

Rooted in regeneration

The 1980s and 90s saw the transformation of the social, physical and economic environment of Newham's Docklands.

This was characterised by an increasing determination by central and local Government, and by the public and private sectors, to work together to create a successful economy and community for the 21st century. A key player was the London Docklands Development Corporation (LDDC) which between 1981 and 1998 took the lead in securing the regeneration of the area.

By the time the LDDC left the scene in 1998 a number of important new developments had already taken root including the Beckton housing developments; London City Airport; the Docklands campus of University of East London; the ExCel exhibition centre;

Britannia Village; the Thames Barrier Park; Gallions Reach Shopping Centre and Building 1000 which is now the headquarters of Newham Council.

Along with these developments there was a rapid growth in the number of residents and this has been underpinned by major investment in community facilities of all kinds and new employment opportunities.

To bring further support to these new communities into the future the LDDC and London Borough of Newham, in partnership with representatives of the local community and senior business leaders, in 1995 established the *Royal Docks Trust (London)*.

The Trust provides an essential element in the continuing regeneration of Newham's Docklands. It aims to be representative of the communities it serves and positively welcomes the involvement of new members from the local community and from the business and voluntary sectors.

What is the Trust?

The Royal Docks Trust (London) was established and registered as a charity in March 1995.

It works to provide community benefits to the Docklands part of Newham between the A13 and the River Thames.

The Trust is structured to ensure its Board is representative of local businesses, community organisations and residents as well as members appointed by Newham Council.

The Trust uses the income from its core £2,700,000 endowment to operate a community grants programme of about £250,000 per year. The Trust also has other funding to implement projects for the furtherance of water recreation and sporting activities using the Royal Docks.

The Trust is committed to working in partnership with local stakeholders to secure its objectives.



Looking across the Trust's area

Website

You will find more information about the Trust, including a list of all its grants right back to 1995, on its website at www.royaldockstrust.org.uk.

The site has operated since July 2001 and there have been almost 25,000 visits.

The attractions of the site include a very good history of the area and information about its regeneration and the various development projects completed or in the pipeline. There is also a useful page of links to local sites.

www.royaldockstrust.org.uk

Who are the Trustees?

The Royal Docks Trust board is structured to include representatives of local business, community organisations and residents as well as Newham Council, all of whom volunteer their own time for which they do not receive any payment.

This range of experience allows the Trust to shape its priorities effectively and ensure it makes a real difference in meeting the aspirations of local people.

The present board members are Eric Sorensen, chairman of the Trust, Richard Gooding OBE, chief executive of London City Airport, councillors Pat Murphy and Paul Schafer of the London Borough of Newham. Local residents on the Trust's board are Sid Keys, Alan Taylor and Steve Nicholas.

The Trust's Treasurer, Bob Heaton, is Newham Council's Executive Director of Resources. He also acts in a voluntary capacity. The Trust has no staff or offices but the Trustees are helped in the day to day running of the Trust's affairs by a part time team of paid consultants.



Trust Chairman Eric Sorensen



Executive Committee Chairman Richard Gooding



Local member Sid Keys



Local Member Steve Nicholas



Councillor Paul Schafer



Councillor Pat Murphy



Michael Grier - Tate and Lyle



Local Member Alan Taylor

Could this be you?

The Trust needs new Board Members

- see page 8 for details

The Winsor Park Management Company

In 1998 the Trust inherited from LDDC its "special share" in the Winsor Park Management Company Limited (WPMC).

The Winsor Park Estate is a large housing development built on a site which in former times was a part of the Beckton Gas Works. Investigations by LDDC showed that contamination was present over much of the site and before the estate was built the Corporation carried out a scheme to reclaim the area using a containment system. The WPMC was

set up to monitor the reclamation scheme and LDDC established an Accumulation Fund, held by the management company, to meet any expenditure required in respect of any failure of, or damage to, the reclamation works.

Since 1994 the WPMC has commissioned and overseen the expert monitoring of the reclamation scheme every three months. The monitoring has clearly shown that the reclamation scheme has fully met the objectives set for it and that the effective-

ness of the reclamation scheme exceeds the requirements of current government guidance.

Land

The Trust holds the freehold of the following properties in its area which are used for community purposes:

- The Docklands Equestrian Centre
- The Stansfeld Road Livery Yard
- Former S&M Club building, Stansfeld Road now used as a youth centre
- The Explorer Scout Hut at Eastbury Road

The Annual Grants Programme

On the approach to its winding up in 1998 the London Docklands Development Corporation (LDDC) provided two endowments totalling £2.7million for management by the Trust.

The income from these endowments finances the Trust's annual grants programme which aims to benefit the local community and voluntary groups in the

Royal Docks area. The Trust's programme, operated jointly with London Borough of Newham since 1995, has proved to be much valued and effective in sustaining community and voluntary sector groups which contribute so much to the regeneration of the area. Newham Council contributes £67,500 each year towards the cost of the programme. Applications for grants are usually invited by open advertisement in October or

November each year and the approved programme is announced in March the following year - see panel for the 2008/09 programme.

All grants require the concurrence of the Trustees and the Council with a maximum of three years funding for any project.

Since the programme was first launched in Beckton in 1996 some £2.56m has been spent on the joint Grants Programme with £127,000 allocated to minor grants and £302,000 for summer and Easter play schemes.

Developing the community in North Woolwich



Scenes from St John's Community Centre, North Woolwich. The Trust helps with the cost of staffing and operating the Centre.

The Centre Manager is Elahi Panahi. She comments, "the Royal Docks Trust has been one of our pillars of success and continuity. Their Funding Plus approach has not only provided us with funding for much needed services, but also provided the centre with advice, support and information to strengthen our capacity to grow and achieve our goals.

"RDT is an exemplary Trust with in-depth understanding of the area they serve and immense knowledge of the need of the groups / projects they support.

"I would like to take this opportunity to express our sincere thanks to RDT who contributed substantially from the start and who have continued to invest in our work in many different and exciting ways."

The Trust cannot make grants to individuals or to organisations operating outside its area

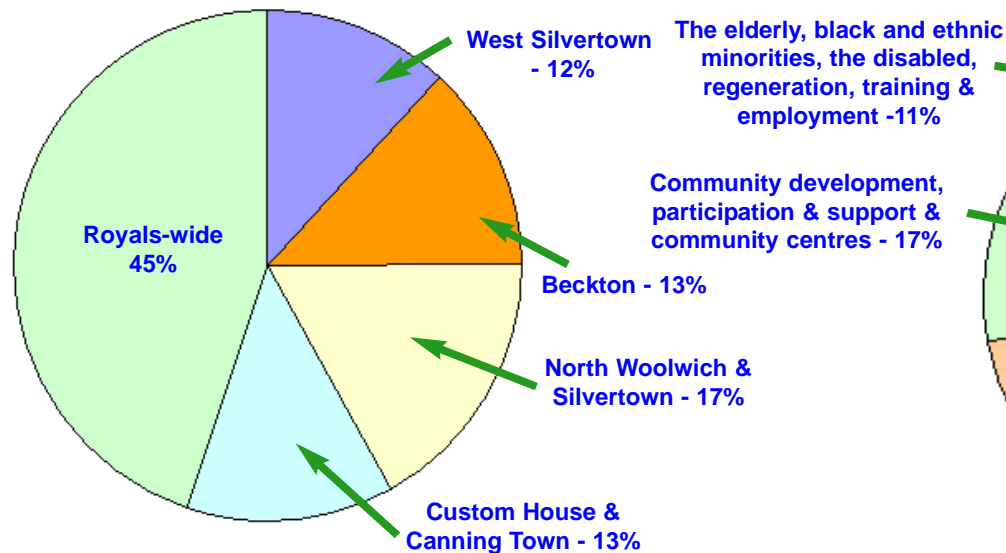
Minor Grants

Each year a sum is reserved to allow groups within the Royal Docks area to apply for a minor grant with a maximum of £1500 for any one group and up to £500 for organisers of social events.

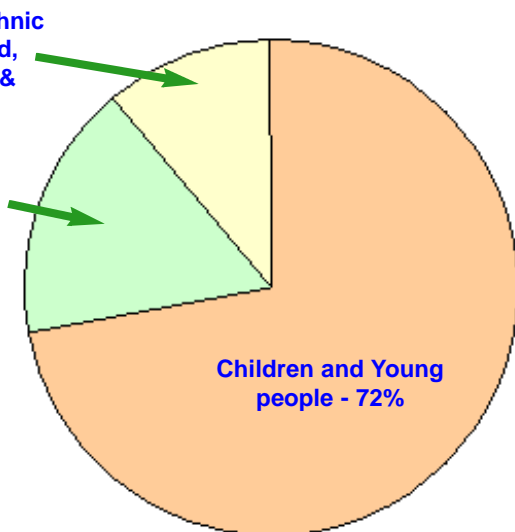
Up to two minor grants can be applied for each year by groups but not by individuals.

Ten minor grants ranging from £500 to £1500 were awarded in 2007, amounting to a total of £10,432. A sum of £15,000 is reserved for 2008/9.

Where the money is spent?



Types of project receiving grants





Summer Fun at Britannia Village

The Bridges Project operates at Britannia Village Hall in West Silvertown. Centre Manager, David Mann, told us "The Royal Docks Trust grant has been foundational to all we have done this year. It has also enabled us to attract other funding sources, maximising the benefit to local people. It's been brilliant to see young people filling the Village Hall, or playing sports in Lyle Park or Britannia Village Green, enjoying themselves and making a positive contribution to our community".



Helping the Eagles

Eagles Director, Shara Brice, told us, "From an outreach project in London's East End, to the top one per cent in the world, to the best Co-ed team outside of North America, Ascension Eagles are record breaking, history making champions. The Royal Docks Trust have been instrumental in this success, and in helping us to make a transformational difference in the lives of hundreds of young people".



The 2008/09 Grants Programme

Bridges Community Project, West Silvertown

Towards Staffing Costs - £30,000

Ascension Eagles Cheerleaders

Towards the cost of staff to coach and lead the AEC teams - £30,000

Community Links - Britannia Village - Building Closer Communities

Towards staff and operating costs of a project to provide a year round programme of activities for young people at West Silvertown/Britannia Village - £20,000

Community Links - (R.E.C. Inclusive Youth Nights)

Towards staff and operating costs of the centre which will provide term time services for children and young people. £15,000

Community Links ASTA Centre - Silvertown : Youth Activities project

Towards staff and operating costs of a project based at the Asta Centre to provide a year round programme of activities for local young people in Silvertown - £15,000

St Johns Community Centre

Towards the costs of staffing and operating the Centre - £30,000

Ascension Community Centre: Director's salary

Part funding of the cost of the Director's salary - £16,500

Iroko Theatre Company (IROKO/RDT Cultural Jamboree)

Towards the cost of providing a programme of arts and music workshops at community centres and schools within the Trust's area - £10,000

The cSPACE Trust (The Young Persons Guide to East London)

Towards the salary and operating costs of a project to work with young people to develop further a Where to go Guide for East London/Royal Docks - £12,000

New London Orchestra (Newham Welcomes The World)

Towards the cost of music workshops at North Beckton and Gallions primary schools linked to work with the Look Ahead Housing and Care Centre - £8,950

BTCV (Beckton Green Gym for Schools)

A term time project at two schools in Beckton providing education on environmental issues and practical opportunities for children to be involved in increasing the bio-diversity of the area - £15,000

Beckton Activities Centre (Beckton Bike Smart)

Towards the cost of staffing and running the project which provides training opportunities for young people in auto mechanics - £10,000

Newham Music Trust (Learning Through Music)

Towards the cost of a programme of music workshops targeted at young people failing in mainstream education - £10,000



C-Space

This year's Grant Programme includes £12,000 awarded to the cSPACE Trust towards the cost of a project to work with a group of young people to develop further a

Where to Go guide for East London and the Royal Docks.

The group includes young people from local schools as well as those having difficulties with mainstream education.

The programme uses the visual arts, media and cyberspace to support the young

people in the expression of their visions, dreams and aspirations around the regeneration of the area.

The *Where to Go* Guide involves the group in seeking out places of local significance, taking photos and then using these to create a website.

The Dockers Statue

The Trust provides the corporate umbrella for a statue for which a group of local people have been fund-raising for some time.

Now being installed on the north side of the Royal Victoria Dock, adjoining the ExCeL Exhibition Centre, the statue depicts dockers at work and thus celebrates the past of the area and many of its people.

Apart from taking "ownership" of the project the Trust has also donated £25,000 towards the cost.

The sculptor is Les Johnson.



On the left is an early model of the Dockers statue now being installed at the ExCeL Exhibition Centre. On the right is a full size clay maquette of part of one of the figures ready for casting

The SRB Partnership

During 2000 the Trust worked with Newham Council and other partners to submit a bid to Government for funding under the Single Regeneration Budget (SRB).

This work was successful and in July 2000 the Access to Excellence partnership was formed by the Trust, the Council and other local stakeholders. It was awarded £18.75 million over the period 2000 - 2007.

A core objective of the partnership's work was to remove barriers to employment and training for local residents. The partnership identified three priority community areas of which two were within the Trust's area of benefit, namely, Custom House and Canning Town and North Woolwich and Silvertown. The third area was Manor Park which lies to the north outside the Trust's area.

The resources secured via the SRB programme helped to address some of the issues the Trust has championed from the beginning. The Trust supported the SRB partnership in establishing a Board on which the Trust was represented, to work closely with Community Forums in the priority areas to ensure that projects to be funded by the SRB programme were firmly rooted in the community and genuinely reflected the needs and aspirations of local people. During this period the Trust sought to link its funding to local SRB initiatives.

The Legacy Projects

In addition to the £2.7 million fund initially provided by the LDDC, the Royal Docks Trust was also made custodian of more than £8 million which the LDDC was unable to spend on community projects before its closure. The Trust has used these funds to finance projects such as:

- £95,763 was spent on the Ascension Church on Leyes Road with site improvements including a car park.
- new facilities for leisure and community learning in Silvertown and North Woolwich including refurbishing St John's Centre (£276k); a new library facility at Pier Parade (£100,000) and a new community learning centre at Kennard Street (£840k).
- £451,000 for improvement works to the site at Folkestone Road for the Impstart Trust.
- £5.2 million was given to Newham Council towards the community facilities at the Royal Docks Community School
- £80,000 to improve and re-order the former S & M Club Building at Stansfeld Road for youth activities.
- £29,375 was spent on Theatre Venture's

Sculpture Garden at St John's North Woolwich .

- £100,000 was spent on Phase two of the development of the Docklands Equestrian Centre

Two projects remain outstanding: the Waterski Centre on King George V Dock and the Watersports Centre on Royal Victoria Dock. The Waterski Centre has been delayed by works on the extension of the DLR to Woolwich, whilst the Watersports Centre is delayed pending a joint decision by Newham Council and the London Development Agency (LDA) on the "Landmark" site at the western end of the Royal Victoria Dock.

The delays have allowed time for discussions about the future use of the docks for leisure and other purposes in which the Trust is taking part with Newham Council, Sport England, the LDA and the Royal Docks Management Authority (RODMA).

Meanwhile, the Trust has been using some of the interest earned on the funds held for the watersports centres to assist water sporting activities in the area - see below.



Site improvements at Ascension Church - before (above) and after (below)



Trust Chairman, Eric Sorensen, at the opening of St John's Community Centre (left) following its refurbishment in 2004



The Trust contributed £5.2m towards the cost of the community facilities at the Royal Docks Community School

This new building at Kennard Street in North Woolwich includes an Adult Learning and Training Centre at ground floor level with 19 flats on two floors for tenants of East Thames Housing above. The Trust contributed £840,000 towards the cost. The building opens early in 2009



For three years the Trust has used some of the interest earned on the capital sum it holds for a Waterski Centre adjacent to the King George V Dock to fund waterski tasters as part of the Summer Watersports Scheme at the Royal Victoria Dock Watersports Centre (RVDWSC).

In 2006 and 2007 the Trust spent a total of £97,940 including the cost of the special winch system allowing those new to this exciting sport to launch themselves onto the water and travel to and fro across the dock. The Trust approved more than £30,000 for a similar scheme in the summer of 2008.

The Trust has also used some of the interest on the LDDC legacy funds to buy new boats and equipment for the

RVDWSC and to support the London Regatta Centre on the north side of the Royal Albert Dock



Future prospects

The economy is going through a bumpy patch and this is bound to have an impact locally. At such a time it is more important than ever that the Trust should be working hard to help support the local community. Even so, the area is full of opportunity and there is land for development including:

- Silvertown Quays
- Peruvian Wharf
- Minoco Wharf
- The Royals Business Park
- The sites ripe for development around the Albert Basin

Nearby there is rapid development for the 2012 Olympic Games. London City Airport has now obtained planning permission to expand to 120,000 flights per annum and is thus set to make an even bigger contribution to the local economy and especially employment prospects for local people. There continues to be growth around ExCeL which in June 2008 was acquired by the

Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Centre (ADNEC). The new owners plan significant investment in the ExCeL site as part of its vision to create a global network of exhibition venues. In October 2008 London's Mayor, Boris Johnson launched a project to increase ExCeL London's event space by 50 percent and provide a convention centre with 5,000 seats. This will bring a wealth of jobs for local people.

And there are transport projects too. The DLR is now being extended to Woolwich Arsenal and Crossrail is planned to start soon

As other parts of the area come back to life there will be thousands more homes and jobs and there will be many opportunities for the Trust, and for those who are working with it, to ensure that local communities contribute to regeneration and benefit from it. The Trust's endowments, its partnership with Newham Council, its strong community roots and the involvement of local businesses will all be helpful in responding to these opportunities.



The ExCeL Exhibition Centre - more growth is scheduled



Building 1000 - now being occupied by the London Borough of Newham - is part of the Royals Business Park which is also awaiting development



The old D-Silo at Silvertown Quays - a large site for re-development



London City Airport - planned to grow to 8 million passengers by 2030.



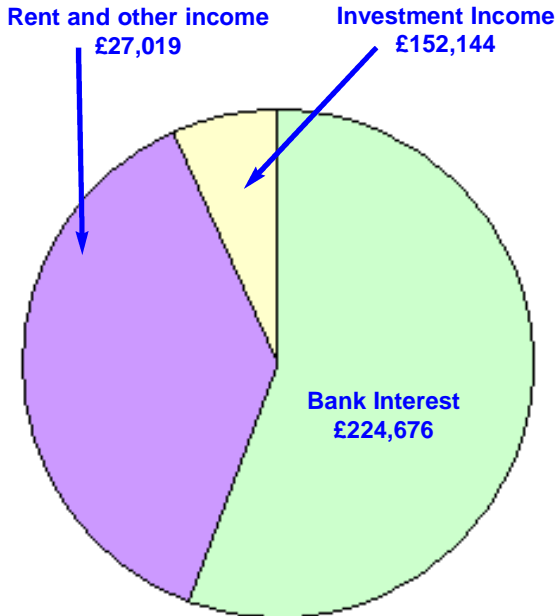
The Abbey Wood Branch of Crossrail is planned to run in tunnel from Liverpool Street to the Isle of Dogs and thence to the Royal Docks where it will surface to the west of Custom House. It will then cross the Royals on its way to another tunnel taking it south of the River to Abbey Wood



The DLR crosses and re-crosses the area. It's now being extended across the River to Woolwich

The Trust's finances last year

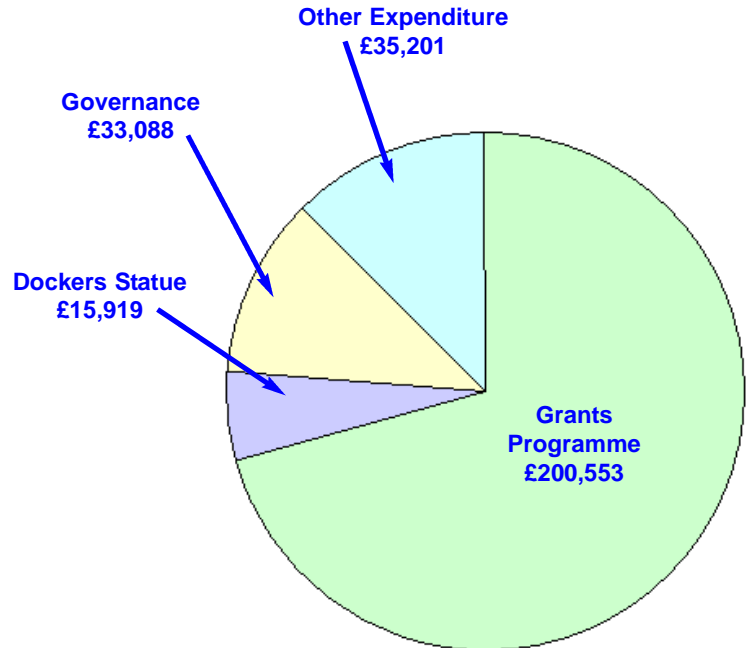
INCOME



Income totalled £403,839. This includes income from the investment of LDDC Legacy Funds

The figures are drawn from the draft accounts of the Trust for 2007/08 which are subject to audit. The latest audited accounts can be seen on the Trust's website at www.royaldockstrust.org.uk/accounts.html

EXPENDITURE



Expenditure totalled £284,761 but this excludes £636,905 spent from LDDC Legacy Funds on the Community Learning Centre at North Woolwich.

The £200,553 spent on the Grants Programme is net of the contribution made by Newham Council.

At 31st March 2008 the Trust's assets stood at £7.3million.

WANTED!

Volunteers to join the Trust Board.....

- representing local people and the voluntary sector - these Board members must live in the Trust's area (Newham south of the A13)
- with skills and experience in commerce, law, marketing, publicity and finance and accounting - these Board members do not necessarily need to live within the Trust's area

For more information visit the Trust's website or speak to John Johnson on 020 7277 8667 or Stephen Nicholas on 07866 786 150

www.royaldockstrust.org.uk



**The Trust
Needs You!**



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