

Annual Report



April 2021 - March 2022



**To be a catalyst for sustainable
community-led change**

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WELCOME

Thames Ward Community Project (TWCP), was created in 2017 following the award of a £311K grant from the National Lottery Community Fund. The project was a response to the real divisions and lack of social infrastructure in Thames Ward, site to one of the largest housing developments in Europe, in a Borough experiencing high levels of poverty.

Over the years, we've grown as a team of trustees and staff members, but the heart of what we do remains to have residents driving change within the community. This annual report shares the impact and stories of our projects across the 21/22 financial year. We hope you gain an insight into the people behind the work we do and how we've framed our approach around the challenges they have identified and their hopes for the future of their community.

This report will help you understand what our work looks like in practice, whether this is how we champion resident voice across all our projects, the achievements of the Young Citizen Action Group, impact of the Barking Food Forest, or the connections made within our health programmes. For more information about any of our work, please visit our website or contact our team for a chat!

Zainab Jalloh

Communications and Outreach Officer

Our Vision

To be a catalyst for sustainable community-led change.

Our Mission

To bring together schools, community groups and residents from across the Thames Ward of the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham.

Our Aims

1. Championing resident voice to influence change in the area
2. Improve health outcomes and quality of life for residents
3. Increase resident skills and opportunities
4. Improve the local environment

TRUSTEES



Allan Thacker



Anna Pollard



Anusha Shah



Hafizur Rahman



Josiah Oyekunle



Lai Ogunsola



Siji Alonge



Steven Gaman



Venilia Amorim



Yasir Imran



Zahra Awani

STAFF



Matt Scott, Director



**Jamie Kesten, Deputy
Director**



**Zainab Jalloh,
Communications +
Outreach Officer**



**Alex Anthony,
Wellbeing Navigators
Coordinator**



**Rahela Begum,
Health Outreach
Worker**



**Nia Lopez,
Administrative Officer**

A WORD FROM OUR CHAIRS



It has been an exciting year, one that has provided many new challenges and has presented new exciting opportunities for collaboration and expansion. We are honoured to have co-chaired the Thames Ward Community Project (TWCP). Through this journey we have not only had the privilege to grow as leaders but have had the privilege to witness our community grow leaps and bounds.

We began the year, with much eagerness to mend the hearts, minds, and spirit of a community that had endured much loss the year prior due to the pandemic. We understood our community was in great need of support and connection, through this understanding we took steps to address these priorities. To invest more into our community, we needed to invest in ourselves. In 2020, we secured a budget to expand the staff members for critical roles ranging from Mental Health - Wellbeing Navigator to Community Development Administrative Officer.

A WORD FROM OUR CHAIRS

Our team expansion has allowed us to strengthen TWCP with incredible people and the capacity to achieve more impactful results. In September and October, Trustees and staff participated in several team-development away days to strengthen our collaboration, communication, and leadership skills. These away days also served as an opportunity for us to reimagine TWCP - we identified our collective desire to reimagine the identity, mission, vision, and strategic goals. Alongside this much work has been going on behind the scenes to establish our governance practices and live out our vision internally as well as in the project impacts. We are continuing to strengthen our vision to structure the organisation through a future-focused rebranding project which will be pending in the new year.

This year we successfully planned and launched several impactful projects and events that have been instrumental in uniting the community and creating opportunities for vocalising resident-led change. These projects and events range from our arts event 'ARTiculate the Journey' celebrating unity, culture and creativity, to our Community Fire Safety Action Plan and supporting local people through our Wellbeing Navigators Programme. These initiatives were made possible through local residents working in partnership with various organisations and stakeholders including the British Red Cross, Barking Riverside Limited (BRL), Barking and Dagenham Council (LBBD), CCG (Clinical Commissioning Group - part of the NHS) and Riverside School. Just to highlight a few.

A WORD FROM OUR CHAIRS

We are grateful for all who have supported us toward a path to uplifting and improving the lives of Thames Ward residents for generations to come. As we reflect on the year, we would be remiss without acknowledging and recognizing incredible staff members who have since left TWCP to pursue other opportunities such as Rahela Begum.

We would also like to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of staff members and resident trustees for their commitment over the year to progressing TWCP.

Looking ahead, it is with much anticipation that we welcome new team members and trustees, continue to establish as an organisation and embrace a new name! We're excited for the journey ahead in making continuous improvements and keeping the community and resident voice at the forefront of what we do, to see residents driving change.

Anna Pollard and Josiah Oyekunle, Co-Chairs

DIRECTOR REPORT 21/22



Over the last year we have gone from strength to strength. Starting with the news that we had successfully been awarded continuation funding for a further 3 years from the Lottery covering core costs. Then further funding from BRL, LBBD, NHS, Trust for London, London Sport, BD Collective and others has seen us do more projects and activities than ever before – all during a pandemic. It could have gone a different way, these have been very tough times but I'm proud to say we have more than met the challenges that have come our way. The residents, including those who are our trustees and the people who run our projects, the staff who support and the funders and partners who have backed us, are all responsible for what has been delivered and achieved. Those include:

- Initiating the Barking Food Forest, our very own community garden
- Activating the Riverside News paper and its resident editorial board
- Co-Chairing the Barking Sports 4 Change partnership, a coalition of over 25 local groups
- Co-Chairing BD Citizens assembly attended by 130 people
- Fundraising and supporting delivery of resident led ESOL classes
- Working with the British Red Cross and residents to develop a Fire Safety Action Plan
- Convening the Reimagining Adult Social Care forum (on of several BD Collective networks)
- Convening monthly resident planning forums and supporting resident priorities for action
- Leading on Thames Locality Partnership's community outreach (new model of care)
- Convening the Thames View Activation Group and Heathy Thames Partnerships
- Developing a local resilience strategy in partnership with BD Collective and British Red Cross
- Convening monthly meetings of the Ripple Nature Reserve Steering Group
- Facilitating weekly Young Citizens Action Group leadership training (Riverside School)
- Recruiting 20 residents as 'Wellbeing Navigators' supported by LBBD
- Delivering weight management activities led by local groups
- Supporting local artists to deliver a celebration of Black History

- Developing resident trustee charity business planning via away days supported by Locality
- Facilitating resident engagement with leading stakeholders including BRL, GLA and LBBD

There is in fact a lot more going on than this; but it gives a flavour. The effort of bringing a new organisation together, having been a project of Riverside School and now a charity requires immense commitment from all involved – not least the staff and trustees. The 2017 initial Lottery grant challenged us to create a resident-led development trust and we have done that, but it is only the beginning. If we want to be around for the long haul, for a hundred years, like the settlement movements, for example Toynbee Hall, then we need strong governance and secure revenue. Running projects is a joy even at its most testing. Putting the systems in place and locking in the finance to support that is foundational. The trusts and groups I've spoken to across London who we aspire to be like have told me it takes years. But looking back since 2017 it is something to behold in terms of how much we've got done, and hence how much we can do together in the future. My vision is not for our organisation to become huge. We've already tripled our income in a single year, but to measure our success also in how we grow other groups. We need to be the support, when it is needed, for others to thrive. Make sure you hold us to that.

Matthew Scott, Director

1080

RESIDENTS AND STAKEHOLDERS INVOLVED WITH THE PROJECT

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

**104
RESIDENTS
RECEIVE
FIRST JOB
AFTER
POP-UP
DRIVE**



**LOCAL
RESIDENTS
DESIGN
AND HOST
FIRST SIP
'N' PAINT
EVENT**





KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

**£16,800
FUNDING FOR
RESIDENT-LED
NEWSPAPER**



**YOUNG
PEOPLE
MEET
MAYOR OF
LONDON**



PROJECTS

WELLBEING NAVIGATORS

28

**LOCAL PEOPLE
TRAINED**



12

**WELLBEING
NAVIGATORS**



300

**PEOPLE HELPED
VIA EVENTS**



The Wellbeing Navigators Programme is a network of local volunteers based in the community who can help residents on their health and wellbeing journey. The volunteers support local residents through signposting and referrals to community activities and have recently partnered with community groups to engage residents.

A joint programme between TWCP and LBBD, its mission is to combat social isolation and help local people get healthy. In March 2022, the programme received £10k from LBBD's connect fund to run events in Thames View, and Barking Riverside.

The events funded have included Yoga, Visual Arts Classes, Art Therapy Classes, a Walking Group, Herbal Medicine making and Litter Picking. During these activities, residents were able to chat to wellbeing navigators in a relaxed setting about further wellness options and services.

Our Impact

Local Resident - "I'm over the moon to be in touch with TWCP. I suffer with depression and anxiety among other things. Wellbeing Navigators has given me a reason to get up and leave my house. Although I have difficulty with big groups of people this is pushing me at my own pace to get used to participating in local groups. Now I feel I have something to smile about and look forward to."

PROJECTS

BARKING FOOD FOREST

295

**REGISTERED
ATTENDEES**



96

**ONLINE BARKING
FOOD FOREST
FRIENDS**



**100+
PLANTS
SOWN**



BARKING FOOD FOREST

Barking Food Forest is a community gardening project in Barking Riverside that benefits students, local children and young people, families and wider residents of all ages.

In 2021, following securing the site through the hard campaigning work and drive of the Young Citizen Action Group at Riverside School, we finally started in-person sessions at the end of August 2022.

Thereafter, Barking Food Forest has had a number of great events. The Pumpkin Party, Diwali celebration and the Easter Egg Hunt had a great turn out. Residents and those from further afield in Barking and Dagenham got together to garden, celebrate and socialise with others.

The project also continues to bring in funding receiving £10K supported by TWCP from the GLA Climate Kick-Start Fund that will fund a performance stage for BFF with an integrated rainwater harvesting roof, under-deck water storage and solar powered irrigation system, solar panels and a portable solar electric system for BFF.

Our Impact

Local Resident - "It's helped me open up to people. I can now speak to people where I wouldn't before. Also, it's great for my physical and mental health. On a physical level, if I don't move I'm done. The more I move the stronger I get. Being outside in the open has also really improved my mental health."

PROJECTS

YOUNG CITIZEN ACTION GROUP

8

STUDENTS TRAINED
IN COMMUNITY
ORGANISING



2

CAMPAIGNS WON



5

STUDENTS ATTENDED
THE CLIMATE KICK-
START FUND AWARDS



YOUNG CITIZEN ACTION GROUP

The Young Citizen Action Group are a group of young people from Riverside School making a difference in their community while having fun, making friends and building the confidence to engage with decision-makers to shape the way their area is changing.

At the start of this school year the Young Citizen Action Group received community organising training alongside Form Ambassadors to support their campaigning work.

Joining up with a listening campaign across Barking and Dagenham Citizens and following up with a local plea for support from students from George Carey school the YCAG chose to prioritise the following issues.

1. Food waste collection in the borough
2. Concerns over youth safety

They have scheduled a meeting with Climate Champion Councillor Andrew Achilleos and are negotiating youth safety assemblies for their school.

Our Impact

YCAG Year 10 Member - " YCAG gave us a voice to speak out on issues that affect us and act upon them to make our community better. It forces adults to see us as part of the community and take us seriously, since we are not just complaining, but taking action."

PROJECTS

RESIDENT PLANNING FORUM

**143
RESIDENTS
ENGAGED**



**13 MONTHLY
MEETINGS
HELD**



**RESIDENT
WORKING
GROUP
FORMED**



RESIDENT PLANNING FORUM

The Resident Planning Forum is a regular meeting of residents, hosted by TWCP and Planning Aid London, to identify issues, opportunities and concerns relating to planning in Thames View and Barking Riverside. It is a safe space for all to work and learn together to better influence planning in our local area.

We do this by:

- Talking to people in our community
- Identifying priorities
- Forming working groups to take action on particular issues
- Hearing from expert advisers
- Responding to consultations
- Negotiating with the council

In 2021/22, RPF had 10 meetings attended by 180 online attendees, including residents and stakeholders.

Residents have recently formed a working group to try to get the Ripple Nature Reserve open, which has been closed to the public for since 2018.

Our Impact

Partner of RPF - "RPF is helping nurture expertise and problem-solving among a growing set of active citizens. As a teacher of planning at UCL's Bartlett School it's a cooperation in which some of our students, drawn from across the world, can learn from your experiences and learn how to make a contribution that will help you take command of your place."

Nature Reserve

PROJECTS

HEALTHY THAMES PROJECT

41

**RESIDENTS AND
PARTNERS
ENGAGED**



4

**HEALTHY
THAMES EVENTS**



2

**HAF
PROGRAMMES
DELIVERED**



HEALTHY THAMES PROJECT

The Healthy Thames Project started in June 2021 with the hiring of new Health Outreach Worker, Rahela Begum.

A collaboration supported by:

- TWCP
- Barking Riverside Limited
- The council – LBBD
- CCG (Clinical Commissioning Group – part of the NHS)

The forum created a space for people to feel more comfortable and knowledgeable to have a say at meetings where decisions are made around health services by providing them with insight and encouraging discussion.

The forum took place three times over the course of the year, bringing together over 60 residents and stakeholders. It boasted guest speakers such as Dr John (CCG Chair), Emily Plane (NHS) and Dan Hopewell from Bromley by Bow Centre, as well as resident case studies.

Our Impact

Community Liaison Officer and local resident of Barking and Dagenham - "It's a pleasure to be a member of a steering group centred around integrating local residents into the decision-making process of **Healthy Thames**, to ensure meaningful and sustainable outcomes are innovative and quintessential to achieving the best practice."

PROJECTS

COMMUNITY RESILIENCE NETWORK

104

**RESIDENTS RECEIVED
FIRST VACCINE JAB**



76

**RESIDENTS AND
PARTNERS
ENGAGED WITH**



2

**FIRE WORKSHOPS
HELD WITH
RESIDENTS**



COMMUNITY RESILIENCE NETWORK

The Community Resilience Programme began in 2021, in partnership with Aviva and the British Red Cross, working with communities in Thames View, and Barking Riverside.

The project aims are to increase resilience by engaging local people in emergency preparedness, response and recovery planning in their community.

In response to a low vaccine take up in the area, TWCP worked with the Council and BRC to host a vaccine pop up in July 2021, which was highly successful. We had a record number of first jabs, the highest of any pop-up in Barking and Dagenham!

A number of events have also been hosted regarding fire safety, which brought together local service providers and residents. They were well attended by local residents, engaging families with local entertainment, and leading them in a guided workshop where residents were invited to share ideas to help create a fire safety action plan for the community.

Our Impact

British Red Cross staff - "TWCP support has been particularly beneficial in the organisation of regular residents & experts walks to discuss the history and the changes in the area, the risks and hazard and the emerging solutions. These had been an opportunity to explore what a resilient community looks like and how we can enhance its capability and adaptability."

PROJECTS

ESOL FOR PARENTS

£8525

**RECEIVED FROM
FUNDERS**



22

**WEEKS CLASSES
DELIVERED**



45

**STUDENTS
SUPPORTED**



ESOL FOR PARENTS

From 2021-2022, skills and enterprise steering group member and ESOL lecturer Pierre Moudio, received funding to run two ESOL programmes: £5525 from the L&Q Foundation's Place Makers Fund for a 12-week programme, and £2.5K funding from the Adult College of Barking & Dagenham for a 10-week programme.

The classes were delivered online via Zoom and included a variety of methods for learning including discussions, presentations, use of interactive materials, video, and student led projects.

The programmes saw 45 students supported through a beginners and intermediate class, focusing on topics chosen by students to meet their immediate needs, such as writing a letter for a job or buying groceries. They also enjoyed a workshop on improving their skills through voluntary work.



Our Impact

ESOL student - "Thank you teacher! Thank you for all that you are doing for us with your words and because you show that I am reaching my goals of learning English. Thank you so much for getting me out of my dark hole."

PROJECTS

RIVERSIDE NEWS

£16,800

FUNDING RECEIVED



2

**NEWSPAPERS
PRODUCED BY
RESIDENT BOARD**



5000

**NEWSPAPERS
DISTRIBUTED TO
HOMES**



RIVERSIDE NEWS

*Barking
Food Forest:*




RIVERSIDE NEWS

In November 2021, local residents relaunched Riverside News', a local publication previously produced by Barking Riverside Limited (BRL), as a new resident-led newspaper. BRL partnered with TWCP and provided funding to support the training of local people via the Social Spider CIC to support the creation of a sustainable resident-led newspaper.

The Resident Editorial Board was made up of three local residents; Emmanuel Oreyeni, Venilia Amorim, and Zahra Awani, and Zainab Jalloh (TWCP staff) who received training and subsequently produced a Winter and Spring Issue, distributing more than 5000 copies to homes in the local area.

The projects' central focus has been to champion resident voice through the primary content featuring community groups, opinion pieces and local updates. In the future, the project hopes to secure more funding and other ways to generate income.



Our Impact

Local resident and REB member - "As a person who is involved in various community-led activities, being a part of the REB has allowed me to write about my community and the things that matter to me and local residents."

OUR PARTNERS WORDS



"TWCP is a very significant organisation in Barking and Dagenham. It has not only empowered many residents to be involved in community development, the team also invest heavily in the wider development of the borough's social sector." - Avril McIntyre, Director of Community Resources



"We have had a great experience partnering with them as an organisation, and working with staff individually. The team are committed to rooting their work in the lives and experiences of local residents, ensuring that each project they undertake has emerged from putting resident voice at the centre. I have learned a lot from them about patient relationship-building across the local community and how to harness the skills of residents to not only create innovative projects, but to also in turn create a deeper sense of community and increase a neighbourhoods collective capacity for progress."

Frankie Webster, Citizens UK



"We have been very keen to work with TWCP because it's at the sharp end of London's development in so many ways: an area with massive targets for new housing but where so little is being planned at council rents; an enormous "Opportunity Area" but with no democratic mechanism for citizens to regulate what happens; a very creative community project working to build bottom-up collaborations linking long-established communities and new arrivals." Michael Edwards, Hon Prof, Bartlett School of Planning, UCL

OUR PARTNERS WORDS



"Barking Riverside Ltd is proud to support Thames Life and the Resident Editorial Board (REB) to deliver The RiverView. It's a brilliant project that has amplified the voices of residents and keeps them in the know about the changes that are underway locally. It has also helped residents to become better informed about the many events and activities that are happening locally. A lot of work goes into producing The RiverView four times a year, which is testament to dedication of Thames Life and the REB." - Sara Bloch, Barking Riverside Ltd



"As part of a Community Resilience Pilot in the East London Neighbourhood of Barking Riverside, British Red Cross worked with TWCP to co-produce a programme of preparedness and resilience activities. In 2021 British Red Cross and TWCP collaborated as co-conveyers for a neighbourhood network - with the support of LBBD & BD Collective. As part of this work, we organised regular engagement activities with residents and expert around heatwaves, climate change, fire safety & flood preparedness. British Red Cross Staff and Volunteers, together with residents and statutory organisations took part in workshops, scenario exercises & community events." - Alessandro Froidi, Community Resilience Project Manager
British Red Cross

In Residents Words



"TWCP has helped the community understand that they are and can be a part of change they want to see in the local community. We can be seen, heard and valued in our area which is so important for us as local residents." - Josiah



"TWCP has certainly instilled confidence in many local residents to pursue their own business ideas and their own issues with council/developer." - Venilia



"TWCP has made our community stronger, because it is helping making it a place where it's clear every person matters and can make a difference to the place we share." - Anna

Finances

Summary of our income in 2021/2022



Created with Datawrapper

Summary of our expenses in 2021/2022



Created with Datawrapper

THANKS TO OUR PARTNERS AND FUNDERS

- Barking Riverside Limited
- Barking and Dagenham Citizens
- BD Collective
- British Red Cross
- National Lottery Community Fund
- Just Space
- LBBD
- Mayor of London
- NE CCG
- Riverside School
- Trust for London



SUPPORTED BY
MAYOR OF LONDON



citizens
Barking & Dagenham





TWCP

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