

Spring 2020



Quarter 1: The Beginning ...

In February 2020, the last interviews for spaces on a “**Community Body**” to take forward Maxilla took place, and 6 local residents were appointed for half a day’s paid work per week.

Our first step was to decide which formal structure the organisation should take, and so we spoke to Kensington and Chelsea Social Council to understand the implications of becoming a charity, a company, a CIC, or another type of organisation. We voted to become a **CIC (Community Interest Company)** as this allowed us to start up quickly and have greater flexibility in future, including the capacity to initiate a charity as a parallel structure if this was needed at a later stage.

The research, training, meetings for discussion and the many hours taken to complete the necessary paperwork were very time-consuming. This was, at times, a strenuous step, especially as we were still formative and getting to know one another. One member had stepped down at the beginning of the quarter and another left just before the group agreed to constitute as a CIC. They each left their mark; one in the **naming of the organisation**: Maxilla City, and the other in their vast **knowledge and experience** which they relayed of the local voluntary sector.

And the Covid pandemic finally forces the government to announce a **national lockdown!**

Summer 2020

Quarter 2: Covid Lockdown period!! The team discover the joys of Zoom
With 4 Directors left to take forward the CIC application (which was ultimately successful) we recruited 3 additional members in July 2020, all of whom were young local people.

As the team turn their focus from governance to community engagement, we had a day of training with a local expert on **co-design methods and principles** and to support us in the search for a **professional co-design consultant**.

There were at least 2 weekly team meetings at this point, as well as various sub team meetings for specific initiatives such as **Community Engagement, Research or PR and Social Media**.

During the early summer months, the sunshine enabled Maxilla City team to

- build our **website and online profile**,
- recruit a local consultant for support on the co-design process: We appointed the experienced campaigner, trustee, businesswoman and lecturer Eve Wedderburn.
- We met with several council stakeholders in order to get clarity on the timeline and process for going from, appointing directors, a co-design facilitator, a governance structure to redeveloping Bays 17-19

Autumn 2020



Quarter 3: Autumn 2020: Has the Lockdown ended?

We embarked on monthly and quarterly meetings to monitor and progress the project with members of Adult Social Care and the Property team at RBKC.

Our **social media team** designed the **logo** and started to build a following on Social Media.

With a SM strategy agreed, the team continued to build meaningful content and engagement update. They also built a succinct but important archive to tell the story of the fascinating history of the Bays which Maxilla City feels passionate about representing.

Sadly, 2 of our new appointees had to move on to other opportunities.

We also undertook **formal training** in a number of areas; consultation and door-knocking, financial management, performance management in peer-led structures.

There were also **informal training/reading/discussions** around privilege, intersectionality, and institutional racism as well as specific, target research on changing local needs post Covid for the most at risk groups.

The Community Engagement team undertook a number of interviews with local organisations which helped to build relationships as well as knowledge. These were all positive meetings and we were praised for our curious and humble research-driven approach. We are passionate about meeting the true needs of local people, not duplicating existing provision or making assumptions based on incomplete knowledge. **Please do get in touch via our socials or website if you would like to talk to us or help us fill in the gaps!**

Winter 2020

Quarter 4: The WINTER LOCKDOWN: The Building: Refurbishing the Bays

Our major focus of the final quarter ending in March 2021, was deciding whether or not to approve in principle both the proposed contractors and the existing design for the Bays.

Maxilla City created a subcommittee to review and scrutinise the information provided and pushed for additional, sensitive information around budgets and value for money. We undertook a number of site visits including one with the Architects. We were given important assurances around safety and the learning taken from Grenfell. We submitted over **30 questions to the RBKC property team** and their potential sub-contractors.

Our property subcommittee interrogated the information provided including benchmarking financial and other information with a third party who supports Maxilla City.

We are broadly satisfied that from a compliance and ethics perspective (to the best of our knowledge) that the given contractors should take forward this redevelopment.

Our “green light” comes with important conditions; some which are non-negotiable (see building update page for more detail)

We have some aspirational requests which could be more challenging to make happen but would certainly be very welcomed and appreciated by Maxilla City and other local stakeholders for example. Within this quarter we also sadly said goodbye to another Director who was heading up Marketing at the time, but luckily, we were able to appoint a local young person who was on the **social media and marketing team** for Latimer City.

Our **Community Engagement team** are continuing to have regular interviews with **local partners** as part of our research.