

CULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MONDAY, 9 DECEMBER 2024 AT 6.30 PM
COUNCIL CHAMBER, TOWN HALL, JUDD STREET, LONDON WC1H 9JE

Enquiries to: Sola Odusina, Committee Services
E-Mail: sola.odusina@camden.gov.uk
Telephone: 0207 974 6884 (Text phone prefix 18001)

SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA 3

Wards

4. DEPUTATIONS (IF ANY)

YMCA response to the deputation

(Pages 3 - 6)

SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA ENDS

Issued on: Monday 09 December 2024

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Agenda Item 4

From: [Awale Olad \(Councillor\)](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [Ryan Palmer](#); [Sola Odusina](#)
Subject: Re: Invitation to call re: YMCA Club/Culture and Environment Scrutiny Committee Meeting
Date: 09 December 2024 16:56:04

Thanks Andrew

Sola: can you please add this to the supplementary pack?

Thanks

Awale

Cllr Awale Olad
Holborn and Covent Garden Ward
Labour Party

From: Andrew Erwich <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, December 9, 2024 4:54 pm
To: Awale Olad (Councillor) <Awale.Olad@camden.gov.uk>
Cc: Ryan Palmer <[REDACTED]>
Subject: RE: Invitation to call re: YMCA Club/Culture and Environment Scrutiny Committee Meeting

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Dear Councillor Olad,

Please see below in regards our statement to the deputation at Committee this evening,

I write in regard to our recent announcement of the concluded sale of the Central YMCA Club site at 112 Great Russell Street.

I wanted to clarify the process that has been undertaken and offer some reassurance on the legal and regulatory supervision in place which has guided our actions throughout.

As we have expressed publicly, charities across the country have been subject to a number of challenges which mean difficult decisions need to be made. Taking into account the cost-of-living crisis combined with soaring site maintenance costs as well as changing health and wellbeing practices, our trustees considered all options available to the charity.

Following comprehensive due diligence and modelling over a number of months, our trustees decided as a board that selling the Club site at 112 Great Russell Street was the only option to safeguard the future of the charity and which would enable us to invest in communities and services we would have otherwise been unable to support.

It is worth underlining that as a registered charity, Central YMCA had to comply with the Charities Act 2011 when selling our property (under ss 117-121 of that Act). This requires the trustees to obtain a Designated Adviser's Report (DAR) (under s119 of the Act) which comments on the marketability of the property and ultimately advises that the proposed sale is on the best terms reasonably obtainable for the Charity. This report was provided by independent, professional advisers appointed in connection with the sale. **The sale was approved by the trustees by way of board resolution and is now concluded.**

It is also worth stressing that, like most charity trustees, our trustees are unpaid volunteers who not only bring expertise to guide the charity through difficult times, but also an unyielding passion for our cause. We know the decision to sell has been very difficult for some in our community, and we are deeply sorry for any upset or shock. We are confident however that this decision has been taken with the interests of our beneficiaries at heart. For now, we are prioritising our members and employees as best we can; once our staff consultation is complete, we will have a much better idea of the support services we can

retain across our other sites.

For reference, you can find our accounts as well as our memorandum and articles on the Charity Commission website [here](#). Our operations, including our education services and programmes across the country, will still continue and we still have CYMCA club sites at Kings Cross and Moorgate.

Should you have any questions, we would ask you contact us directly.

With kindest regards,
Andy

Andrew Erwich
Director of Business Development & Marketing
Advance notice of leave: Monday 9th December.
Switchboard www.ymca.co.uk 112 Great Russell Street, London. WC1B 3NQ

From: Awale Olad (Councillor) <Awale.Olad@camden.gov.uk>
Sent: 06 December 2024 14:50
To: Andrew Erwich <A [REDACTED]>
Cc: Ryan Palmer < [REDACTED]>
Subject: Re: Invitation to call re: YMCA Club/Culture and Environment Scrutiny Committee Meeting

Thanks - I will have it added to the agenda.

Cllr Awale Olad
Holborn and Covent Garden Ward
Labour Party

From: Andrew Erwich <A [REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, December 6, 2024 2:49:21 PM
To: Awale Olad (Councillor) <Awale.Olad@camden.gov.uk>
Cc: Ryan Palmer < [REDACTED]>
Subject: RE: Invitation to call re: YMCA Club/Culture and Environment Scrutiny Committee Meeting

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Good afternoon Awale,

Thank you for the offer, unfortunately we won't be able to attend in person on Monday evening but we'll draft up a short note in lieu of a call and send over in due course,

With kind regards

Andy
Andrew Erwich
Director of Business Development & Marketing
Advance notice of leave: Monday 9th December.
Switchboard www.ymca.co.uk 112 Great Russell Street, London. WC1B 3NQ

From: Awale Olad (Councillor) <Awale.Olad@camden.gov.uk>
Sent: 06 December 2024 13:38
To: Andrew Erwich <A [REDACTED]>
Cc: Ryan Palmer < [REDACTED]>
Subject: Re: Invitation to call re: YMCA Club/Culture and Environment Scrutiny Committee Meeting

I'm afraid I am stuck for time, but would you also like to make a deputation to the committee?

Thanks

AWale

Cllr Awale Olad
Holborn and Covent Garden Ward
Labour Party

From: Andrew Erwich <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, December 6, 2024 1:32:36 PM
To: Awale Olad (Councillor) <Awale.Olad@camden.gov.uk>
Cc: Ryan Palmer <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Invitation to call re: YMCA Club/Culture and Environment Scrutiny Committee Meeting

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Good afternoon, Councillor,

I wanted to reach out directly and offer a call with our Chief Executive Officer, Ryan Palmer, after it came to our attention that one of our Club Members is seeking to address the Committee meeting on Monday 9th December in regards our recent announcement informing of the sale and pending closure of the YMCA Club on Great Russell Street (further details below).

[Important Update - YMCA Club | Central YMCA](#)
[Save the Central YMCA Club](#)

Whilst we absolutely empathise with the disappointment and distress the announcement has caused within the community and respect the right to protest, unfortunately, it seems a volume of incorrect supposition and embellishment is fuelling the call to action.

Please do let me know if you would like to discuss further and any potential availability and we'll arrange accordingly,

With kindest regards,

Andy
Andrew Erwich
Director of Business Development & Marketing
Advance notice of leave: Monday 9th December.



Switchboard www.ymca.co.uk 112 Great Russell Street, London. WC1B 3NQ

Central YMCA

Andrew Erwich
Director of Business Development & Marketing

Switchboard www.ymca.co.uk 112 Great Russell Street, London WC1B 3NQ

Central YMCA



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