

21 April 2015



Max Caller CBE, Commissioner
Sir Ken Knight CBE QFSM, Commissioner
London Borough of Tower Hamlets
Mulberry Place
5 Clove Crescent
LONDON
E14 2BG

Ragged School Museum
46-50 Copperfield Rd
London E3 4RR
T: 020 8980 6405
F: 020 8983 3481

Dear Mr Caller & Sir Ken Knight

LB Tower Hamlets Mainstream Grants Section 106 Agreements

The Ragged School Museum is grateful to you for the clarity you have brought to the application process for the Mainstream Grants programme, and we look forward to applying. The Museum would also be grateful for clarification over the distribution of Section 106 funds.

The Museum is a charity which has served all the people of Tower Hamlets for over 20 years. Our grade II listed building are the only significant ragged school open to the public in the UK, and the only significant building representing Dr Barnardo's extensive philanthropy in the East End. We are a monument to the struggle for free universal education in nineteenth century Britain.

Saved by local activists from demolition in the 1980's, the Museum has developed and grown over decades. We have built up a loyal following for our education and family learning programmes, drawing 24,000 visitors a year. We offer wide-ranging volunteering for people aged 18 to 80 and work placements for local schools. Young adults with learning difficulties run our small café in the week. We are a hub of community activity which draws visitors from all over the world. This week we have welcomed visitors from California, France and Sweden.

We are at an exciting stage of development, and a first enquiry to the Heritage Lottery Fund for a major refurbishment produced an encouraging response. We currently under-use around 50% of our building but when fully refurbished our initial income forecasts indicate we can be financially self-sufficient. Recognising that local authority support was likely to decline we have already built up new revenue streams. For a number of years we have tried to discover if, and how, we could be considered for funds from Section 106. This support would help us in the transition to becoming financially independent. We feel that the amenity we provide to all local communities enhances the life of the borough considerably. We preserve a very important part of the history of the area, and a history which relevant to every part of the World where universal education is still not a right. (I attach relevant information about the Museum).

Kind Regards

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Erica A. Davies'.

Erica Davies, Director