



Report of meeting held at School of Economic Science, 11 Mandeville Place, London W1U 3AJ
See Notes of Open Research Group Meeting held on 9th November 2016: [OpenResearchGroup-1611109](#)

Present: Janos (chair), Mary (notes), Chris. Apologies from Ellena (cataracts operation), Paul, Pete, (funding issue).

Funding:

We were very concerned that one of our members should be unable to attend because of personal cash-flow issues. In response to what Pete had said in his email: *“On donations, if we get any I think they should be used to secure the room for the future, it's my own responsibility to fund myself but thank you for the thought”*, those present noted that there was an imbalance, with some members having freedom passes.

It was therefore agreed that it would be appropriate to reinstate the practice of collecting donations (Peter Challen used to ask regular attendees for just £1 per meeting), and Janos offered to manage a petty cash kitty and make travel funds available for those in need. Accumulated funds could be banked and made available for future room bookings.

Land for What - weekend conference 12th/13th November 2016:

Mary reported on this weekend conference held in the Islington Resource Centre:

<http://www.resourceforlondon.org> . It had been advertised as a “weekend of conversations about land hosted by Community Food Growers Network, Just Space, Landworkers’ Alliance, London Quaker Housing, New Economics Foundation, Radical Housing Network, Shared Assets, London Community Neighbourhood Co-operative and Three Acres And A Cow.”

Attended by about 200 people, it brought together a range organisations, which from different angles, shared an interest in land. Issues ranged from ownership and legal issues, through farming subsidies and land value tax to housing and food production . She had taken notes of the sessions she attended and aimed to send them back to the organisers to include in their final report:

- <http://www.landforwhat.org.uk>

Housing Association Case Study:

Janos reported on progress in sorting out historical problems with a property owned by a Housing Association in Camden. One tenant had accumulated a debt of £10,000, but is gradually paying it back. Janos is a trustee, with his wife, and mother and daughter tenants who are very helpful - the other committee member lives in Germany. The property is owned by the Charity which has an Industrial & Provident Society standard constitution, and has three tenants flats upstairs, the ground floor and basement currently being occupied by a language school @ only £200 per week.

The objective of the IPS is to manage a community asset, where the surplus you make can go to the community in terms of affordable use of the space. Chris talked about revenue sharing and “profit for purpose” and we discussed the idea of making the space available for an information resource and meeting space.

JA/mf/161116 – see other information and links on: <http://globaltable.org.uk/wp/archives/5216>