

THE
COMMON
GROUND
PROJECT

41 Bracewell Road
London
W10 6AF

Thursday, 9th September 2021

Dear Sir or Madam,

I would like to express my support for the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea's bid to create a North Kensington Library of Things. The Common Ground Project is a CIC I set up in North Kensington which works to improve the lives and the safety of local residents through research and community initiatives.

We have been keen on the idea of establishing a Sharing Hub in 2017 when, after the Grenfell Fire, my community came together to support each other in all sorts of new ways. It is sad that it is such a tragedy that brought us together but it provoked us to find different ways to work together. Many of us live in small homes with little or no storage space and it occurred to me that we could share items between us rather than finding space and money (both of which are scarce here) to buy our own items.

I then became aware of the social enterprise the [Library of Things](#) which makes borrowing better than buying for the people and the planet. Their system of renting out collections of useful items like drills, sound systems and sewing machines from local spaces like libraries – and helping neighbours share practical skills – is ideal for our needs. They are already working in four London communities in partnership with councils and community networks. They're working with many more neighbourhoods to launch and operate Library of Things around the city and have developed the necessary infrastructure to make this possible.

Since 2017, we at The Common Ground Project have been in conversation with interested parties in North Kensington who believe that Library of Things would be an important and much-loved resource in the neighbourhood. We've found the right set of ingredients to make this happen and we will support the project in any way we can; helping to recruit people, promoting and developing our new sharing hub.

Once up and running, the North Kensington Library of Things will work closely with local leaders and RBKC to ensure the service is accessible to everyone in the neighbourhood. We believe that the Library of Things will save residents money and makes them feel more connected to and proud of their neighbourhood.

Yours sincerely,



Cathy Long
Founder & Director
The Common Ground Project