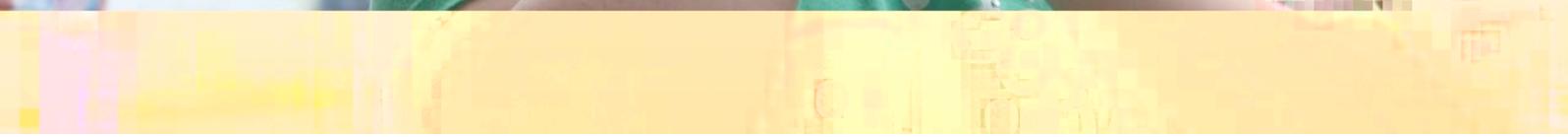


'Community Voices' - a Transcript for Careful Review -

Transcribed by Peoplescience on 12th August 2013 - The Co-operative Council must improve !



"I think it should be continued"
comment from an 8 year old boy



On Saturday 15th June 2012
we hosted our **Summer abun**



art activities, intelligent play
face painting, bouncy castle
food, local networking and good
parent-child-educator reasoning
fun dance exercises; exploring
wind in trees, bird movements
creative light learning
parents, teachers, early years children and families,
all local community are so welcome

Saturday 15th June
11am to 4pm

abun dance
abun dance
Party in the Park
Party in the Park
FLUNDAY
FLUNDAY

Loughborough Park, SW14 8UA

5th Schools Of United Learning Inside the Adventure Play Ground



Community voices must be heard:

it makes me
just feel **free**
like a bird

I think it should be **continued**

the way of teaching
freedom of expression

the dance,
it was really good the way
you connected it to mathematics

Its good that **the children** are
multicultural and **involved** in everything

very intelligent play

We loved it.

I know that one day
I'll have to come **here** in order to...
be **completely fluent** in maths

They will use their
knowledge for **better things**

appeal to someone else

You know this idea;
"I don't wanna speak to the monkey
I wanna speak to the organ grinder"
... that sort of concept isn't it?

there's **more to life** in the sense that you need

it's a very well known concept

if you had more help
in trying to make people more **aware**
of these services then I believe a lot more children
will be a lot more **intelligent**.

more to life
in relation to all the things
you teach here

what I particularly like observing
is the different generations that are **here**

all boroughs look to do such things
and not all boroughs **actually achieve** it.

thank you for you're your
clear intentions

I think places like this are
very **rare**, very special

community must get behind it and be aware of the work,
because its doing some **crucial** work here

I wanna put my voice to this campaign
and **make sure that it stays** with what its doing
and continues to grow.

change the
error.

we must find a harmonious way

the **real work** of an organisation,
when an organisation structure and its membership
can stand in a position

Maths is incorporated in everything and its important,
its **vital that children know** maths and adults know maths.
because it's the root of a lot of other subjects.
It's the **root** of life itself

it's a very entertaining day, **very educational**

everything I've **ever seen** from the organisation is
very powerful, very educational very inspirational

I've seen very young children talking
quite **sophisticated** levels of mathematics

I **hope** you are able
to negotiate and work out whatever it is
you're trying to **achieve** with the local authority.

the **more** smarts the community has,
the less power they're gonna have
over the community

This is an **eye opener** for me



To stop this kind of gathering;
This very diverse group of people. ■

Local people **interested** in education and learning ?

in truth, all children need **a better way**

Today has been a very, **very** exciting day.
One of good learning experience.

the negative:
And we don't intend to take it in

We had a **victory**, for that, give thanks.

I've had very good **support** from the community,

The Co-operative Council must improve !

I think that the educational system as it is at the moment its...
its sort of not helping in where it has to

there must be a **better** way to do things

I have to be able to appeal to someone.
They are not showing that I can appeal to them!

draconian

it just appears to be just to stop this.

the day before this event...
I heard something like locks being changed you know that...
it's a disrespect and its **sad** its **not supporting** the works

They tried not to hear
the people I'm speaking to now

They're not **available**.
Sorry you can't **speak** to them, they're **gone**.

its concerning that the local authorities wanna
change the locks or try to change the locks on you, that's
disconcerting and disrespectful.

They **don't** actually **care**
about other people who want to impact knowledge
that's gonna **benefit children**.

that's my vision of why they're
trying to **close down**
such beneficial, **such beneficial** organisation.

they just want you to be **average**

That's a depression on
multiple people and
it ripples out.

what a **great** disrespect it was
for them to do what they did yesterday.

Kid's Company... they will be apart of
an anti co-operative way of working?

it's actually
disagreeable

I think it's a **total disgrace**, disrespectful

So we need to find out **why** then.

the council
had deliberately locked us out of the building
and that was the **idea**

why should
we **be treated** with
such disregard?

Your co-operative scheme is **not working !**

actually it's been **set up to fail** [for us]

'Community Voices'

- a Transcript for Careful Review -

For the record and in a community initiated process for the reconciliation of apparently divergent realities we have prepared this transcript to formally record a powerfully representative sample of community voices that the "Co-operative Council" has failed to hear and deal with. You can [hear the original audio recording here](#), along with the full narrative of commentary from community members who attended our very special family day.

The audio opens to the sounds of drumming in the background

ASTEHMARI AND YOUNG BOY TALKING

Astehmari: I'm interviewing everybody on how they've found, what has happened today. Do you want to share.

Young Boy: About today?

Astehmari: About today, what have you learnt? Introduce yourself and tell us what you've experienced.

Young Boy: I'm Oluchi and I'm 8 years old and I found today quite enjoyable and I enjoyed the demonstrations... the drumming, the equipment outside and [I think it should be continued](#).

Astehmari: Give thanks.

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### ASTEHMARI AND YOUNG GIRLS TALKING

**Astehmari:** Hello children, children, I see you like the dance, you're dancing now. Why do you like it? What's made you interested in it?

**Child 1:** Oh no we shouldn't have done the dance!

*Laughter of children in background*

**Child 2:** I like it, it really is good, for some reason [it makes me just feel free like a bird](#) and i like it.

*Laughter of children*

**Children:** yeah coz you do it like this.



## ASTEHMARI AND A FATHER SPEAKING

**Astehmari:** And the Council..

**Father:** The Council you say?

**Astehmari:** Yeah The Council, Lambeth council. The reason for it is related to a process of handing this building over to an organisation called Kids Company

**Father:** Yeah

**Astehmari:** Now the whole, the basis of handing it over is under a scheme called "Co-operative Council"

**Father:** Yeah

**Astehmari:** Whereby big organisations who've got the experience and money...

... [interrupted by another community member] sorry one minute, you need something here?.

**Lady:** No, sorry, thank you very much. We've got to go now, the boy is sick.

**Astehmari:** Oh! Thank you for coming.

**Lady:** No, thanks to you. **We loved it.**

**Father:** We can move to somewhere else if you want to move

**Astehmari:** Let's stand over there

**Astehmari:** So on that basis, they've taken over management of the building under the idea of "Co-operative Council".

**Father:** Yes

**Astehmari:** Which is fair enough the council is rolling out this scheme to save the buildings, which is good, that's good.

**Father:** Yeah that's good yeah

**Astehmari:** But the lead organisation is supposed to work with any groups that are inside the building.

**Father:** Yeah you would think so.

**Astehmari:** Yeah you would think so, we've had a meeting with them and the one meeting with them was very uncooperative

**Father:** Just to stop you for a second, so how did you get in then? Did you cut the bolts off or something, or you didn't have to do that?

**Astehmari:** No, well because the situation was so difficult I found it impossible for me to leave. To know that I would have to stand outside, and tell everyone who comes that we are no longer here.

**Father:** They can't, they can't come in.

**Astehmari:** They can't come and we're no longer here.

**Father:** There's no point that doesn't sound very nice [there must be a better way to do things](#)

**Astehmari:** That's it. I couldn't accept that so what I said to them was that I need to make a call I need to make an appeal to a different level to who i'm talking to. Im talking to you but I need to [appeal to someone else](#). I cant accept that, so we got through that process and gradually it changed and we came to an arrangement whereby we could do this.

**Father:** Yeah that's good

**Astehmari:** But I have no guarantee that on Monday they're not gonna change the locks again.

**Father:** Like as you say you've got all these different levels you speak to one person they're apart of some other level, it's a famous thing isn't it? [You know this idea; I don't wanna speak to the monkey I wanna speak to the organ grinder, that sort of concept isn't it](#)

**Astehmari:** Well you see it's a bit like that but I don't wanna put...

**Father:** You go in there you buy something and you want to take it back, but oh no you cant return it, well can you speak to the manager, when you speak to somebody much higher up they're on a different level

**Astehmari:** You're spot on. The lady I spoke to who is the Assistant Director, an assistant director involved in this process... *[daughter shows father some of her artwork]*

**Father:** Very nice Annika, very nice.

**Astehmari:** Its very lovely.

**Father:** you gonna take that home? OK put it on the table, we'll take it home, all right.

**Astehmari:** When I spoke to the Assistant Director she then advised me that there were two persons senior to her who initially made this decision, who gave her the authority to do this act. Are they available?

**Father:** No, no, no!

**Astehmari:** ["They're not available. Sorry you can't speak to them, they're gone"](#)

**Father:** [it's a very well known concept](#)

**Astehmari:** Aghaa... imagine, this is what i'm trying to express to the community how [draconian](#) that is, your gonna do an action like that, that would stop this and they're not gonna be there.

**Father:** No its not good, and its not explained why or whatever yeah

**Astehmari:** its err... !

**Father:** Well it isn't nice if they're gonna do it they could've waited, they knew it was coming up

**Astehmari:** There you go! They knew, they knew.

**Father:** They knew! Well in that case.

**Astehmari:** Even to say if your gonna do it, if they did it on Monday

**Father:** That would've made more sense.

**Astehmari:** We would've had the event and they would've got what they wanted in a different way, but to do it at that time [it just appears to be just to stop this](#).

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ASTEHMARI AND A MOTHER TALKING

Astehmari: So how have you found the presentation today?

Lady: I've found the presentation quite enlightening and it just helps you realise that there's more to life than the average. Ok you go to school Monday to Friday. They're just teaching you the basics just so that you can get through, but [there's more to life in the sense that you need](#) to be able to, as you said you were saying about the little children who know more than those that are GCSE level.

Those things that we find so complex when we need to break down like the mathematical symbols and all of that. I mean [if you had more help in trying to make people more aware of these services then I believe a lot more children will be a lot more intelligent. They will use their knowledge for better things](#) as opposed to being on the streets umm find a ways of instead of err I don't know, make a life for themselves. Like the children you've just shown I've seen them run about just like normal children but the fact is they've got a lot more going on in their heads, they've got a lot more. I don't know, when you look at them... I don't know how to explain myself better but when you look at them you kind of envy them in a sense coz you feel like they have something over you. You're just generally sitting back thinking you know everything, sitting back watching Eastenders but as I said there's [more to life in relation to all the things you teach here](#)

Astehmari: Thank you for sharing

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### ASTEHMARI AND TWO MEN OF STANDING

**Astehmari:** I'd like to know firstly how you've found today and also the news I've had to bring

**Young man:** its been a good day seeing the youngsters mixing with the culture, different foods, different vibes, people from different cultures all in one place, that's always important, I think [all boroughs look to do such things and not all boroughs actually achieve it](#). So its quite sad to hear that... you know [the day before this event that I heard something like locks being changed you know that... it's a disrespect and its sad its not supporting the works](#) really. Aside apart from the negative its been a good day the weathers changed and come back its good. To see the smiling faces especially of the children and that's always important, as we know that children are the future.

**Father2:** Yeah just to second that its been an amazing day because its been a community day where the community has come together literally all different aspects of the community in one space and what I particularly like observing is the different generations that are here, young to old, all in the same space enjoying what's been on offer here. I think places like this are very rare, very special and often times are not celebrated for the work that they have been doing its just kept under the carpet, and I think the work that's being done here should be celebrated.

We're going through some trying times now but I think the thing to do is that the community needs to be aware of what's happening here and get behind it, if the community gets behind it then it wont be lost it will be maintained, community must get behind it and be aware of the work, because its doing some crucial work here, for the young and the older generations as well, its cross generational so I think its more important. I 100% support this in anyway I can shape or voice, I wanna put my voice to this campaign and make sure that it stays with what its doing and continues to grow.

**Astehmari:** Give thanks give thanks, I mean the two of you, I didn't ask you for your names but you are both respected artists, experienced artists in various ways so you know, you work in education you work with young people, both of you work internationally, you know so your insight is special and thank you for sharing it.

**Father2:** Yes, your welcome, thanks for having us. Great day, good one.

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ASTEHMARI AND LOCAL PARENT COORDINATOR

Astehmari: Thank you for sharing the word; I'm determined to let different ones voices be heard so thank you for that.

Coral: And thank you for you're your clear intentions yesterday as you put it across to the 3 workers or 4 of them from Lambeth and was able to have continued today and it's an exciting day for the families and the young children.

Astehmari: I

Astehmari: There's no re

Lady: Because they've obviously got more power in a sense, they've got more power to make people think in a certain way and that's all their bothered about. **They don't actually care about other people who want to impact knowledge that's gonna benefit children.** They don't want your child to be the smartest mathematician in the class or the smartest err... I don't know... author or what not; **they just want you to be average.** And when they see things like that they try to shun, like organisations such as this, and push them to the side so obviously you won't be able to make that impact on the community. The more knowledge the community has, in the sense that **the more smarts the community has, the less power they're gonna have over the community** in order to dumb them down in a sense, so that's my, **that's my vision of why they're trying to close down such beneficial, such beneficial organisation.**

ASTEHMARI AND LOCAL NURSERY MANAGER

Idera: I mean in nursery we obviously used to use strategies in early years to impact others that are learning, this is apart of it you know. **This is an eye opener for me** as well; The special awareness obviously, the thinking, the critical thinking in the mind of those children. We are also talking about children with behaviour issues, this schooling would have helped.

Lady: Yes!

Astehmari: Well this is the very funny thing because **Kid's Company** that is their cornerstone, they work with children with behavioural issues, families that have some challenges, and their due to take management of this very building and yet **they will be apart of an anti co-operative way of working**

Idera: No, its not good.

Astehmari: Under the banner of co-operative work, its very bizarre. We've gone into schools through referrals and worked there we've always been well received because some young people just need a different way of approaching subjects.

Lady: Yeah, absolutely.

Astehmari: So for me **in truth, all children need a better way** of approaching it to understand the System. And what we have presented, it's not just an alternative way, it's a wholistic way. There's a whole range of different ways that a child can access the ideas. So yes, **what a great disrespect it was for them to do what they did yesterday.** And I'm moved, it's firing me a certain way because it's so wrong.

Lady: It is

Astehmari: There is no regard for us potentially having this experience

Idera: And it's a Saturday [family funday] ...

Astehmari: Or if there is, **it's actually disagreeable** to it. It's actually trying to say 'We want to stop that!' **To stop this kind of gathering; This very diverse group of people. Local people interested in education and learning? Why would the Council want to stop that?** Why would Kid's Company want to stop it? I don't know. That's how it looks, that's how it feels.

Idera: **So we need to find out why then.**

Lady: Yeah

Idera: We need to, we need to !

Astehmari: We do, that's what I want to ask them.

Idera: That's a Saturday, they are in their home. Where are they, look at the families, look at everybody. Why, why, why? We need to find out, we need to get to the bottom of it.

Astehmari: Yes, thank you , we will.

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## **FATIMA, A STALLHOLDER AND ASTEHMARI**

**Astehmari:** Greetings

**Fatima:** Greetings my brother.

**Astehmari:** Thank you for being here. You are one of our stall-holders. Your stall is looking most vibrant and colourful and full of the finest herbs. Please introduce yourself and please tell us how you found the day.

**Fatima:** I am Fatima. I am a herbalist. I forage for herbs and I import herbs also, from Jamaica and Africa. **Today has been a very, very exciting day. One of good learning experience.** Yes, yes. And I actually didn't know this place existed until today. Yes I'm really happy for that.

**Astehmari:** Well thank you. We are doing a lot to promote our park. It's very discreet – a wonderful space.

**Fatima:** It is, it is, truly beautiful

**Astehmari:** So how have you found the day?

**Fatima:** The day has been good. **I've had very good support from the community,** good networking, good marketing. So even if I'm not making cash Abundantly, I'm networking Abundantly and I'm marketing Abundantly. I'm making good links in the community so that's a big bonus

**Astehmari:** You have had a chance to hear some of the works that we are doing. How have you found the elements of methods that we are teaching? Unifiedknowledge,

**Fatima:** I think it must be one of the oldest methods in the universe, so then it's got to be the best method. Yes it's good that it's really happening. And more of our children need to be attending Unified Schools of Learning.

**Astehmari:** Schools of Unified Learning.

**Fatima:** Aha!

**Astehmari:** You see all the different groups of families. Sometimes we go by Abundance or Unifiedknowledge or Schools of Unified Learning.

**Fatima:** Yeah. I think it's needed, really needed, Abundantly needed.

**Astehmari:** Its quite profound that we met, because when you set up for your stall this morning, there was a dynamic that would have had a knock on effect, that would have had

me telling you some terrible news, so as I've been telling the other attendees of our funday, it seems that the Council were trying to lock us out of this building that we have been resident in for over a decade.

**Fatima:** I think it's a total disgrace, disrespectful. It's beyond disrespect because we are a community that's partaking in all that's happening in south London. We pay our council tax and beyond that, and why should we be treated with such disregard? It is not right. I am very passionate to say that it is not right. Something should be done by the community regarding the situation with the council.

**Astehmari:** Do you have any questions? Because there are 2 organisations involved in this, one is Lambeth Council, the other is Kids Company and I'm recording these community voices, because this is what was to be stopped. It seemed that somebody had the intention to stop this event

**Fatima:** Yes, from functioning.

**Astehmari:** Yes, so I have to make sure I capture the voices of the ones present to this special event that DID happen. We had a victory, for that, give thanks.

**Fatima:** What you call them? Kids...?

**Astehmari:** Kids Company is an organisation that does work with young people and families.

**Fatima:** Never heard of them

**Astehmari:** O.K they are due to take over the management of this building. By all? accounts, it's a successful organisation and so they have sufficient means to take over. But the concerns I've been raising are that their very right to take over this has been done as a co-operative scheme. It's under the banner of "Co-operative Councils" and the idea of that is that a league partner takes over a council space which is supposedly for the community and works with the community and the residents of the space and then builds forward co-operatively. Now we have received no co-operation and so we come stuck. In the stuckness, I have appealed to the council to say –council! Your co-operative scheme's not working! And they have just said – Go back to the people and do what they're telling you to do. No sense of – Let us check what's gone on. What's gone wrong, what's happened?

**Fatima:** You mean the co-operative scheme's not working?

**Astehmari:** It's like they know it isn't working.

**Fatima:** So there's no.. actually it's been set up to fail [for us].

**Astehmari:** Well here's the thing now. At the beginning of this, when everyone was bidding for this, these big organisations kind of flying into areas, bidding for the space which is a good deal, when you check it in the long term. It's obviously a good deal or these organisations. There was always scepticism from the community that we would get played at the end of it. And now we come to the end of it and they are trying to play it. That's why changing the locks the day before an event, that's a deep play. A deep, deep disrespect, disregard for people.

**Fatima:** I mean they, what are they really showing the community and our children the future to be. What are they really saying? And how are those young ones interpreting it?

**Astehmari:** Well that's it. There are people who will develop apathy. If now all these young people who have come today .. all the facilitators and the stall-holders If I met them in the morning at the gate and had to tell them not that we had been locked out by mistake but actually that **the council had deliberately locked us out of the building and that was the idea**, that's a downer. [Potentially] **That's a depression on multiple people and it ripples out.** Surely that's not public relations.

**Fatima:** No it's not, no way

**Astehmari:** Who would be thinking like this?

**Fatima:** Yes, I know, the Council. I mean I would like to say some nasty things, but I'm not going to, but I see it had a reverse rippling effect today then?

**Astehmari:** Well it has done, and it has to because either we take in the negative or it go back out where it come from.

**Fatima:** **And we don't intend to take it in**

**Astehmari:** No we can't take it in

Fatima: No we're not taking it in, so it can bounce somewhere else and it has bounced today, because **it has been a good turnout, everybody has been supportive and yes it has been a beautiful day.** Even though we are getting a little bit of rain that we need the rain, the plants need the rain, we need rain so it hasn't stopped our guests from arriving and quite clearly we have set up shop and everything's been beautiful. Yeah I'm very happy.

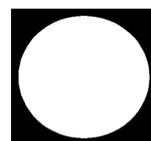
**Astehmari:** Give thanks

**Fatima:** Thank you my brother, thank you

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abundance



Community Life Engaged



Transcribed by Peoplescience on 12th August 2013
The Co-operative Council must improve !

PEOPLESCIENCE 
advantage by design

'Community Voices' - a Transcript for Careful Review - The Co-operative Council must improve !



12th August 2013

[hear and read the full update:](#)

We are still pressing Lambeth Council for a proper investigation of this matter and a just resolution. Irrespective of that, as long as there is need, we will continue to serve.

[Click](#) the image below to learn more about an important new initiative that we are now engaged in. This is a positive new development very much informed by our recent experiences.



learning in abundance

We are seeking to be more involved in the decision making and the delivery of community services across **Lambeth**.

Find out more and get involved.

Its about life long learning
 Its about nature and being
 Its about community
 and life engaged

abundance



Community Life Engaged

