

BRENT BOROUGH OF CULTURES 2020 Project 1 proposal by David Walton, Brent Kilburn resident artist and urban design consultant

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A PROJECT TO CELEBRATE ALL OF BRENT KILBURN WARDS DIVERSE CULTURES IN 2020

This project is shaped and targeted at where 2/3rds of Brent Kilburn households and stakeholders in Brent Kilburn, Brent Borough of Cultures live and *links into and greatly enhances the relevance and outputs of the Kilburn Street Party in July 2020*. This project would also potentially provide a lasting physical sculptural artwork series legacy as well. Tiny sculpture architecture, when juxtaposed with overbearing tall buildings/ bio farm shadow lands has an amazing humanising social impact and this could be for all London highlighted by BBC's 2020 – that is if it engages with the project proposal detailed below.

Close- Coventry Close

The proposal firstly is to on July 11th 2020 close Coventry Close (a 50 metre dead end for vehicles side road off Kilburn High Road) as well as Kilburn High Road (already to be closed) to vehicle traffic. This small side road closure intervention would have the massive impact of connecting the current party celebration in mainly conservation area Kilburn (already planning) to the mainly public land ownership South Kilburn Growth Area (a 70% BAME isolated, confined, put-down, dispose all Brent estate) where the vast majority of Brent Kilburn households actually live and this is considerable for re-development daily suffering and distress. South Kilburn is in year 19 of its dispose all already and is set for 34 plus new re-development sites before 2041- so very much a London Mega City development/ none community.

Kilburn south Brent is currently the 29th largest re-development in the UK! Brent challenges for its South East Place as stated in the new Brent Local Plan include.... *"Although generally a relatively an affluent place there are areas of deprivation particularly in South Kilburn, parts of which in September 2019 (EIMD) were in the top 10% of the most deprived areas in the country. Linked to this parts of Kilburn (i.e. South Kilburn) experience amongst the lowest levels of reported good health in*

the borough." Ignore the data or would Brent Borough of Cultures 2020 late inclusion of the missing 2/3rd of Brent Kilburn population now help to reverse dire cultural, social, economic and ecological put downs landlord forced so far?

Brent Kilburn ward going north to south in fact holds together by the thread of one railway bridge on Kilburn High Road which alone connects a massive ward severance caused by a mainline electrified railway line out of Euston Station.

My 2020 project proposal here is to connect severed Brent Kilburn together by closing Coventry Close on the party day. Coventry Close is in fact part of what is Kilburn Lane, a 1000 year old medieval road, part of which near Kilburn High Road is called Cathedral Walk, which is fully pedestrianised into a 400 metre linear parkland already and where I was commissioned by Brent to produce sculptures in the year 2000 during this parks construction. These sculptures include Kilburn Abbey, Kilburn Wells and Kilburn Roman Fort all built as architectural ruins fragments. As new ruins these sculptures have been semi-neglected in the years since, worst being the main Kilburn Well which has been Brent destroyed and removed entirely except for its base (which is a fragment of original Kilburn Lane unearthed and retained in year 2000).

So, for the July 2020 Party celebration there are Kilburn history walk through time ready-made sculptures adjacent to the Kilburn High Road to re-showcase and public enjoy right where the majority Brent Kilburn wards population lives at super high density. Added to this, the linear park of Cathedral Walk is already car free and just needs 50 metre Coventry Close closed off for that one day by Brent in order to connect and plug into festivities all of Brent Kilburn ward engagement and inclusion. People in Brent Kilburn across the railway tracks in the south also enjoy a party however much Brent regeneration decision makers resist and ignore!

I would also propose that these ruins sculptures from year 2000 be restored and enhanced now (co-design and co-working with Brent owner is required for this to ever happen as was the case in year 2000 with Cathedral Walk's build) and I do fully realise how a hostile re-development delivery put-down culture has emerged since 2004 in anti-masterplan(s) delivery. This 2020 projects proposed re-engagement with

the neighbourhood life of *all* Brent Kilburn ward would therefore be timely and healing for all given National Revival also ongoing.

Graffiti on a Kilburn High Road gable wall on Coventry Close at the High Road end (painted out now) once said 'Roma >' with an arrow pointing folk to Kilburn's new Roman fort wall. For July 2020 a Roman encampment will be built pre- event (the mass construction event) around the already enhanced Roman wall as there is safe space to build this encampment experience beforehand. What would such an encampment look like? I went to the British Museum to ask about the Roman fort design in 2000. Schools working with re-enactment societies could be involved in visualising and building this encampment.

Windrush 1948 is one start date for diversity in Brent and Teresa May took this one to heart nationally as policy gospel, but another start date for Brent diversity is the Roman Invasion of Britain AD 43, with its vast army of soldiers and auxiliaries. A diverse Roman force arriving, settling and peopling these then sparsely populated islands from countries including modern day Italy, Belgium, France, Germany, Spain, Portugal, Morocco, Mauritania, Algeria, Tunisia, Malta, Cyprus, Libya, Egypt, Arabia, Palestine, Israel, Syria, Iran, Turkey, Armenia, Georgia, Romania, Bulgaria, Moldova, Russia, Ukraine, Greece, Albania, Northern Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, Bosnia Herzegovina, Croatia, Slovenia, Hungary, Austria, Slovakia, Czechia, Netherlands and Switzerland. That is 147 plus languages in Kilburn in AD43! (So many are the languages and cultures have subsequently been lost to humanity and destroyed by on going human conflicts). This Roman Kilburn strongly reinforces the migration main theme being proposed by BBC's 2020 as Kilburn Brent ward of today. I know from the year 2000 project that migration as a story repeating for nearly 2000 years has massive street appeal in Brent Kilburn south. It is all still here, this very first mass migration of European, Asian and African peoples with the Romans.

Roman Emperors were Serbian and Spanish, Roman Emperors were crowned in Hungary. At the British Museum in 2000 the curator talked to me of the Roman army's fearsome elite Syrian mercenary cavalry in Kilburn nearly 2000 years ago patrolling the paved Watling Street. What did they look like these Syrians imperial and dominant of then? Estate Syrians of today's South Kilburn in complete reversal as often kept destitute refugees and asylum seekers from horrific war, so easy to

development clear and dispose of from for social rent housing blocks long condemned to be lived in as ruins because of the super prime land they are built on become development market housing mono-want for 41 years.

To celebrate actual Brent Kilburn ward as lived, Brent Borough of Culture 2020 needs Kilburn Lane (close Coventry Close/ open Cathedral Walk) directly adjacent to the High Road engaged with and focal to this celebration of all Kilburn Brent ward. I have lived in Kilburn Brent continuously since 1992 and was lead figure on the celebration of Kilburn's long history at the Millennium in year 2000. I am from Chester (Deva) further up Watling Street in fact which is Britain's best preserved Roman City and was planned to be the eventual Roman capital of Britain which never materialised.

Development cultures opaque agendas and 'other ideas' for Cathedral Walk near the High Road in future (restoring road traffic) should not be clouding out Cathedral Walk as linear park resource being enhanced and utilised in the here and now and its use for Brent's Borough of Cultures 2020 year of celebrations, and this as well as Kilburn Grange Park in Camden Kilburn (participating and fully engaged for the big day already).

Likewise Brent Kilburn artists should be favoured above Kingsgate artists of Kilburn Camden for moving BBC's 2020 projects forward and for funding, engagement with and support as I feel sure Camden Borough of Culture is in the GLA borough of culture pipeline soon anyway and for which it is 100% certain that Camden will not in any way return the funding favours. Way more challenging true, but Brent needs to have more faith in its own Brent Kilburn resident creativities traditionally put down as hope must start somewhere. It was Brent enabled in year 2000 in building the Millennium Walkway (Cathedral Walk) working in partnership and with respect, so why is co-working become South Kilburn oh so impossible in 2020?

Project summary so far

- **Coventry Close closed to connect all of Brent Kilburn ward strongly into Cathedral Walk linear park and its range of added opportunities. Use straw as the floor surface- go full Medieval!**
- **Enhancements and repairs to Cathedral Walks existing sculpture garden walk.**

- **A Roman encampment built on Cathedral Walk as the mass construction south event attractor.**
- **A visiting Syrian Cavalryman for the day.**
- **Music from Kilburn history 2000 heard again on the day..... (I have heard medieval music performed professionally on streets in Prague and Italy (only vocal) powerful and captivating stuff).**
- **Utilise the St Mary's School (Cathedral Walk) new multi-sports pitch (paid for by community funds) for a Roman sports fun day.**
- **Utilise the drying loft (closed for decades) on the entire roof area of Gorefield House, at Cathedral Walk. An open house/ open day approach.... What do we do with this? This giant loft space has great 360 views across London and over the Kilburn Party event too!**
- **What about estate culture/ post war hyper-socialist utopia being showcased? Socialists would be interested in the noble and fine equalities heritage, legacy and ambition of South Kilburn 1950's - 1970's. Alpha and Gorefield Tenants and Residents Association have a high quality accessible community hall/ kitchen with doors opening onto Cathedral Walk (100 years of Council Housing in Brent)**
- **How about employing a local based assistant producer/curator who sees the 2/3rd of Brent Kilburn ward disappeared/ put down for Mega City Re-development, as alive and as 8000+ people very much up for a Cathedral Walk Kilburn Party! Challenge the silo for bio farm only approach of 41 years and of Brent Kilburn south of the mainline electrified railway bridge being denied and disappeared from Kilburn/ Brent life as strong policy.**
- **Kilburn Post Office Sorting Office (Cathedral Walk) – open to funding and supporting street party events?**
- **Kilburn being the most air polluted ward in Brent, as part of Brent's declared Climate Emergency the council has set up an Air Quality Task Group chaired by Cllr Thomas Stephens. Kilburn High Road/ Coventry Close when closed is a great opportunity to monitor air quality at several key locations.**
- **July 2020 declare South Kilburn Brent's first Eco-community. As with London National Park City declared in 2019. Declare it and then work out what to do and how to pull diverse interests/ power inequalities together in a common sense shared purpose and benefit for all London. TFL funds readily available.**

Arts and cultures should bridge rather than echo the enormous gap between Mega City Development Culture and peoples own cultures, heritages and traditions in the Brent Kilburn ward 2020 and also between populations of Brent Kilburn 1/3rd (hyper socialism limited) and Brent Kilburn 2/3rds (enduring a total market private enclosures dispose all put down for 41 years so far) south of the mainline railway line connected by a thread (one bridge) yet the place where most Brent Kilburn ward people in real data live! 'The worse the better,' is Brent Master Developer Culture ashamed to engage these 8,000+ Kilburn people given what it is and what it does to disable diverse cultures?

South Kilburn Ballot 2 in 2019 of a sample 1000 estate properties pledged re-engagement of neighbourhood lives in a 'regeneration' of people as well as place. This Kilburn Party already bites into Camden spatially at Kilburn Grange Park, so why not bite into South Kilburn Brent at Cathedral Walk? It has as much, if not more to offer in showcasing Brent Kilburn to wider London and is Central London spatially- a high quality cohesive engagement build up/ making process and then leaving behind tangible legacies too for Kilburn. Brent Council's Annual Community Infrastructure Levy Report for the financial year 2018-2019 has just been published. It shows that 93% of Brent CIL (£86,112,896.87) was retained at the end of the year. The proportion of Strategic CIL retained was 94% (£74,026,947). Dispose of and CIL retain, resources draining out of new colonialist Brent? Given that it is 16 years with South Kilburn Masterplan Core Policy 9 Brent Local Plan in place as being required statutory planning obligations for South Kilburn good beautiful growth; this £160 million being retained is an ugly political approach and strong policy being mis-interpreted as weak policy for no deal ignore- a total abuse of trust. No funds?

Brent Kilburn ward's dominant culture is Council Master Mega City Re-development- the structured inequalities that this public owned land clearances dispose all put down of mean-a-while's imposes within Brent Kilburn ward constitutes a staggeringly toxic social corrosion progress and legacy, especially given this wards boundary with the City of Westminster.

Exporting regeneration to protected Brent communities (1/3rd) fails development othered (2/3rd) Brent. Proximity and relevance to under-represented, underserviced Kilburn ward south (in September 2019 sustained by Brent in the 10% most deprived areas in the country);

looking forward to partnership progress on this positive and purposeful
Kilburn cohesion before European Union Crash Out project idea for fully
engaging *all* of Brent Kilburn ward in Brent Kilburn Street Party process
and outcomes 2020.

David Walton