

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Central Hill Community Centre
Date: 10 June 2020 09:46:26

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your enquiry. I am sorry if you feel your requests for a facility for the residents have not been taken on board but because the TRA hasn't been properly functioning until recently, the only concrete request for a base on the estate came via Children Services following a meeting with local youth providers in March 2019 after the shooting in Unity Close. The delay in progressing a base was essentially due to funding. There were specific budgets for Fenwick and Wimbourne House hubs which the Council was able to access but none for Central Hill except the possibility of using the Tower Hamlets Environmental Trust (Central Hill Estate) funds. These had been held up in a legal wrangle since 2012 but we have now managed to find a way forward and the fund will be used to pay for the refurbishment work. We therefore resumed discussions with Rathbone about using the housing office as a hub for youth activities. Rathbone have been liaising with the TRA and we have asked them to include the TRA in the running of the facility which they are happy to do and have arranged a meeting with the TRA to discuss this. However we need Rathbone to take formal responsibility for managing the hub as they have the funding and paid staff to do this.

We have tendered the works to bring the hub back into use as required by the Council's Procurement policy with the understanding works should be completed by the beginning of July. We anticipate these works will start next week.

On your other points regarding the TRA funding, it is true they are owed annual admin grants for registering in 2016, 2018, & 2019 but the problem paying them has been the TRA's lack of a bank account. I understand the new committee is attempting to resolve this and we will honour those payments when the account has been opened. With regards to using the bunker we would support any activity there that would benefit the residents on the estate but as you know this is currently being marketed as a commercial property by Valuation and Strategic Asset so any proposals for use would need to be dealt with by them.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Housing Services
Lambeth Council
Civic Centre
6 Brixton Hill
SW2 1EG

Tel: [REDACTED]
Email: [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 04 June 2020 22:19

To: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Cc: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Subject: Central Hill Community Centre

Dear [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]

I am very disappointed about the way that the much neglected residents of Central Hill have been side-lined in the project to give them a community centre.

18 months ago when the services and building closed down I asked about the housing office on the estate and was informed by [REDACTED] that the building was condemned (although despite a number of requests I was not allowed to view the building to see what was needed).

I then requested on many occasions through HfL, [REDACTED] and many others that we should find a space on the Central Hill Estate that residents could call their own community space. I suggested options of refurbishing the housing office, replacing it with porta cabins, or using it as a site for HfL to show how good they were and actually deliver something that would benefit existing residents and deliver a quality facility that would last throughout the regeneration process. I also suggested that we took over the Bunker under Peartree House and I would still like a response from the council on that.

What appears to have happened now is that the Rathbone Trust has come in with an offer of funding to refurbish the housing office which has been accepted. Now I was the first to speak to Rathbones about the possibilities on the estate and even helped arrange a viewing of the bunker and met them a couple of times on the estate.

The residents and I are happy to work alongside Rathbones and we encourage their presence to support our community, however you need to keep the Residents Association and wider residents fully informed about what is going on and fully involved in any decisions.

It seems that someone has put out to tender the refurbishment of the Housing Office without publicising it locally or asking if residents want to put their own bid in. You probably don't realise it, but involving them in the whole of this process will help gain their buy-in to any solution and ongoing support.

I want to know a few things:

1. Why, 18 months on is the housing office building now not condemned?
2. What are you going to do to rectify the oversight of not incorporating the CHERA in what is going on with the housing office? I believe that they are wanting the bidding process restarting. I understand where they are coming from but I would not want to lose too much momentum and I also don't want to lose the good will of the Rathbone Trust who I hope that we can work with going forward.
3. Fenwick Estate and South Lambeth estate have received £100,000+ and £60,000+ for new community accommodation respectively when they already both had facilities. When is

Central Hill Estate going to receive proportionate amount of funding from the council/HfL for community facilities?

4. How much money is owed to the TRA after many years of receiving nothing?
5. I recognise that the Bunker is not controlled by the housing team but please would you support my campaign to bring it under community control so that we can explore ways of refurbishing and making use of this empty but historic building?

Going forward please can you put the residents of Central Hill front and centre in your considerations where decisions affect them, they have had so little say in **anything** that has happened to them over the last 6 years and everything has taken its toll on the community and on individuals.

Kind regards

Pete

Councillor Pete Elliott
Green Party, Gipsy Hill Ward

Phone: [REDACTED]
Email: [REDACTED]
Website: <https://lambeth.greenparty.org.uk/>
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Surgeries:

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, councillors advice surgeries have been suspended until it is safe for them to resume. Until then, please keep up-to-date with the latest information from Lambeth Council here:

<https://www.lambeth.gov.uk/elections-and-council/about-lambeth/coronavirus-covid-19-information>

If you need help from me directly please contact me by phone or email.

Please follow the Government's advice: Stay at Home. Protect the NHS. Save Lives.

This email should be treated as confidential and not for sharing or publication

The Greenest Building is the One Already Built.