

Case study – Stockwell Hall of Fame



Background

Network Homes commissioned Campbell Tickell (of which Community and Economic Regen worked as part) to undertake a community consultation exercise to establish views of key stakeholders about the use, design and potential improvement of the space known as “The Stockwell Hall of Fame”. The space was originally built as a ball court and over the last decade has become a popular area for graffiti. The space is surrounded by residential blocks and there were some residential concerns about the smell of paint and what other ways the space could be used.

Work carried out

The scope of the commission was to use community research to identify potential next steps for the graffiti pen and to recommend steps going forward. We then reviewed existing information including history, usage and management of the graffiti pen and identified stakeholders including residents, housing associations, graffiti artists, schools and partner organisations including community groups. We then created and conducted surveys to drill down into what different stakeholders thought about the graffiti pen and what course of action they wanted to see pursued. We conducted community research with both residents and graffiti artists through different mediums including face to face interviews on the street and through doorknocking, online surveys and a focus group in a local school.

Following the community research, we analysed the results and held a workshop to reflect upon the findings of the research with both residents and graffiti writers. We compiled a report based on this evidence to advise on the next steps for the Stockwell Hall of Fame.

Outcome

The research had strong uptake amongst residents with 167 responses and graffiti artists with 51 responses. 16 partner organisations also responded including the police, Big Local, SW9 Community Housing (subsidiary of Network Homes) and local community groups. Children from a local primary school also participated in the research in a focus group.

The research, the workshop and the subsequent report found that there was consensus that the space was an opportunity in the community to bring people together and that there were practical actions that could be done which would improve the space. The report made a number of recommendations including:

- The replacement of the surface of the graffiti pen to promote more community use including possible use for football and basketball
- Better drainage
- Reinstatement of lighting until 9pm and better CCTV
- Encouragement of the community to get together at the space
- Encouragement of groups and institutions that work with young people to use the space
- Collaborating with stakeholders to manage the graffiti pen effectively and timetabling use of the space
- Exploration of how the concern of fumes can be addressed

Following the work, the Stockwell Hall of Fame has reopened in May 2019. The revamped space has a mix of facilities for the community to enjoy. The interior walls have been retained for artists to work and there is a sports court for football and basketball. There is also a new internal podium which can be used for wider community use such as showing films. The space will be managed by a subsidiary of Network Homes and lots of different stakeholders are delighted with the final outcome that has resulted. More information of the reopening can be found here: <https://www.networkhomes.org.uk/news/latest-news/2019-news/network-homes-proudly-opens-revamped-stockwell-hall-of-fame/>.