

# CREATING A FAIRER FUTURE FOR THE CALLY

## Workshop Three Report for making the Jean Stokes Community Centre a space for all

WE ARE  
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### Making the Jean Stokes Community Centre a space for all



Approaching Jean Stokes Community Centre from Carnoustie Drive



Jean Stokes Community Centre reception and community kitchen

On 11 January we held our third and final Resident Workshop to present the proposals for improving the Jean Stokes Community Centre to local people.

These plans have been developed using feedback from meetings with Cally residents and businesses, users of the centre, local community groups, and voluntary organisations such as Help on your Doorstep. The designs are the result of a series of conversations carried out in the area through an extensive engagement process. The proposed designs were developed through:

- 3 Online Residents Workshops (16 November 2020, 14 December 2020 and 11 January 2021)
- 3 Existing Users workshops (with community groups already using the centre)
- Conversations with the different teams at Islington Council currently managing the centre

- Small collaborations with Cally businesses, like Sunflour bakery.

Public Works, the architects, who were selected through a communal decision making process involving the local community, presented the final design which is now being finalised and will be submitted for Planning Permission towards the end of February.

The key improvements we want to make to the centre are:

- An improved entrance on the street with easier access
- Moving from an 'appointment only' to a drop in' centre
- A basement space designed for Cally organisations and charities.

### Have your say

There is still time to influence our plans.

Visit [www.islington.gov.uk/jeanstokes](http://www.islington.gov.uk/jeanstokes) for more information and to feedback. You can also call the architects on **079 2671 0660** or email [carlotta@publicworksgroup.net](mailto:carlotta@publicworksgroup.net) to let us know what you think of the designs.

Closes 1 February 2021

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### The proposals are:



View from the main entrance into waiting area and reception and kitchen



View of the new basement space with stair and lift connection, meeting rooms, offices and lobby area

### **An improved entrance on the street with easier and more direct access**

We are proposing building a small extension at the front of the centre with a colourful, clearly signed, friendly and spacious entrance which brings renewed character to the centre. This will improve visibility from the street and create an entrance which is accessible to everyone. The extension will also move the entrance so it is more central in the building, making it more visible and accessible.

The new improved entrance would include:

- a new reception area, connecting to the existing kitchen
- improved noticeboards and screens to provide regular updates on the activities offered at the centre
- a ramp to the entrance
- a new public green space on Freeling Street that could be developed with Cultivating Cally.

### **Creating a 'drop in' centre for the whole community**

The new entrance will help the centre become a place where the local community can find support and advice at an informal reception and in a community kitchen which is safe

and welcoming. Local residents will be able to use the centre freely, without making an appointment, and the new space would have free wi-fi and be available for booking and to host classes and workshops.

### **A basement space designed for Cally organisations and charities**

A number of Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) organisations would like space in the centre. By opening up the basement and installing a lift and stairs to the already active ground floor, the project would create a lot of additional space to house community organisations working within Bemerton and Cally. These additional spaces could be:

- workshop / event / canteen space
- additional meeting rooms
- desk based workspaces
- creative based workspaces
- affordable office and co-working spaces with free IT services for Cally residents.

The basement design would allow more natural light downstairs and create a new layout which would make it a more welcoming space for users.

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## Workshop Three Report, Residents feedback

### Jean Stokes Community Centre –Residents Feedback Workshop 3

- “My customers tell me that the centre is very hard to find at the moment. It is not visible enough, while your proposal really makes it visible to everyone”
- “By creating a direct connection with the kitchen/reception and the entrance, people entering the centre will feel more at home and workshop organisers will be able to welcome participants in a more natural way. Right now when there is a workshop in the kitchen, we need to run out to let people in. This immediate connection makes our life easier”
- “Food could have a key role in this proposal by investing in the space which supports the kitchen and introducing vegetation which supports food growing”
- “The proposal responds well to a series of social objectives”
- “This new extension creates a great spot for a coffee with a friend. It will also support pop up groups and would create new opportunities for local chefs, which is great.”
- “You must collaborate with residents who would be using the ramp at the front - you need to ensure the centre is accessible. There is a problem with access for buggies and wheelchairs at the moment”
- The connection between Jean Stokes and the Cally needs to be considered. Many residents think it's part of the estate, that's it's not for them”
- “A commemoration of Jean would be good!” “You should consider having ‘Jean Stokes’ written on the canopy”
- “If people are there casually then people are much more open to visiting,- which benefits everyone”
- “This proposal looks great!”
- “You should consider only using materials that can be cleaned easily, to keep it looking fresh for as long as possible. Avoid using carpets or other materials which age quickly”
- “ You should focus on the materiality, both inside and outside, to make it inviting”
- “Bring some colour in the basement - bring it to life”
- “The greenery at the front is really important - how can we kick start this process? And how can we connect to existing initiatives like Cultivating Cally?”

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### Let us know what you think

You can find out more and give feedback online at:

**[www.islington.gov.uk/jeanstokes](http://www.islington.gov.uk/jeanstokes)**

Hard copies of the workshop reports and feedback forms are available at and can be returned to a new 'We are Cally' letterbox at the entrance of the Jean Stokes Community Centre.

If you have any queries please contact the architects at **079 2671 0660** or **[carlotta@publicworksgroup.net](mailto:carlotta@publicworksgroup.net)**

The consultation will close on **Monday, 1 February 2021**.

### Timeline:

Summer 2020 - Architects are appointed  
Autumn/Winter 2020 - Public Consultation  
February 2021 - Planning Application  
Spring 2021 - Works to start on site  
End of Summer 2021 - Works to finish

### We are Cally

We are Cally is a £1.6M project aimed at shaping a fairer future for local people in the Cally area by:

- creating better opportunities for children, young people and families
- improving health and wellbeing,
- strengthening community connections and belonging
- creating jobs and opportunities for Cally residents and supporting businesses
- making public spaces greener, safer and more attractive for all to enjoy

We want to involve as many local people, community groups and organisations as possible in shaping these plans.

Find out more at **[www.islington.gov.uk/wearecally](http://www.islington.gov.uk/wearecally)**

If you have a query, please contact us at  
Email: **[wearecally@islington.gov.uk](mailto:wearecally@islington.gov.uk)**  
Tel: **020 7527 3858**

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