

THE LOCAL

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THE VOICE OF WORMHOLT & WHITE CITY



WHITE CITY CENTRAL LATEST

Residents have until October 4 to submit their views about the big housing and community development to be built on the estate

Full story on page 7 →

HEALTH WELLBEING FESTIVAL COMING TO WORMHOLT PARK

W12 Together holds its annual event on Saturday, September 7, but with a new twist for 2024

The end of the summer festival is once again being held in Wormholt Park on the first Saturday of September, and the theme for this year's event is health and wellbeing. The event will start at 12pm (midday) and among the local clubs and organisations putting on free entertainment, activities

PICTURES: W12 TOGETHER



and demonstrations for the community, will be QPR, Imperial College and WEST Youth Zone. The big stage will provide an opportunity for local artists and DJs from around west London to perform in front of a live audience. There will be plenty for kids to do including pony rides, plus the festival will also host a dog show. See pages 2 and 3 for a festival preview



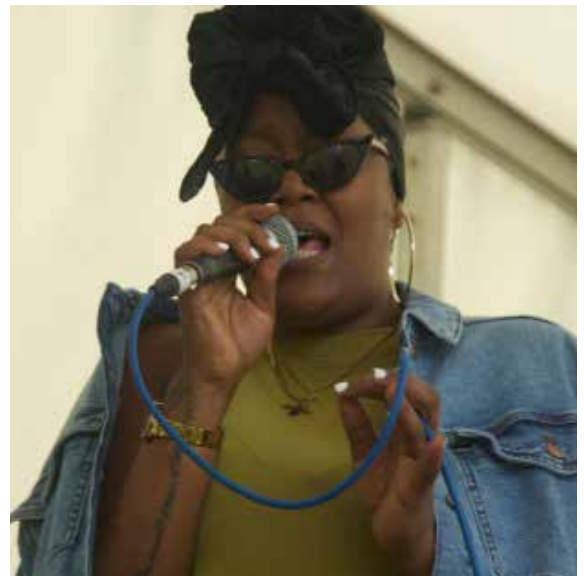
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**W12
TOGETHER**



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W12 HEALTH AND WELLBEING FESTIVAL GUIDE

Everything you need to know about what's happening in Wormholt Holt on Saturday, September 7 from 12pm till 6pm



Nuno Vinhas was appointed as a STEM learning Ambassador for University of Westminster in 2018



THE STORY BEHIND THE EVENT

WHAT IS THE W12 HEALTH AND WELLBEING FESTIVAL?

This is the fourth time W12 Together has put on day long community event in Wormholt Park. W12 Together is a resident-led organisation made up people living in and around Wormholt and White City who want to improve opportunities and outcomes for people living in the area.

WHY HEALTH AND WELLBEING?

W12 Together believes that a healthy community is a successful one. You'll find stalls and information at the festival who will be supporting this message. We also want the festival to bring a smile to all the resident's faces, as happiness leads to mental wellbeing and a happy community is an unstoppable force.

WHAT'S ON AT THE FESTIVAL

FOR THE KIDS

Emily's Entertainment: Bubble Artist and Face Painters

Bubble Artist: A mesmerising show where children and adults alike can marvel at the magic of bubbles of all sizes, from small to giant bubbles.

Face Painters: Skilled artists will be on hand to transform children's faces into colorful works of art, offering designs ranging from butterflies and superheroes to animals and fantasy characters.

Music House for Children: 'Pop Star' Experience

Pop Star Experience: Children can live out their pop star dreams by taking part in a music session where they can sing, dance, and perform like their favorite artists. It's a fun and creative way to encourage young talent and provide them with a taste of the music world.

Imperial College

"Frustration is often born out of feeling powerless. This isn't just about young black men, this is for everyone."

More details on page 5

Pony Rides

To be confirmed

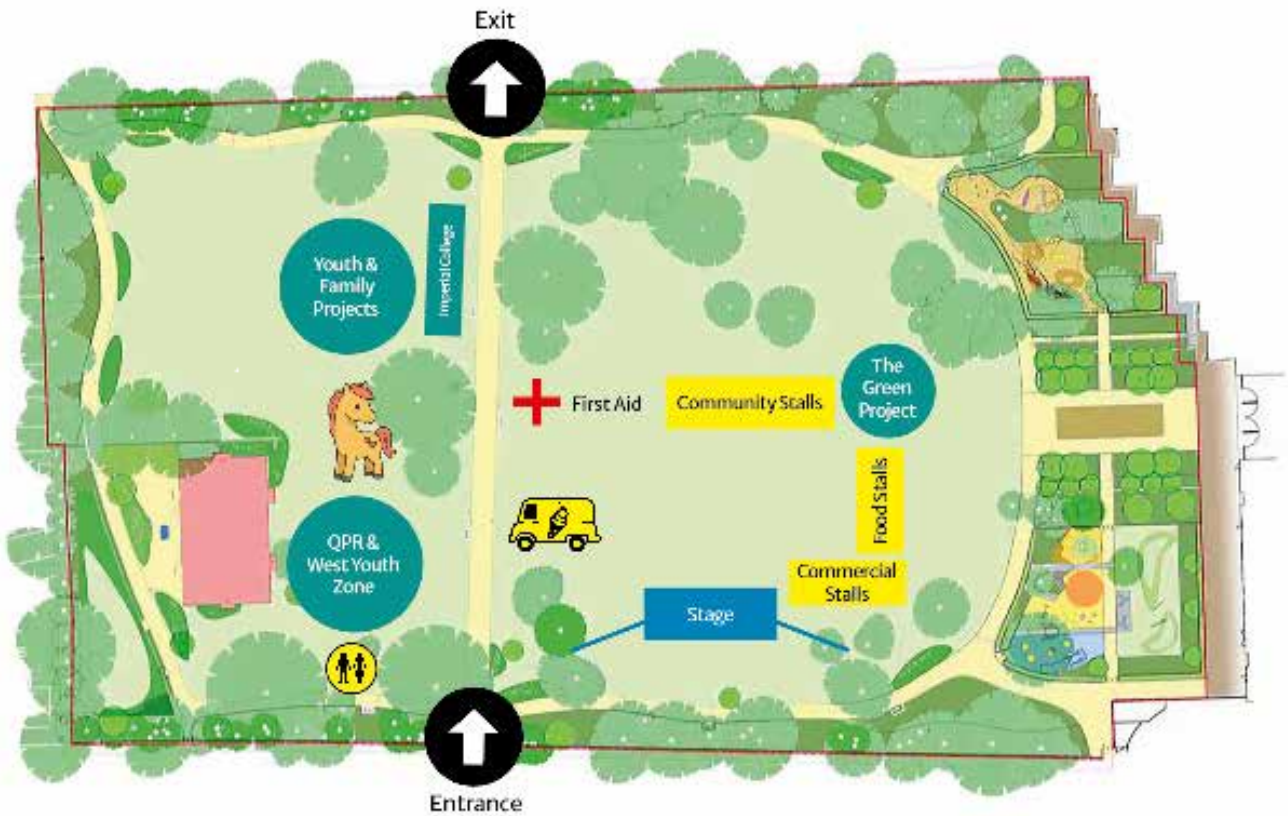
FOR THE SPORTS FANS

QPR (Queens Park Rangers) Community Trust: Sports and Information Hub

Gazebo Information Stand: Visitors can learn more about QPR and the Trust's community programs, with staff available to answer questions and provide resources.

Free Activities:





Speed Cage: Test your kicking speed in this exciting challenge.
Dartboard: Try your hand at a football-themed dartboard game.
Soft Archery: A safe and fun introduction to archery.
Mini Matches: Join in on short, friendly football matches that are open to all.
Mini Stadium Tours: A special opportunity for festival-goers to get a behind-the-scenes look at the stadium, exploring areas usually off-limits to the public.

WEST Youth Zone

Our WEST Youth Zone will be buzzing with activities, including a sign-up station, Football Tennis drop-in sessions, and Boxing & Pad work. There will also be a creative space for Piñata making, as well as an opportunity to showcase some of the incredible talents of our young people throughout the day.

**FOR THE ARTISTS
Local Arts Exhibition**

The festival will also feature an exhibition showcasing the diverse and vibrant talents of local artists. This exhibition provides a platform for artists to display their work and for visitors to enjoy and perhaps purchase unique pieces of art.

**ON THE BIG STAGE
Local performer and DJs**

The stage festivities at the W12 Festival promise an unforgettable experience, brought to life by a talented team under the direction of Warren Waugh from The Wall of Comedy. Max, your DJ host

for the day, will keep the energy high with a dynamic mix of popular music, engaging games, and exciting audience interactions. Known for his ability to connect with the crowd, Max will also be giving away fantastic prizes throughout the event, ensuring everyone stays involved and entertained.

Enhancing the festival's vibrant atmosphere, the stage will also feature a music showcase hosted by Links from Connect Fest, a renowned platform recognised for spotlighting emerging talent. The Connect Fest Showcase Network has built a strong reputation for its commitment to showcasing fresh, innovative artists, making it a highlight of the W12 Festival.

With Warren Waugh's expert event management and the collaborative efforts of a skilled team, the stage festivities at the W12 Festival are set to be a standout feature, offering festival-goers a perfect mix of entertainment, music, and interactive fun.

FOOD AND DRINK

We will have 30 diverse stalls offering a wide range of goods, services, and delectable foods. Expect flavours from around the world that reflect our community's diverse cultures, including Caribbean, Asian, and African cuisines as well as sweet treats for the kids.

...AND DON'T MISS THE DOG SHOW

This year's W12 Dog Show will take place at the Dog Enclosure

"Frustration is often born out of feeling powerless. This isn't just about young black men, this is for everyone."

section of Wormholt Park. Please ensure all dogs are kept on leads so that everyone present can enjoy the show and join in the fun. You need to register your dog between 12pm and 12.30pm to take part in the show and potentially win a prize. **More details on page 6**



Nuno-Vinhas was appointed as a STEM learning Ambassador for University of Westminster in 2018



VOICES OF W12

Activist, prisoner, hostage, educator, author. Wormholt resident Nuno Vinhas has led an extraordinary life. He reflects on the incidents that have shaped him along with his passion for teaching, as well as inspiring the next generation of engineers, developers, and scientists

“I was imprisoned as a teenager for protesting against the regime of Europe’s longest ruling dictator of the 20th century.” – Nuno Vinhas

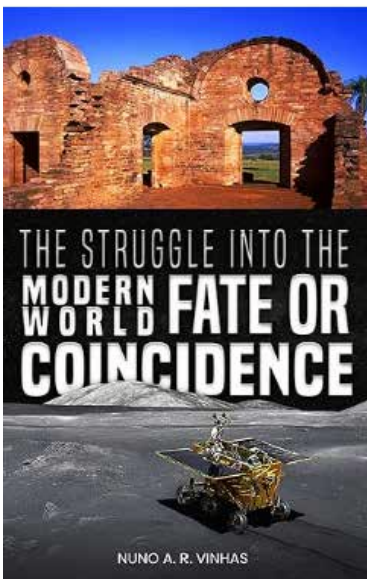
If there’s a common thread throughout my life, it has standing up for what I believe is right and using whatever skills and knowledge I’ve gained to help others.

Allow me to explain further. I was born in Lisbon and grew up under the authoritarian leadership of António de Oliveira Salazar, Europe’s longest ruling dictator of the 20th century, and was imprisoned for protesting against his regime.

It was only because I shared a cell with the son of a government minister that I was released, but was left with no choice but leave to Portugal if I wanted to have freedom of expression. And so I came to the UK in 1965 and started a new life in London.

I lived in Fulham before moving to Dunraven Road, W12 which has been my home for almost 60 years. After four of years of scrapping a living doing whatever work I could find. I was allowed teach electronics.

By the 1970s I had a family, a career and was living a happy life in W12. I watching the TV news one night in 1979 and saw scenes of suffering from Angola because



‘My book asks the question whether our paths are determined by fate or shaped by coincidence’



Nuno Vinhas (left) was nominated as a STEM learning Ambassador to assess AI projects at Westminster University in 2024

of a civil war, as rival factions sought to gain control of the country. I told my wife that I had to do something to help.

I went to Angola and took a job at a diamond mining company but I would also use my skills in telecoms and bio-medical electronics to solve problems wherever I could.

One night, at around 4am, I was taken hostage, blindfolded and lead to one of the rival factions who said that my skills would be useful to them. So I was working for different sides, fixing electrical issues across five hospitals.

But it forced me into a position I had to flee the country.

I returned to W12 went back to teaching. In 1999 I founded the Portuguese School of IT and over the past 40 years or so, I’ve witnessed the growing importance of computers.

And the children who excel in STEM (science, technology, engineering and maths) subjects will give themselves a better chance of succeeding, especially if you come from a disadvantaged background.

Around six years ago I was appointed as a STEM Ambassador which means I go into schools, mostly secondary, to give gives seminars and demonstrations.

But often kids will look at a subject like maths and say ‘when am I never going to need this when I’m older?’ and some

schools are failing pupils because they don’t bring STEM subjects to life in a way that engages pupils.

A few years ago I was invited to do some demonstrations at Kidzania in Westfield where I would have a cubicle and would show kids how electronics work. Every time we completed an experiment it would set off a different noise taken from Star Wars. It helped to engage them in a way that made it entertaining but also meant they were building and creating and I ended up doing sessions for a total of around 700 kids.

Being a teacher is more challenging than ever before, but I also feel a school which allows kids to have mobile phones in a classroom are failing those pupils because the phone becomes a distraction.

I’ve tried to sum up much of what I’ve learned in a new book called *The Struggle Into the Modern World: Fate or Coincidence*.

The book ask whether our paths are determined by fate or shaped by coincidence, but what I’ve always believed is that a good education will help you to shape your destiny.

Nuno’s book is on Amazon
<https://www.amazon.co.uk/Struggle-Into-Modern-World-Coincidence/dp/183663126X>

“The kids who excel in STEM subjects will give themselves a better chance of succeeding in life”

PHOTOGRAPHS: XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

THE TIMES THEY ARE A CHANGIN'

Fariel Missi talks about how Imperial College is making a difference in her community

"I live in W12 and grew up here. I still see people I went to Phoenix Academy with, and some of them now have kids who go to the same school. What I love about living here is that it's such a diverse community, but still feels like home to everyone.

I work for Imperial College as Senior Community Partnerships and Engagement Manager and role is to bridge the gap between the university and my community.

A key part of that role is ensuring that our researchers doing work in W12 really understand the people and the area, so any research is co-produced between Imperial and community.

"We invite different community groups and residents to a free lunch so they can network and share ideas."

One of our most successful projects has been the Agents of Change Women's Community Leadership Programme, which began seven years ago.

I became the programme lead in 2022 and we're now at a point where need to measure the long term impact, to see what dif-



Fariel Missi and last year's Agents of Change graduates

ference Agents of Change has made on those women's lives. The programme also needs to evolve so it meets the needs of the next cohort of future community leaders.

Another one of our programmes is What the Tech!? which was created by our Community Engagement Team and our Business

School to support older residents with their digital literacy but also to tackle social isolation and feel-

ings of loneliness, and we do that in conjunction with Edward Woods Community Centre

We also run free community partner lunches, where we invite different community groups and local residents to network and share ideas.

I will also be leading Imperial's efforts at the W12 Health and Wellbeing Festival. We're putting three teams together, one for families and children, plus teenagers aged 14 plus, and another focusing on the Mohn Centre for Children's Health and Wellbeing.

We're still working on plans for the festival but we I can promise plenty of fun and activities.

W12 COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD

Info on the latest projects happening in Wormholt and White City

1. SHAPE THE FUTURE OF COMMUNITY SERVICES AND SPACES

W12Together is working with H&F Council and Centric to complete research on the services and spaces that residents want in the Wormholt and White City. Centric is a research hub whose work involves upskilling local people to actively engage in research in their own communities. Their approach emphasises including sections of the community who do not usually come forward in such processes, to tap into their voices and perspective that all too often go unheard.

To find out more please email health@w12together.org

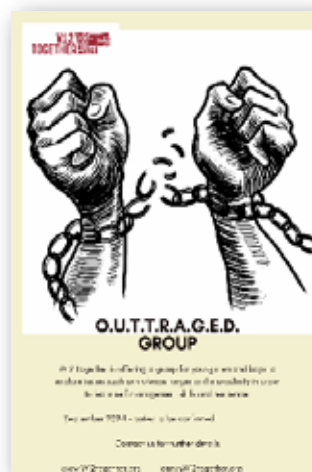
2. O.U.T.T.R.A.G.E.D GROUP

W12 Together is starting a group for young men and boys to explore issues such as violence, anger and masculinity in order to learn self-management skills and resilience. The group will begin in September.

To find out more please email jenny@w12together.org

3. JOIN THE TREE OF LIFE GROUP

Tree of Life enables people to speak about their lives in a way that makes them stronger in ways that can reinforce relationships with history, culture and significant figures such as friends and relatives.



The group is open to 18-80 year olds who have experienced trauma and are comfortable talking in a group.

The sessions will take place at the Our Lady of Fatima Parish Centre on Commonwealth Avenue at a date to be confirmed in September.

Each session from 12pm-3.30pm and the programme runs for six weeks.

To find out more

please email jenny@w12together.org

PUP IDOL COMES TO W12



Wormholt Park
Saturday
07 September
12:30 - 1:30pm
DOG SHOW

Registration 12-12:30pm

Ms Diva 12:30pm

Mr Slick 12:40pm

Pup idol 12:50pm

Best rescue/Best senior 1pm

Best in show 1:15pm

LOCATION: DOG ENCLOSURE
ALL DOGS MUST BE ON LEADS



West London-based dog socialiser and psychologist **Crissie Chambers** shares her advice on being a good owner

One of the most popular events at the 2023 W12 Festival was the Dog Show. It will return again this year and once again the woman doing the judging is West Londoner **Crissie Chambers**.

Having first started working at a rescue home in 1997, seven years later Crissie became a qualified 'dog socialiser' – somebody who helps dogs get used to new surroundings – and has also run courses in dog psychology. She also champions how having a dog can be good for mental health among kids and the elderly.

She subsequently set up her own alternative dog show, called **Scruffs**, to include all dogs but also challenge perceptions of the bull breed at a time when a lot of

Staffordshire Bull Terriers were ending up in rescue homes and had been victims of maltreatment.

Looking back on last year's W12 Festival, Crissie says, "It was such a good day and one of the things that stood out for me that was that dog owners were respectful of each other and their breeds."

She promises there will be prizes and rosettes for the winners and runners-up in six categories as well as advice for dog owners.

"After the dog show finished, a lot of people came out, asked me questions. I'm always there to give answers."

So what is the best advice Crissie can give for somebody who is thinking about becoming a dog owner?

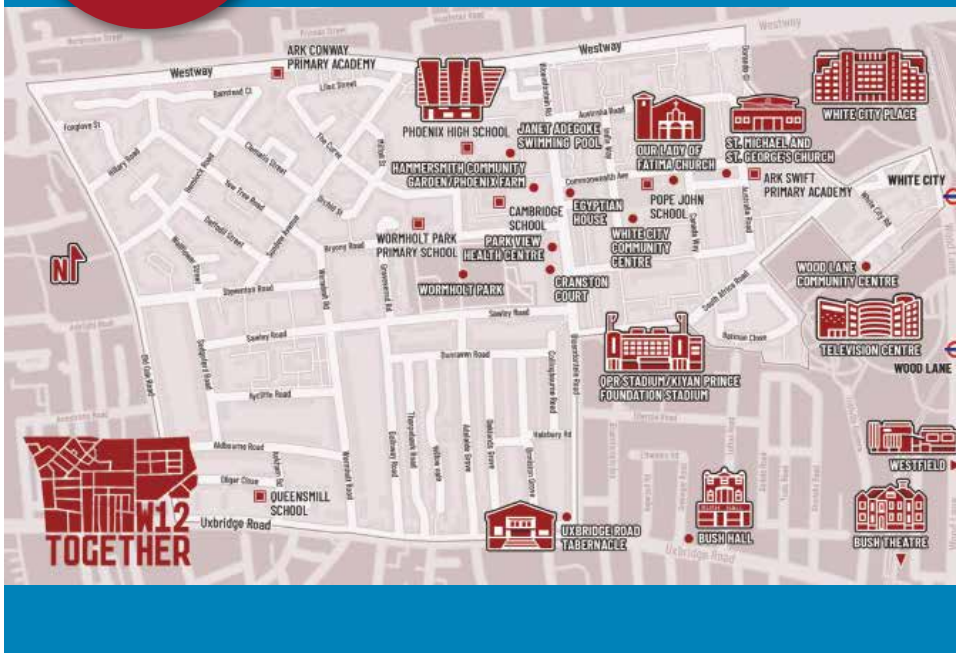
"One of the things that stood out for me was that dog owners were respectful of each other and their breeds"

"I say, 'okay, maybe walk someone else's dog'. Also, turn off the TV for an hour at around 6pm and think to yourself 'around this time I would need to walk my dog.' But also think about what happens when you go on holiday. You need to find someone you can trust who can look after it, which isn't an easy as it may sound."

Sound advice, indeed, Crissie.

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Get your business directly into 6,000 homes across Wormholt and White City. The Local is distributed to the households shown in the map below. Contact us to find out more: *Email: thelocal@w12together*



Would You Like To Write For Us?



The Local is produced by local residents for local residents. It is a platform for people to write stories, contribute ideas, showcase their work, voice their opinions and celebrate what makes Wormholt and White City a unique, diverse and vibrant community.

If it's a news article, an opinion piece, a photo story, a new project, or simply some thing you want to get off your chest, we want to hear from you. You can get in touch with our editor **Ryan Herman**.

How to contact The Local

*thelocal@w12together.org
 Twitter @w12together
 Facebook @w12together*



W12 AS SEEN ON SCREEN

**'Who are you?'
'We're The Sweeney, son,
and we haven't had any
dinner.'**

Turn on ITV4, during any weekday and there's a fair chance that you'll stumble across a repeat of *The Sweeney*. The 1970s groundbreaking police drama got its title from the rhyming slang given to the Met Police's Flying Squad (*Sweeney Todd*).

Numerous scenes were filmed in west London during *The Sweeney's* four seasons that ran from 1975 to 1978, including several in W12.

In the fourth episode of the first season, Detective Inspector Jack Regan and his sidekick Detective Sergeant George Carter (played John Thaw and Dennis Waterman) go to Shepherd's Bush Market to speak to Ronnie, a stall holder and local 'face' who they hope

will have the inside track on a gang of robbers.

In the seventh episode of the third season, Regan pays a visit to White City Stadium to get to some information from a Speedway driver. In the episode the racing scenes are played by Trevor Geer and Paul Gachet who in real life both raced for the White City Speedway team.

Other scenes were shot on or around Goldhawk Road that provide a great nostalgia trip for how this area used to look nearly 50 years ago.



'All right, Tinkerbell. You're nicked!'
John Thaw played Jack Regan (left)



IT HAPPENED HERE...

1966 World Cup



Inevitably, the venue everyone associates with the last time that the World Cup was held in England is Wembley, which is where the hosts played all their matches and won the final.

But naming the other ground in London that staged a match during the tournament, is the sort of brainteaser you'll hear in a pub quiz and it was only venue to host just one game where every other stadium in 1966 was used at least three times.



On July 15, 1966, White City Stadium hosted France v Uruguay, two teams that were in the same group as England.

So, why was White City used? The reason was that on Friday evenings Wembley used to put on greyhound racing. Back in the 1960s, huge crowds would turn up for a night at the dogs and Wembley's owners refused to make any concession to the FA or FIFA.

In fact, it was greyhound racing, which was also regularly held at White City, that saved Wembley from going bankrupt back in the 1920s.

A crowd of 45,662 turned up to see the match in W12, with Uruguay winning 2-1 who finished second in the group behind England. And the rest is football history.

HAVE YOUR SAY ON WHITE CITY CENTRAL

October 4 is the deadline to submit your views on H&F council's planning application

Hammersmith & Fulham Council has now submitted its planning application for the demolition and redevelopment of the centre of the White City estate. It has submitted this to itself for review as, in this case, the council is also the property developer.

Residents have the opportunity to respond and formally raise objections to the plans by no later than October 4, 2024.

White City Central is the single-most significant development to happen to the estate since it was built in the last 1930s. H&F has stated that the project will deliver 253 new homes, of which half will be affordable, or below market rate, and prioritised for residents - 76 homes will be

developed for social rent, and 51 homes will be available for shared ownership arrangements. 126 homes will be available to buy in order to fund the social housing and new community facilities.

The council say the development is necessary to help address a shortage of social housing in the borough

However, White City Central has been controversial for a number of reasons including the fact that it will take four years to complete, and will therefore cause lots of noise and air pollution in an area that residents argue is



Artists impression of the White City Central development to be built in the middle of the estate

already overdeveloped.

Here are some key points for residents to consider:

- * The impact of having more people living on the estate
- * If the scale of the development is suitable
- * What it means for disabled access
- * What it means for parking
- * Whether community provision will become better or worse
- * Changes to open spaces including Bridget Joyce Square

To submit your comments on WCC visit <https://public-access.lbhf.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=-makeComment&keyVal=SHJFXY-BIOTRoo>

BUILDING A FIRM FOUNDATION

The Local meets the man making a big impact in W12

On September 22, The first White City Cup football tournament will be held at the Power League on South Africa Road.

The organiser behind the event is the Sipho Bowen Foundation and it marks another significant milestone for the charity on a mission to create a community where everyone in W12 feels seen, heard, and supported.

Its founder is Sipho Bowen, who grew up in White City. He is also the owner of the luxury bedding brand Mrduvets and in early 2023 Sipho decided that he wanted to give back to that place that has had a huge influence on his life.

Yet Sipho admits it still takes time to build trust and prove to residents that you're here for the long run.

"There are other people that have come into the estate over the years with good intentions, but often with projects that are short-lived," he says. "And by the time word gets around, the project is finished. Not everybody finds out about something straight away, or at the same time. But now we are really starting to cement our place within the community."

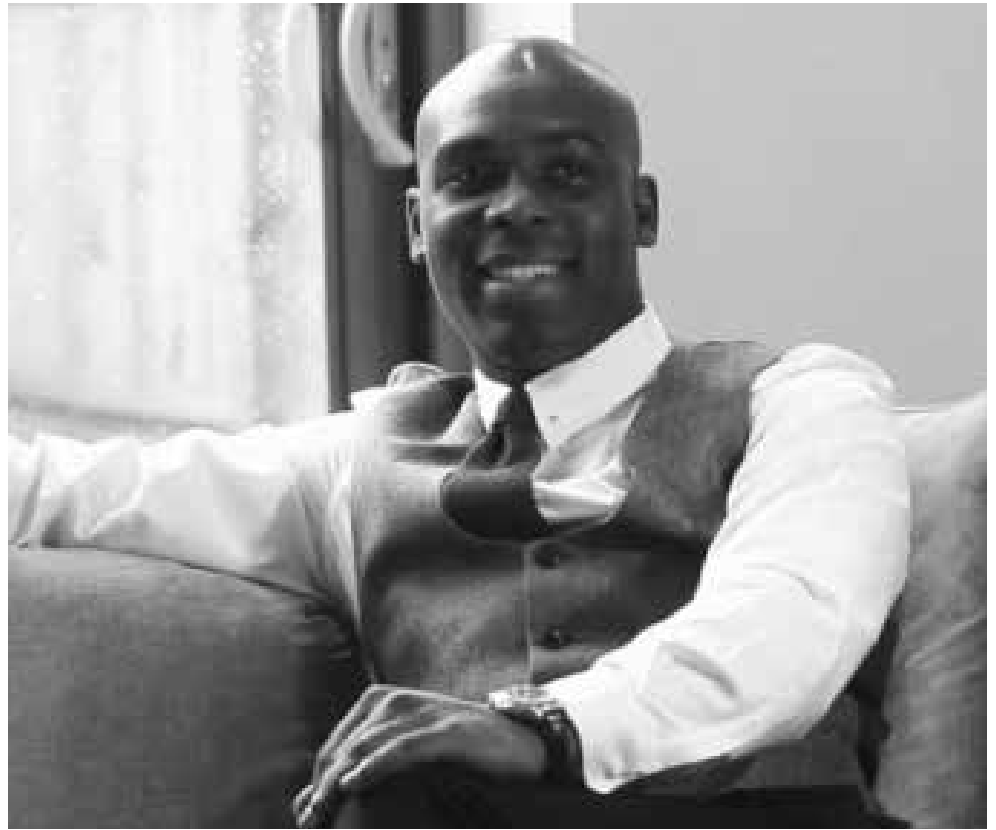
In Spring 2023, the foundation started The Village, which brings people of all ages and different cultures on Friday night to eat, drink and socialise at Our Lady of Fatima Parish Centre on Commonwealth Avenue. Those nights have been especially important to people struggling with the cost of living crisis.

"Whatever we do, it's about improving our community."

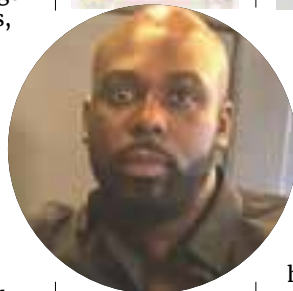
The Village now includes bingo nights which, as Sipho explains, "has already helped to bring in more vibes, fun and energy. And we make it inclusive, so parents can bring their kids who will win toys while the adults may win a bottle of Prosecco."

There are plans to do activities as Sipho's own children, Tierne and Tiano, are about to become authors with books built around the themes of animals and numbers.

Meanwhile, the response to the new football tournament instantly exceeded expectations. "The response was crazy! Within a few days of the announcement we'd



Sipho Bowen Foundation continues to spread positivity through W12



Sipho is a former footballer who is bringing a different set of skills to White City



already had 65 players registered and all 10 team spots are taken. We see it as another great reason to bring people together and want to make it an annual event."

There are also plans to build on the 'Stop and Search: Know Your Rights' workshops held at White City Community Centre last autumn. At a time when the relationship between communities and police is in the spotlight, Sipho hopes that those workshops marked a small step towards improving knowledge and cutting through misinformation. "We want the community to be

better informed so they know how to make a complaint if they feel they've been treated wrongly. Also, when something goes wrong you will turn to the police. That relationship is so important.

"We're putting together a street team, and once we can get youths involved hopefully we'll break down some barriers. "Whatever we do, our goal remains the same. It's about improving our community."

For more information about the Sipho Bowen Foundation go to:

● www.siphobowenfoundation.org.uk

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