



2021 Roehampton Community Week Report

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Introduction

This report is written by Aisha Jalloh and Jonathan Palma from Citizens Advice Wandsworth, on behalf of the Roehampton Community Week (RCW) steering group.

Planning for RCW began in October 2020, the event itself took place between July 5 - 11th 2021. This report outlines the key outcomes of RCW, and sets out our ambitions for ensuring the sustainability of the project's objectives, which were:

- **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.**

Background

Roehampton Community Week (RCW) originated from the Community Capacity Building Project, **'My Roehampton'** delivered by Citizens Advice Wandsworth (CAW) and funded by Wandsworth Borough Council (Public health).

In March, 2020 the **'Roehampton Response Network'** was formed by project lead, Jonathan Palma (JP). The network brought together Roehampton's local leaders, organisations and residents who were motivated to better their community during and after the hard-hitting impact of COVID-19. The appetite for the Roehampton Response Network (RRN) led to weekly meetings via Zoom (held remotely due to lockdown restrictions), where a number of topics impacting the community were discussed, community-led solutions were created and acted upon. One theme of the RRN meetings was the development of a common interest of wanting a 'COVID-19 bounce back' themed event in order to uplift community spirits as well as change perspectives regarding Roehampton. This is how RCW was formed.

RCW went on to be discussed in multiple groups and general exchanges which helped form the **'Roehampton Community Week Steering Group'** meetings. These meetings, consisted of residents and local leaders from CAW, Rackets Cubed, the Methodist Church, Roehampton ROCKS, Councillors and Wandsworth Foodbank. The steering group established the initial aims of the project, these included:

- A desire to deliver an event which will strengthen the community
- Build a legacy and helping local residents
- Bouncing back from the hardships of what had transpired from the Coronavirus pandemic.

These aims formed the framework for what would become RCW objectives, which will be discussed in depth within this report.

Development plan

This part of the report will explain and analyse the development plan. The development and planning of RCW began 8 months prior to the event commencing, and primarily took place during Roehampton Response Network, RCW steering group and Roehampton Community Week meetings. In addition, Jonathan Palma and Michael Hill held meetings with various individuals and organisations, e.g. Wandsworth Council, Public Health, Local Councillors and NHS Wandsworth to gain their support and involvement.

Networking

Within RRN meetings RCW stakeholders were able to connect with over 48 organisations and countless residents. This facilitated the creation of a community-led event, and allowed for objectives such as 'community strength' to be achieved. RCW steering group members were able to liaise with established and developing organisations and provide experience to residents who had never been presented with event management opportunities before.

The process of planning RCW succeeded in bridge-building between local communities and organisations; enabling large and diverse parts of the community to participate in RCW.

Structure

Once the concept of RCW was discussed, projects were then categorised and themed. These themes were:

- Spring clean,
- Refresh & refurb,
- Green living,
- Local heritage, and
- Health, sports & activity'.

A steering group member was given responsibility for guiding each of the themes. As the event was planned and held during the Coronavirus pandemic, RCW followed guidance provided by Public Health and, supported by Enable, carried out risk assessments including COVID-19 risk assessments to ensure safety at RCW.



Funding

A budget of £40,000 was established for RCW. This amount was devised from setting budgets that ensured objectives such as the 'refurbishment of communal areas' was met, and built on an analysis of costs in regards to refurbishment of 'Alton Activity Centre' -an open access play space for children and young people in Roehampton. Once the target funding amount was established, the steering group created formal proposals that were presented to potential funders.

The role as host organisation was given to Rackets Cubed led by Michael Hill. Throughout the project Jonathan Palma and Michael Hill demonstrated and explained how to apply for funding and started making applications; this allowed for the concept to be more accessible, especially for residents who had no experience in fundraising.

Marketing

RCW marketing strategy and design was created and led by Jonathan Palma and promoted in multiple ways including the creation of a RCW logo, posters, T shirts, flyers, leaflets and social media activity; RCW accounts were updated daily and amassed hundreds of followers and viewers. A **promotional video** was created by Michael Hill and used as a marketing tool; demonstrating and building anticipation of RCW by and to members of the community. An **information stall** was also set up in the heart of Roehampton in the run-up and during the event. The stall was a success with residents and provided information and awareness regarding RCW; allowing exposure to isolated groups.



Objectives and Outcomes

During the process of creating RCW **four key objectives** were set which acted as the foundation of RCW. Achievement of these Objectives was measured using a range of qualitative and quantitative methods including: observations, attendance, community conversations, behaviours, engagements and data gathered from feedback forms.

Objective one: To build lasting capacity and community strength

The 'community-led' and capacity-building ambition of RCW was ensured throughout by working with local organisations and residents with limited previous experience of hosting events. An example of this is developing organisations, such as 'Estate Art' which has received significant exposure since RCW. Estate Art, founded and led by resident Lynne Capociamma, has also received monetary offers for artwork which was displayed at the 'outdoor gallery' at RCW.

Since the event Lynne has also gone on to receive paid opportunities from Roehampton University and Regenerate for her work. Other examples of identifying and supporting other local residents were Verena who ran a Yoga class and Hina a fashion design class for children for the very first time.

The connections and relationships built within inter-community groups has effectively contributed to the local strength of the community. For example, Roehampton University led Women's fitness classes during RCW; their involvement stemmed from joining



the RRN and then joining the newly formed Roehampton Women's Network (an off-shoot network formed from the RRN). Their project was also delivered at the refurbished Alton Activity Centre a.k.a Roehampton ROCKS (funded by RCW) and was extremely successful, receiving great feedback from residents and highlighted on BBC London.

Legacy: These interactions were vital in establishing new partnerships and since RCW the Centre has expanded their community networks and was able to use Roehampton University as a venue for the summer program.

"RCW provided community partners with a platform to network, actively engage with one another and, explore new ways of working together. Through RCW, Roehampton University became aware of the work of our project Roehampton R.O.C.K.S and provided support by allowing us to use the university as a venue for our participation in Summer Unlocked with our Camp R.O.C.K.S free children's holiday program."

- Orode Faka, R.O.C.K.S International Arts Ltd

Legacy: The Putney Society, who work closely with communities in Putney and Roehampton, confirm that their involvement with RRN has allowed them to build a rapport with a number of community organisations including Deacon Kathy Johnson and the Methodist Church. This led to the Society contributing to the shed for the establishment of the new foodbank in Roehampton planned for later this year. Further involvement with RCW, and joining the 'Litter pick' project, meant Putney Society gained enough local knowledge to contact the council regarding the current need for bin refurbishment in the area, an ongoing issue that affects many people. These are all examples of how building connections within the community has allowed for the betterment of the residents and their everyday lives.

Objective two: To integrate delivery and co-ordination with local community groups, organisations, Council departments and Councillors

RCW was originated with the development of the community as the main focal point. For community development to be achieved it is important to firstly hear from local residents and communities and to develop a partnership with local services based on the needs and desires of both stakeholders and to work on a shared vision and common ground to build upon.

During the planning of RCW, Wandsworth Borough Council figures such as Councillors Claire Gilbert and Jeremy Ambache joined the RCW Steering Group. Other council members, from a range of wards also engaged and supported the development and execution of RCW.

These included deputy Wandsworth Borough Mayor, Jane Cooper who ecstatically mentioned *"I am delighted to support the Roehampton Community Week, as it is a great opportunity to bring our community together after the difficulties of the last year"*.

We worked closely with the lead of the Wandsworth council regeneration team Anna Singleton and Jo Baxter the community engagement and cultural coordinator. This allowed us permission to deliver events on council property, provided us with the passage to understand what council body or department were responsibility for specific areas that would impact RCW. The regeneration team also

helped deliver some events and even volunteered. Other council departments also played significant roles in RCW. The arts team helped support local artists through funding to take part in RCW, the youth offending team recruited 5 young offenders to help with a refurbishing project at Alton Activity Centre and the climate change team led the information at the climate change event.

Legacy: RCW was further enhanced with the partnership created with the Alton Regeneration Team and the recently appointed Community Engagement & Cultural Coordinator Alton Estate. The initial fear that it might be difficult to reach cross-party agreement to create and sustain community development in Roehampton on such a large project has so far proved unfounded, and there is clearly a will and energy to develop this further. With ongoing support, encouragement and regular communication there is no reason why community development and engagement should not flourish.

Objective three: To develop communal areas and shared office space to address social isolation

One of the greatest needs within the community was to 'uplift' community spirits; a significant challenge after the difficulties of COVID-19.

To facilitate this RCW aimed to restore community pride by enabling local residents and organisations to improve access and awareness of key functioning community assets.

One of the RCW themes was 'refresh and refurb' which focused on the refurbishment of local community buildings and areas. Funding raised for RCW was invested in refurbishing four communal spaces:

- Alton Activity Centre
- Lennox Community Hall
- Harbridge Avenue
- Outdoor Art Gallery



Legacy: Since RCW the refurbishment of community assets has been progressed, for example in Harbridge Avenue and Alton Activity Centre there has been an increase in residents involved in local gardening projects and increased usage by different groups. The community development ensures that residents no longer have to venture out of the area to use facilities that allow them to get involved and make a positive contribution to their community.

These objectives are aligned with ongoing needs within the Roehampton Community, it was important that RCW objectives were clearly set out so that intended outcomes could be measured. These outcomes can be used in the future to measure long term objectives and future event planning.

Objective four: Improve health and wellbeing of local residents

Addressing the health and wellbeing inequalities in Roehampton was a high priority for all concerned in the development of RCW. Before, throughout and since RCW, a number of projects were established to ensure this objective was met and led to improved engagement between local services and residents.

Environment

For one of the projects, Vicky Piggot provided 3000 seeds and 6 greenhouses between 5 primary schools, reaching approximately 1200 children. An award show was also delivered for the children after they completed the planting. This activity increased their knowledge and interests with regard to the importance of planting for the health of the planet.

There was also approximately 6 'Litter Picks' involving Ibstock Place, Putney Society, Deacon Kathy Johnson, Putney Rotary Club and the Methodist Church. These projects not only contributed to enhancing the environment but also encouraged the intergenerational community to come together out of social isolation.

Health

Women's Inspirational Morning held a project at RCW which involved 8 Wandsworth Borough services. This allowed for community outreach of health services which were not always easily accessible. Prior to RCW, Councillor Jeremy Ambache visited several local GP's who were supportive and asked for information to distribute during RCW in order to publicise the health-related activities. RCW also hosted the first inter-primary school sports day, involving six schools led by Rackets Cubed. Nearly 400 children took part in several sports activities for all ages in first class facilities to encourage healthy living, improve mental health by being outside and decrease obesity levels within the community, which had risen throughout lockdown. Other events included 5-a-side football tournaments with Regenerate and Chelsea F.C, basketball lessons led by local resident Tayeon. We even held a cricket session led by former England international, Sajid Mahmood.

COVID-19

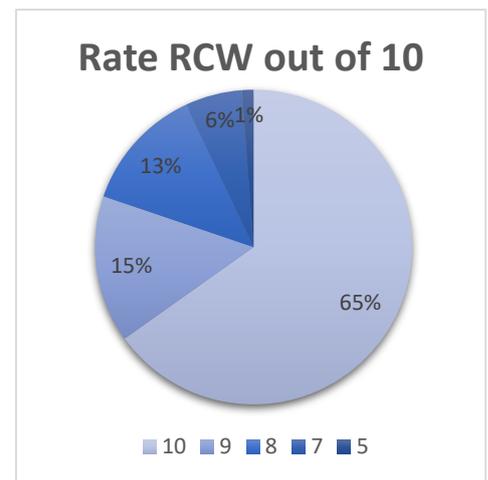
Due to lockdown restrictions extending into mid-July, Jonathan Palma worked closely with Enable, Public Health Wandsworth and Wandsworth Borough Council to ensure that RCW was to be complaint with COVID-19 restrictions. Information was sent regarding Wandsworth Community Centre and Civic Suite's COVID-19 policy and a further 2-hour briefing was attended to ensure the wellbeing of all attendees at RCW.



Analysis of data collected from RC

The chart on the right shows 100% of our attendees rated their RCW experience as above average, with over 65% of those attendees rating the event a 10/10. Overall, the feedback from stakeholders and local residents has been overwhelmingly positive.

RCW encouraged positive engagement with many local community groups, institutions managed to build rapport and relationships amongst the community and demonstrated their support. Residents fed back that the health and sporting activities which were hosted, positively impacted their health and wellbeing.



And many residents who felt 'out of touch' from their community, became involved, heard and appreciated. Residents of all ages and backgrounds engaged with RCW, as an outcome of the events pursued inclusivity and diverse representation. The event saw immense community strength as many well-established institutions and organisations participated including Parish Trust, Ibstock Place, Roehampton Clun, Wandsworth Council and many more.

RCW has been successful in meeting its intended outcomes and as well as generating unintended outcomes, which include:

- Creating a long-term community hub and information point with the information stall. Every Friday during the summer months, the RCW information stall will be situated in the heart of Roehampton outside the new outdoor art gallery.
- Creating exposure and increased engagements with local organisations. Project leaders have gained immense exposure since RCW, and in some cases job opportunities
- Impacting the interest of preserving the environment amongst the younger generation. Children who partook in RCW have gained a substantial interest in understanding and the execution of their environment.

We are proud to share that

100%

of RCW attendees agreed the event made them feel more a part of the community and that they'll attend again.

Quotations

“By having a network I feel supported, listened too and encouraged throughout. This project has helped me fulfil my dreams of creating my first art gallery and given me the confidence to do more for myself and the community.

-Lynne Capociamma
Estate Art/Local Resident

“The community week has made me feel really proud of Roehampton, and shown there is a strong desire to build a thriving, collaborative community

-Roehampton Resident

“I am delighted to support Roehampton Community Week, it is a fantastic initiative which will bring real benefits to the area - it is great to see the Council and local community organisations working in partnership”

-Kim Caddy
Southfields Ward Councillor
Wandsworth Council

“It was great to see so many people from different backgrounds. I love the dance display at the Women’s Inspirational event. The variety of sessions on offer all week was very good and there really was something for everyone Hope it continues every year!”

-Jenny Ilsley
Sports and active communities project officer
Roehampton University

Word Art of all the ways people described their experience of Roehampton Community Week



Participating organisations and funders

Over 50 organisations participated in RCW, proving widespread recognition of its importance. Participating organisations and funders are listed below

Community groups/residents

- Estate Art
- Verena Nash – Yoga Teacher
- Tayeon Johnson – Basketball Coach
- Hina Ghani – Fashion Designer
- Plogulotion
- Putney Society
- The Community Shed
- Ubuntu Museum
- Doverhouse Lions
- Roehampton Cricket Club
- Wandsworth Boxing Club
- Minstead Sheltered Housing
- Roehampton ROCKS
- Alton Action
- BASE

Local charities

- Hestia
- Rackets Cubed
- Regenerate
- Regenerate RISE

Schools

- Alton Primary School
- Sacred Heart Primary School
- Granard Primary School
- Heathmere Primary School
- Ibstock Place
- Putney High School
- Roehampton Church School
- Eastwood Early Learning

Faith groups

- Ahmadiyya Muslim Community
- Holy Trinity Church
- Roehampton Methodist Church
- St Margaret's

Local businesses

- Good Guys Decorating
- Asda
- Pinnacle
- Unity Print

Council departments

- The Regeneration Team
- The Western Area Housing Team
- The Estate Services Team
- The Horticulture Team
- The Youth Services Team
- The Youth Offender Team
- The Arts Team

Other

- Citizens Advice Wandsworth
- Enable
- Putney Rotary Club
- Roehampton Club
- Roehampton Parish Trust
- Roehampton University
- Rosslyn Park
- Surrey University
- Chelsea FC Foundation
- Royal Marines
- BBC London
- CODA Dance

Funders

- Wandsworth Council Arts Project
- Rackets Cubed
- Ibstock Place School
- Roehampton Club
- Roehampton Parish Trust
- Wimbledon Foundation
- Wandsworth Council Grant Fund
- Roehampton University
- AELTC
- Enable

To all our participating organisations and funders, thank you!

Full list of events during RCW

<p>MONDAY 5TH JULY</p> <p>Alton Pop Up Panel of Art (Opening Event) Live music, Guest speakers, Art activities 5pm to 7pm, Danebury Avenue (opp. Library)</p> <p>Clothes Designing for Women and Girls Learn skills, pattern-making, make friends 6pm to 7:30pm, 6 Portswood Place - SW15 4ED</p> <p>Boxing Self-Defence Class for Women (16+) All levels, to book - thisgirlcan@roehampton.ac.uk 7pm to 8pm, Alton Activity Centre SW15 4DR</p> <p>TUESDAY 6TH JULY</p> <p>Film History of Roehampton Premiere of history of film making in Roehampton 11am, 1230 & 2pm showing, Minstead Gardens Clubroom Phone Jenny: 07826 779 684</p> <p>CODA Digital Dance Workshop Make digital artwork with your body/learn new skills 1.15 to 1.45pm / 3.45 to 4.15pm (after school, 8+) 7 to 7.30pm 6 Portswood Place - SW15 4ED</p> <p>The 'FEEL GOOD' wander (11+) Walk for young people to explore Richmond Park Meet Juice Bar, Portswood Place - SW15 4ED</p> <p>WEDNESDAY 7TH JULY</p> <p>Womens Inspirational Event Self-care, fitness, pampering sessions and guest speakers 9:30am to 12pm, Alton Activity Centre SW15 4DR To book - contact@betterdaysinspirational.co.uk</p> <p>School's Sport Festival 120 - 150 local children to take part in Rugby, Netball, Tennis, Padel and many more sports 10:45am - 12:45pm Rosslyn Park Roehampton Club</p> <p>CODA Digital Dance Workshop (see above for details)</p> <p>Looking after the Environment Fun activities for families - saving local environment 11am to 3pm, Danebury Avenue (near Library)</p> <p>Cricket Fun sessions to improve skills and enjoy a game 5 to 6pm - 14 and under / 6 to 7pm - age over 14 Downshire Field (Bull Green) Danebury Avenue</p> <p>Harbridge Avenue - Community space opening Celebrate new space for families and local residents 4pm to 6pm, Harbridge Avenue - SW15 4HA</p> <p>Take Back Control - Inspirational Talk Improve wellbeing, livelihood and financial future 6:30pm to 8pm, Alton Community Hall - SW15 4AE</p>	 <h1 style="margin: 0;">EVENT GUIDE</h1>  <p><small>PLEASE NOTE: Due to Covid regulations you will have to book your place on certain events, if you have any questions contact event directly or email roehamptoncommunityweek@gmail.com</small></p> <p>Circuits for Women (18+) All levels, to book - thisgirlcan@roehampton.ac.uk 7pm to 8pm, Alton Activity Centre SW15 4DR</p> <p>THURSDAY 8TH JULY</p> <p>Stretch and Movement (60+) All levels, to book - activelifestyles@enablelc.org 10:30am to 11:30am - Newlands Hall, Putney Vale SW15 3EP</p> <p>First Aid & Self Defence classes (Royal Marines/Wandsworth Boxing Club) For everyone - 3 sessions on the day 11am to 3pm, Downshire Fields (Bull Green) SW15 4DU</p> <p>Lennox Tea Party For sheltered housing residents, live music, tombola 1pm to 3pm - Lennox Community Clubroom</p> <p>Dance and Stretch (Women only) All levels, to book - thisgirlcan@roehampton.ac.uk 7pm to 8pm, Alton Activity Centre SW15 4DR</p> <p>Community Football Tournament Open 6-a-side tournament for young people aged 14-16 6pm to 9pm Ashburton Youth Centre, Westleigh Ave To enter team - Nathan.Lindsay@generate-uk.org</p> <p>FRIDAY 9TH JULY</p> <p>Tone and stretch exercise class (60+) To book: activelifestyles@enablelc.org or call 020 3959 0033 11am to 12pm - Methodist Church, Portswood Place SW15 4EB</p> <p>Walking to Fitness Activity - Women (18+) All levels, to book - thisgirlcan@roehampton.ac.uk 12 to 1.30pm - Meet at Froebel Gate, Roehampton Lane</p> <p>What does freedom mean to you! Art, discussion and beautiful henna designs 1pm to 4pm - Alton Activity Centre SW15 4DR</p> <p>Community Football Tournament Open 6-a-side tournament for young people aged 14-16 5pm to 8pm - Witley Point, Wanborough Drive SW15 4AX To enter - Romayne.Walrond@richmondandwandsworth.gov.uk</p> <p>Chilled Conversations Art, Music & Exhibition bringing local creatives closer 7pm to 10pm - Alton Activity Centre - SW15 4DR</p>	<p>SATURDAY 10TH JULY</p> <p>Holy Trinity Church Open Day Tours, music, refreshments - All welcome 9am-9pm, Ponsanby Rd - SW15 4LA</p> <p>Messy Play at St Josephs For 0 to 36 months, messy play, music sessions 10am - 2pm St Josephs Church Hall, Roe Lane - SW15 4LE To book: info@playandlearncafe.co.uk</p> <p>Fitness for Families Activity session for parents & children (over 5) 10 to 11.30am Roehampton Sport & Fitness Centre, Laverstoke Gardens To book: activelifestyles@enablelc.org or call 020 3959 0033</p> <p>Kids Recycled Art Event (Ubuntu Museum) For 6 to 11 y/o's take part/learn more about art reusing materials 12pm to 4pm, 6 Portswood Place SW15 4ED</p> <p>Cycling activities (All ages) Cycle training (bikes provided), Dr.Bike (maintain your bike) 1 to 5pm (cycle training 2 to 4pm) Downshire Field (Bull Green) SW15 4DU</p> <p>Street Doctors - First Aid for young people (18 under) Gain a qualification Demos and interactive Q&A 5 to 6pm, Downshire Field (Bull Green), SW15 4DU To register please email active@enablelc.org</p> <p>Yoga for parents and children Class for parents and children (over 5) to exercise together 2 to 3.15pm - Alton Activity Centre SW15 4DR</p> <p>ReConnect through Art & Song - Children must be 6+ Art activities with your children whilst listening to live music. 4pm to 5pm Alton Activity Centre SW15 4DR</p> <p>SUNDAY 11TH JULY</p> <p>Netball and Tennis Sports class for women aged over 18, 12 to 2pm Multi-Use Games Area, Froebel College, Roe Uni Contact thisgirlcan@roehampton.ac.uk</p> <p>Kids Recycled Art Event (Ubuntu Museum) 12pm to 4pm, 6 Portswood Place (see above)</p> <p>Basketball Tournament Open tournament for anyone aged 13 to 25, 1 to 3pm Witley Point Games Area, Wanborough Drive SW15 5PJ</p> <p>What Does Freedom Mean to You? (Shafi Express) Body Henna, transforms words into beautiful henna designs. Photo shoot 1pm - 4pm - Alton Activity Centre SW15 4DR</p> <p>Clothes Designing for Women and Girls Learn skills, pattern-making, make friends 6:30pm to 8:30pm, 6 Portswood Place - SW15 4ED</p>
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Ambitions

RCW has been a successful and inspiring occasion in Roehampton. The event successfully changed narratives and proved to statutory and non-statutory services that it is possible to engage successfully with so called 'hard to reach' areas such as Roehampton and its residents.

Going forward it is important we maintain the momentum that has followed the event, by focusing on relationship building and legacy. Below are our ambitions to establish RCW's legacy:

Maintain and develop the new partnerships that were established as part of RCW

RCW has proved to local and national bodies that given the right support and encouragement, residents, events and organisations within Roehampton are not difficult to engage with. In the future it is important we continue to engage with public, private and voluntary organisations and maintain partnership work so that we can continue building relationships and strength within the community. These links include the many council departments who have provided help and expertise, such as the Regeneration, Housing, Early Years team. Partnership work has continued to thrive through networking opportunities created through the RRN.

To ensure funding reaches at a grassroots level - Participatory grant making process (PGMP)

The distribution of funding to deprived and isolated areas with few constituted groups is a recognised challenge. RCW implemented a funding allocation process which was built on trust, local expertise and offered close support to overcome barriers and building confidence and skills within the community.

The PGMP strives to make the grant application process more accessible for people who aren't familiar with the conventional funding application process. This will allow for participants of RCW who have experienced increased engagement in community events; to recreate specific projects and continue community involvement as well as increased confidence and sense of purpose. Since the completion of RCW with the remaining funding raised for the initial project we have now launched the Roehampton Community Week Fund to ensure we reach the heart of the community and build further legacy based upon our original objectives.

Supporting follow-up projects

To address such issues as making high demand or specialised services accessible to the community, increasing intergenerational interests regarding the environment and nurturing community unity, it is important to plan and invest in legacy projects.

RCW has shown the importance and ongoing benefits of focusing on legacy and by working with local funders, organisations and services these experiences can help influence ways in which resources and funding is allocated and how services and projects are delivered.

By creating small and scalable place based projects RCW has been able to shed light on some of the longer-term challenges in the area such as the use of communal assets, improving the environment, and improving ways services work together and how to engage with communities more effectively.

Conclusion

RCW allowed residents, organisations and community groups to display their skills and experience to develop relationships within the community, utilise community resources, and work towards a shared vision.

RCW managed to pull through despite COVID-19 restrictions in an area with many socio-economic challenges with little community cohesion whilst remaining safe and compliant. Most importantly RCW built confidence, 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 and leadership that has taken place over the past 18 months plays a vital part in the success of RCW and has created a foundation for subsequent community engagement initiatives. We have learnt the impact of building a rapport and a two-way exchange between local bodies, such as the council and residents. Prior to RCW there has been distance and resistance in regards to forming effective relationships with these groups but now we see how unity and action makes way for further capacity building, more effective use of resources and improved health outcomes for all.

Although RCW was initiated as a 'COVID-19 Recovery' event, it is vital that it doesn't take another disaster to call for further capacity building and community engagement - there is an increased expectation within the community now that events such as RCW will continue. Going forward it is important we continue to network, help & spread knowledge amongst the community and build legacy to create a community-led future, after all we are all part of the community!

“In a world full of uncertainty investing in building stronger communities through a shared vision, being relationship focused and creating working partnerships is the biggest return on investment towards a fairer, progressive and sustainable society.”

- Jonathan Palma, Citizens Advice Wandsworth

Acknowledgments

We would like to express our gratitude to all who have assisted with RCW and the further reporting of the event, in particular the RCW Steering Committee, who spent months, tirelessly organising, evaluating and executing RCW.

- Jonathan Palma (Chair) – Citizens Advice Wandsworth
- Angus Robertson – Alton Resident/ Wandsworth Foodbank Volunteer
- Orode Faka – Roehampton ROCKS
- Deacon Kathy Johnson – Methodist Church
- Cllr Claire Gilbert – Local Councillor
- Cllr Jeremy Ambache – Local Councillor
- Jo Baxter – WBC Community engagement and cultural coordinator
- Michael Hill – Rackets Cubed
- Vicky Pigott – Retired NHS

We'd also like to thank Val Jones from the Putney Society for her help in the writing of this report, you are greatly appreciated.

Most importantly thank you to all attendees, participants, funders of RCW and good people of Roehampton and Wandsworth, without you none of this would have happened and the change to build stronger communities would not be possible.

References

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Data Wand (2018) Roehampton Community Capacity Building [online] available from <https://www.datawand.info/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/Roehampton-Community-Capacity-Report-2018.pdf> (17 August 2021)

Palma, J. (2021) Roehampton Community Week – Feedback forms (10 August 2021)



Thank you for listening and reading this report.

If you would like to find out more about any of the topics raised in this report please contact Jonathan.Palma@cawandsworth.org