

Roehampton Community Capacity Development Project

Quarterly Progress Report 8

2021 - 2022 Quarter 3 Sep - Dec 2021

1. Introduction

This quarter has focused greatly on the project's sustainability. Building capacity of local community leaders through various engagement opportunities and providing support and guidance. Looking at how funding is distributed to community groups and what support groups need to be able to source funding and creating key documents highlighting the impact and learnings of key initiatives undertaken by the project.

As part of the documentation evidencing the impact of the project, the Roehampton Community Week Report was also published, the report highlights the origins of RCW, objectives and how they were reached. It details the impact the project made as well as recording all the organisations involved and recommendations for the sustainability of RCW.

This quarter the project lead has helped establish the Roehampton Community Week Fund (RCWF) sourced from the remaining funding of RCW to ensure the legacy of the event is continued. RCWF uses a participatory grant making process which allows for the funding application process to be more accessible for community groups wanting to organise community projects and puts the decision making ability in the hands of the community. The fund has proved to be another successful initiative for Roehampton, with a total of 15 applications received within 1 month highlighting the appetite for funding from groups at this level and the relationships built with local groups engaged with the project and its partners.

The Roehampton Response Network meetings are still proving as popular as ever with an average attendance of 28 community leaders with new attendees each week. The meetings have ensured the most pressing matters for residents and services are addressed in a constructive and solution focused format. One clear example of the impact the RRN has had on improving the health outcomes of local residents has been its ongoing partnership with the NHS SWL CCG and the C-19 vaccination programme. By working with the NHS SWL CCG they have been able to reach a vast and diverse audience that would not have been possible without the RRN; providing the latest updates, concerns and views from residents, recruiting volunteers and providing services with key intelligence of what is happening within the community and minority groups and ways to address any inequalities.

This quarter the lead continues to build capacity of other local community leaders to lead on local initiatives to create stronger communities and relationships with local services. For example, local residents chairing community meetings (RCW Steering Committee); talking and listening to RCWF project applications in order to make funding decisions. Also supporting others to take the lead to deliver events tackling important issues (Covid-19 Question Time and Domestic Abuse White Ribbon Event) yet still being heavily involved in the planning, marketing and delivery elements whilst being close enough to offer any guidance and overcome any potential barriers.

The project has also played a pivotal role in applying for funding from the GLA to help build stronger communities in partnership with Roehampton University. The bid for £40k was submitted in December and may lead to further funding opportunities. The project lead has been involved in applying for a total of £50k in funding that is currently pending, the outcomes for these funds should be known by the end of the next quarter.

Finally, the project lead was awarded a Civic Award in November 2021, for his community engagement work during the height of the pandemic. The Mayor of Wandsworth hosts the annual award ceremony to shine a spotlight on people who make fantastic contributions to day-to-day life in the borough. Eight awards and a special citation were given to people and teams from across Wandsworth, recognising the efforts they have made to helping others.

2. Progress in the four work streams

2a. Delivery and development of Roehampton Response Network (RRN) and local community stakeholders.

Progress in Q3 Sep - Dec 2021

- A total of 4 RRN meetings were carried out this quarter, during these meetings the following was discussed:
 - Accessing funding for Roehampton – Identifying funds, support needed, and the RCW Fund – how to apply and progress of applications
 - Community services and their accessibility – QMH
 - The provision of health services in Roehampton – identifying gaps/partnerships
 - Participation from the local authority services
 - NHS SWL C-19 Vaccination programme
 - Community events – Safer Neighbourhood, Festive Fortnight, White Ribbon

- The provision of resources for those struggling during the Coronavirus pandemic
- The RRN has seen over 30 new attendees this quarter from the likes of NHS Wandsworth, Wandsworth Council, Local Councillors, Roehampton University and other local charities.

2b. Creating and publishing the Roehampton Community Week Report

Progress in Q3 Sep- Dec 2021

RCW allowed residents, organisations and community groups to develop relationships within the community, utilise community resources, and share a vision. RCW managed to pull through despite COVID-19 restrictions but all while remaining safe and compliant. But most importantly RCW built trust and hope during a time when they were needed most. It is important to understand that without engagement from the community and a focus on asset-based community development RCW would not be possible; the networking that has taken place over the past 18 months plays a large part in the success of RCW. It was important to the project lead that a report be created to analyse processes and procedures of RCW, to ensure sustainability.

The RCW Report was created and published during this quarter; it outlines:

- Development plans
- The main objectives, which include:
 - To integrate delivery and co-ordination with local community groups, organisations
 - Council departments and Councillors
 - To develop communal areas and shared office space to address social isolation
 - Improve health and wellbeing of local residents
 - To build lasting capacity and community strength
- An analysis on data collected from RCW
- Future ambitions to encourage sustainability

2c. Roehampton Community Week Fund

Progress in Q3 Sep - Dec 2021

This quarter project lead has focused on the RCWF – which is a participatory grant making process to allow for a more accessible and easier funding application process for community groups. A report has been created by project lead regarding this, it is also one of the ‘ambitions’ in the RCW report

- 3 Steering committee meetings have been held this quarter dedicated to the RCWF

- 15 Projects bided and presented their projects for the funding, and were all rewarded
- A RCWF report was also written and published this quarter by project lead
- Overall, over £13,000 have been awarded to these projects.

The RCWF has funded an array of projects, including art, educational, sports projects and more. The projects are aimed at people of all ages and backgrounds.

The RCW Steering Committee would meet fortnightly to discuss the projects, giving each project an opportunity to present their projects to the panel. Feedback regarding the projects was given to project lead anonymously to decipher which projects would be given funding and how the funding would be allocated.

All projects presented were given funding, with some already starting their quarter.

The RCWF has allowed for local grassroots organisations and local residence to access funding which they may not have had the opportunity to access in the past, all while ensuring capacity building within Roehampton.

Also, these projects have increased to the provision of quality services within the area; for example, a national performing arts school is now providing free workshops to less privileged children in Roehampton.

These services will improve the sense of pride within the community.

2d. Improved service provision in Roehampton

Progress in Q3 Sep – Dec 2021

The project lead continues to play an important enabling role by supporting other local services in the area.

- Supported services to combat domestic abuse in Roehampton
 - Project lead participated and lead domestic abuse events in the area such as the 'White Ribbon Campaign' torch parade with the Roehampton Women's Network
 - Worked in partnership with WBC, Hestia and Talk Wandsworth to host a Wandsworth wide domestic abuse event 'Stop the violence' attended by 70 guests from local residents, Councillors and service providers.
- Supported Public Health England/NHS
 - The NHS SWL CCG has a regular speaking slot at the RRN allowing them to reach an average of 28 local community leaders each time, updating on the latest statistics, trends and engagement activities to help raise the profile of the vaccination programme.
 - Organised the third 'Roehampton Covid 19 Question Time' – a community led initiative to break down misinformation and build closer relationships

between residents and NHS professionals by answering any questions related to Covid 19

- Supported local councillors
 - Regular meetings and catch ups with local councillors
 - Participated in a Roehampton Job Fair organised by local MP Fleur Anderson, to establish jobs for the unemployed
- RCWF, supported the following industries in the area at Grassroot level:
 - Education
 - Tutoring sessions for less privileged children to ensure better grades
 - Dance and Drama workshops for less privileged children from a national performing arts company
 - Sensory garden for nursery children to establish their senses
 - Leisure
 - Top quality family photography service
 - Fitness and sports
 - Tennis and boxing clubs
 - Supporting the elderly and isolated
 - Project to ensure the mental well-being for the elderly in Roehampton
 - Environmental
 - Gardening and recycling project

2e. Year 3 plan and Project sustainability Plan (to be implemented in Year 3) agreed – with input from a range of stakeholders

Progress in Q3 Sep – Dec 2021

- Using remainder funding from RCW to do another round of RCWF, and potentially a 2nd RCW in 2022
- Working closely with WCA (Melanie Nock) to design a consultation framework to seek long term funding, exploring different structures, forming a shadow board and the main needs for a community hub.
- The project has been commissioned for another year.
- Project lead aims to meet with Young Foundation, Everyone Everyday and KLS next quarter to find out more about other community development projects

3. Equality and Diversity

Progress in Q3 Sep – Dec 2021

- Awarded several community groups from various faith and cultural groups funding from the Roehampton Community Week Fund – Ahmadiyya Muslim Community (2), BAME groups (3) as well as supporting the Roehampton Womens Network to create domestic abuse awareness events.

- Created the RCWF which uses a participatory grant making application, so that funding is accessible for all people in the community regardless of experience,

4.) Challenges

The main challenges naturally revolve around working effectively during Covid. Roehampton has one of the lowest vaccination rates in Wandsworth which increases the risk of the project lead coming into contact with people who may have been infected. This limits the amount of face to face meetings and interactions with local residents, marginalised groups and those who do not have the access or are familiar with online technology.

5.) Project Feedback

Below is some positive feedback from RCW.

“Just a quick note to say how pleased I was to see you’d been given the Civic Award – one of those cases in which “well deserved” is the most Juste – I’ve been very impressed by the way you deploy charm, energy, and skill to bring this place together – may you long continue to do so”

-Joshua Rey

Vicar, Roehampton Holy Trinity Church

“Thanks for inviting me to the Roehampton Response network meeting a couple of weeks ago. It was hugely informative and everyone was so helpful and got in touch straight away with ideas about how we could recruit for our Wandsworth Programme Head position.”

-Sarah Hooker

Bags of Taste

“Congratulations again on your well-deserved Civic Award. Roehampton is indeed fortunate to have had you on their side, and one of the few advantages of Lockdown was the chance for us to get involved with so many groups and people, which I doubt would have worked so well previously!”

-Victoria Diamond

Putney Society

“Thank you so much, what would we do without you being there. You think of things at such a wide scope and into the future.”

-Vicky Piggot

Roehampton Womens Network/ Retired NHS

"Can't wait to join the event and see what it has to offer for the community in terms of awareness and solutions. Also looking forward to meet you for the first time in person after getting touched by many community initiatives you have set up for our community. Congratulations on your civic award you have received lately and I hope you enjoy it as much as possible and make more way for more in the future."

-Farouk Abdi

Local Resident

"And if I don't speak to you beforehand, not just the usual merry Christmas happy new year stuff, but a BIG thanks for your help with my projects and support and all that, it really has meant a lot to me"

-Charles Lambert

Candidate for RCWF
Roehampton Resounded

"This was one of the best funds I've applied for, all together, a very positive experience and has inspired us to apply for further funding."

-Charlotte Adejayan

Candidate for RCWF
Encouraging Youth