**Norwich Hackspace/Makerspace notes from meeting 9 July 2014**

**Present**

Marion Catlin - notetaker (designer & cultural bod) Toby Catlin (web developer), Tristan Scott (computer/network engineer), Karl Ablitt (former caretaker and Hackspace entrepreneur, Jo Stafford (STEW/artist), Marcus Williams (STEW/artist)

Notes are narrative. If you just want to skim main points, look for **bold**

**Or read bullet points at the end**

After very brief introductions we heard from Jo and Marcus about a city centre **property behind Tesco’s that has been leased by East Street Arts for use as rentable artists studios and/or project space**. Exactly how this will be done is currently up for negotiation and it is likely that STEW will manage it. East Street Arts have other managed spaces in Leeds and London and are experienced in the admin side of short-term property.

**Pros:**

* **it would be relatively simple to set something up there and there is masses of space in good condition**
* **city centre**
* **easy and secure access for members**

**Cons:**

* **Third floor so not viable for big machinery**
* **Short-term notice period, currently on a two-week getout (though it has been empty for years**

Conclusion: we will try and get a viewing next week and find out more facts

**Karl explained that he intends to set up a hackspace/makerspace as a business** which will provide him with employment as a manager of a space. He has taken advice from NWES and has a business plan. He is prepared to take out a business loan to purchase initial equipment as an investment such as laser cutter, 3D printer etc. He is also planning to rent a space to operate as a hackspace on a membership basis, also with startup cells as a possiblity.

He is however open to working to a hackspace ethos with a steering group of members to help make decisions etc while he looks after the day-to-day running. This would mean that the building (whichever building it is) would be managed and supervised during the day with memberships available with annual, monthly and hourly rates.

**Toby talked about the way that the London Hackspace started up** and operates which is through building a community of motivated people to undertake projects together and work towards the lease and occupation of a building. The Hackspace is run by a committee of members with a collective responsibility to run the space effectively. This is a slower burn approach and carries less risk but does depend on finding the right active people with the capacity to move it forward.

Marion said that she had no strong feeling either way and could see that it could be possible to join the two approaches by building a Hackspace Community (by running projects and having active meetings in different temporary spaces whilst working towards a space that could run on the basis that Karl is suggesting. The group would then become a member of the Hack/Makerspace

There was talk about the name as some people prefer Hackspace and some prefer Makerspace as ‘hack’ can sometimes have negative connotations. It was agreed that we would want to invite all sorts of activity in the space including artists and craftspeople but primarily tech and light engineering activities that would make use of shared equipment such as laser cutter, 3D printer etc.

Karl has been using Makerspace but most people preferred to use Hackspace because there is a national Hackspace movement to align to, although Makerspace is also used in some cities.

**Conclusion**: we decided to use Hackspace for the community group that intend to develop and the actual building may be called a Hackspace or a Makerspace to be decided later

**Actions**

* We agreed to arrange regular open meetings with hands-on workshops starting with an Arduino workshop in August, widely advertised, to build interest, with a small charge to start to build funds (Toby volunteered to run the first, Marion offered to find a venue and date)
* At the same time, convene a smaller group of motived founder members who want to get involved in the research and development of a structure, policies and Terms of Reference for the group
* That we will organise a series of field trips and visits to other Hack/Makerspaces starting with Cambridge (Marion to organise one to Cambridge)
* That we will start a MeetUp group and use that to build communications (rather than a Wiki/Website at this stage) Karl to initiate
* That we will seek to contact and involve people who have previously shown interest.
* Karl will continue to develop his idea to start a Hackspace business
* Marion offered graphic design/comms capability

Thanks to STEW for hosting the meeting. Next proposed meeting TBA in a couple of weeks