

# Grove Park Youth Club

Building Preservation Trust

## **BIG NEWS FOR GROVE PARK YOUTH CLUB!**

**PRESS RELEASE 25TH MAY 2018**

### **GROVE PARK YOUTH CLUB BPT TEAMS UP WITH CONSTRUCTION COMPANY TO RENOVATE YOUTH CLUB AND BRING EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES TO GROVE PARK**

The Grove Park Youth Club Building Preservation Trust are delighted to announce a huge step forward in our campaign to reopen GPYC for the benefit of the whole local community!

The BPT has secured a partnership with Willmott Dixon Interiors, who will carry out a multi-thousand refurbishment of Grove Park Youth Club this August.

This is the BPT's biggest success so far after a year and a half of tireless campaigning. We hope the project will lead not only to a fully renovated youth club, but also employment opportunities for the local youth community.

The BPT look forward to working with Willmott Dixon Interiors to host a variety of exciting events and workshops during the reconstruction period, and welcome the involvement of local people, schools, and community groups in this project.

We continue to work hard to get the building open for youth provision and are hopeful that, following this very significant development, this could happen in the next year.

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From 6th to 17th August, the Youth Club will undergo major refurbishment works to restore it to working condition. Plans are currently being finalised, with additions to the site such as raised vegetable beds and furniture for a community cafe proposed alongside core renovation of the building's interior and exterior.

The works will be carried out by Willmott Dixon Interiors (WDI), the specialist arm of the Willmott Dixon Group.

The refurbishment is part of the social impact work of the Willmott Dixon Foundation, and will be supplemented by a two week training programme for local young people living in Grove Park. The programme will include training in construction and employability skills.

The selected young people will then apply the skills they have learned by undertaking two weeks' work experience helping refurbish the club. Additional on-the-job training will be provided by WDI's partners and company team members.

Management Trainee Jordan Wilding is leading the project in partnership with the Grove Park Youth Club Building Preservation Trust. The Youth Club project was shortlisted alongside two

other initiatives based in Southwark, and presented to a WDI Board of Directors who selected it as the winner.

Hayley Newman, Sustainability Trainee at WDI, is also working on the project. She says:

“We wanted to do something around the issue of rising youth crime, after the coverage of this in recent media. We visited Grove Park and the youth club a few months ago and were really impressed with what we saw – the campaign has put so much into this. It felt right for WDI to help.”

Newman adds:

“We are engaging with local primary schools to allow them to get involved in the project and create a legacy with GPYC in a creative way. We are also working with local 16+ year olds who are NEET to empower them through employment skills training.”

A celebration event for the local community is planned for the final Friday of the refurbishment work.

WDI say they intend to continue offering workshops to local young people when the club has reopened.

**If you're an individual, school, or community group interested in helping out in any capacity with the project, or you're a young person aged 16-21 who wants to participate in the training programme, please get in contact.**

**To volunteer your time, or to donate labour and materials, contact [Jordan.Wilding@willmottdixon.co.uk](mailto:Jordan.Wilding@willmottdixon.co.uk)**