

RESIDENT CONSULTATION – LOCATION OF GOLDEN LANE ESTATE OFFICE

MONDAY 25TH NOVEMBER 2019

PURPOSE OF MEETING

In September 2018, the City of London was granted planning permission to build additional flats at the base of Great Arthur House. This meant that the location of the estate office would have to change.

It was proposed that the estate office staff move across to the Community Centre, which was undergoing refurbishment at the time. Some residents objected to this idea and Members asked officers to carry out additional consultation with residents on the additional flats and the location of the estate office.

PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Southwark Mediation Service facilitated two meetings with Golden Lane residents regarding the flats and the location of the office. These were held on June 17th and July 11th, 2019.

The meetings generated lively debates about the new flats and the location of the estate office. Several alternative locations were suggested for the office and these were considered by City of London officers before the final meeting with residents on 25th November 2019.

CURRENT POSITION

It is now accepted that the idea of locating estate office staff in the community centre is not feasible. When the idea was first suggested, the centre had not been open and operating under its current management model.

The centre is performing very well and is very popular with residents and other users. It is now clear that the reality of running the centre, and the space requirements for those delivering activities in the centre, mean that the office would not be big enough to accommodate an additional three or four staff on a full-time basis.

SUMMARY OF OPTIONS DISCUSSED ON 25TH NOVEMBER

The following options were discussed by residents and officers:

1. Use the 'Respite Room' (in basement of Great Arthur House) as an office
2. House the office in a commercial unit at the ColPAI development

3. Provide two new flats instead of three, and keep a smaller office at Great Arthur House
4. House the office in a vacant shop on Goswell Road
5. Build three flats and move estate staff over to the Barbican
6. Move estate staff over to the Barbican, with one staying at the community centre

SUMMARY OF COMMENTS

Here are some of the comments made by residents at the meeting:

- The estate office should be visible, and it's important that staff have a view out onto the estate – if it's hidden somewhere, this benefit is lost
- It is important that housing staff have an “eye” on the estate, as this discourages anti-social behaviour
- It is crucial that the office is there and that it is seen
- The estate office is used mainly by elderly residents and removing it from the estate would affect the vulnerable more than other groups
- It could be possible to merge some office functions with the Barbican but keeping estate an office on Golden Lane is vital
- There needs to be a staff presence on the estate
- It is important the office stays where it is, as this acts as a deterrent
- You could have some people based at the Barbican but there do need to be a few people on the estate too
- The City needs to improve community engagement
- You need to think about the future, especially with the 66 new flats coming. This will increase demand on the office, has this been considered?

ANY COMMENTS OR QUESTIONS?

If you would like to comment on these options, or discuss them further, you can:

- Call Dave Walker at Southwark Mediation on 07932 762 001
- E-mail [**davewalker@southwarkmediation.co.uk**](mailto:davewalker@southwarkmediation.co.uk)
- Send your comments in writing to the Estate Office, marked “Estate Office/Flats Consultation”

DEADLINE

The new deadline for comments is **Wednesday 19th December 2019.**

NEXT STEPS

Once the deadline for comments passes, officers will produce a report to Members and submit this to the Community and Children's Services Committee for a final decision.