in a position to actively *support for local start up businesses* for those who have suffered from long term unemployment and homelessness and specifically for those with a military background. Each project will be assessed on an individual basis with *grants* primarily being offered to obtain suitable accommodation, which would otherwise have been possible at 399 High Road.

The Trust will seek to obtain a *small local venue for community activities*. This will be for the continued promotion of good mental health through the arts. It is envisaged that this will be a much smaller venue than 399 High Road and will be predominantly aimed at those seeking a platform for poetry and the spoken word. The alternative premises we seek will give the Trust not only an administrative base in the Borough but a place for local people to come together without the fear of prejudice.

Accommodation: In order that the Trust can continue to fulfill its obligations to ex service men and women, and because we recognize the problems in the Capital of homelessness, part of the financial settlement with the developer will be in the form of residential apartments within the developed site. This will enable us to provide short term practical support in terms of accommodation during which time, needs can be assessed, move on plans made and from which a platform for change can be developed.

Respite Care:

A big part of the Trusts future will be to purchase a property outside of the City but primarily for the purpose of short term respite for those in need in London and specifically in the Borough of Haringey. This countryside project will provide an escape hatch for those in need of a space to breathe, but who cannot afford to self fund. The criteria will be for those living in the Borough who are suffering from mental ill health and / or are in recovery from drug and alcohol addiction and who have been formerly homeless.

The project will allow City dwellers the opportunity to become involved in growing projects and countryside activities. Accommodation and food will be provided for short term breaks away from the City to allow the individual to re-calibrate their lives. Move on and back to work projects will be part of the programme. The project will of course, as is common to all TWSI ventures be based in arts and music and be founded in the principles of healthy living.

The future of the TWSI is only certain with the development of the property 399 and 399a High Road.

The benefit that the re-development will bring to the Trust and to the Borough and to the people of Tottenham as a whole is incalculable.

Currently there is a building that is uninsured and unlicensed. The members of the Trust that own it are unable to access it, not even to ensure that Health and Safety standards are being adhered to. Post development, the property will be well cared for and well presented with the financial benefits being reinvested in the Borough and its diverse population.