

Social Enterprise News

During the course of the year the following social enterprises have set up to trade: -

Tam and Rob. Ethical clothes design and manufacture

United Productions. Setting up a recording studio, engaging young people

Zipee Bikes. Sell electric scooters and engage groups on environmental issues

Play Skills. Produce electronic training games

Sari UK. Engaged with Bengali women to make goods to sell

Garden Studios. Jewellery co-operative who design and produce jewellery

Cultural Bloomsbury. Sell guided walks in Bloomsbury

Work is on going with another 6 potential social enterprises

Succeeding in Social Enterprise 15th November 2007

As part of enterprise week the London Borough of Camden in partnership with the London Borough of Islington hosted a succeeding in social enterprise event at the Mary Ward House in Bloomsbury.

The morning session covered all aspects of Raising Finance with presentations from the London Rebuilding Society, Unlimited and the Charity Bank. Existing social enterprises together with a number of potential enterprises received information on the latest funding trends and advice on how to apply for funding and business planning assistance.

Following lunch the afternoon session was devoted to the Dragons Den where four contestants pitched their idea to the dragons and the audience. Up for grabs were £1000 of business equipment to the successful pitcher and £500 of business support from the audience's peoples vote following a ballot.

Sandi Philips Acting Head of the Labour Market and Economy team opened the afternoon session. There were three Dragons, Rachel Roberts, Project Officer for the London Development Agency, Jan Hart, AD for Public Protection of LBI and chaired by Gerri Scott AD Culture and Environment LBC.

The contestants were: -

Photography to Inspire

Their idea was to offer a photography portraiture business to document the changing lives of people in Islington and Camden

HNG Stress

Offering Complementary Therapies and Counselling. Personal and Professional Development training such as stress management, coaching and vocational training in a range of therapies and CPD (continuing professional development) workshops.

Cultural Bloomsbury

This is an idea to raise the profile of Bloomsbury as a place of cultural, historical and academic interest and to support the council in developing a visitor strategy for this rapidly transforming part of Camden, which will also benefit the local residents

Zipee Bikes

In business for four months, Zipee offers education, awareness and training and the opportunity to travel using a motorised vehicle carbon neutral free, pollution free and congestion free.

The Dragons concluded the winning pitch was Zipee Bikes and the popular vote from the audience also went their way with Centa Business Services providing £500 of business support. Gerri Scott thanked all the contestants and people attending the event which was attended by 40 people who all gave positive feedback and looked forward to next year.

Training

During the year in collaboration with the enterprise officer for Islington has resulted in a training plan, topics have included: -
Business Planning, Market research, Finance Costs and Pricing, Marketing Mix, Governance, Cash Flow and Profit, Project Management, Human Resources and legal structures. Voluntary Action Camden have been engaging with community groups exploring the social enterprise model as an alternative way of working.

A training programme is currently under construction, for further information contact Bob Davis on

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