

PROPOSED COMMUNITY USES

June/July 2023

For Mr Azhar Waheed
Of 81 Beresford Road, Manchester, M13 0GX
In support of: Planning Application ref 133080/FO/2022



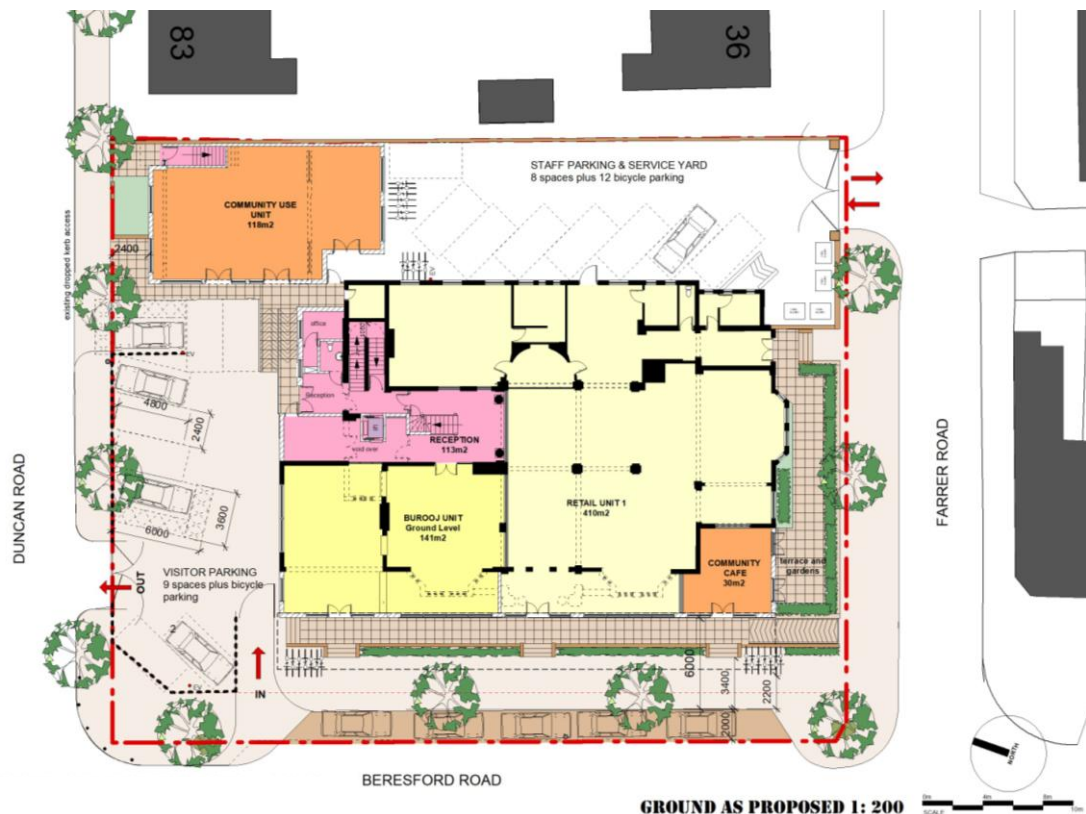
1. INTRODUCTION

This statement is made in conjunction with Women's Voices in support of the planning application to extend and remodel the existing building and its grounds. Women's Voices have been a tenant of the applicants on this site for many years and have been working with many residents in the area to provide care and education facilities for local women and children. The applicants have been closely working with Women's voices and other associated social groups to expand and improve the facilities on site. Currently access to many of the upper level spaces is restricted by a lack of a lift and visible presence on the street frontage is limited.

2. PROPOSALS

It is proposed to build a ground floor flexible community facility to the rear of the site on Duncan Rd, with three new flats over. This provides a flexible 'Community Hub' space suitable for teaching or group presentations and exercise classes. Offices and non public facing rooms will still be available in the first floor of the main building, which will have a new lift providing access to all levels. In the new retail frontage to Beresford road it is proposed to run a small community café to act as an 'open reach' space to local residents to inform and encourage use of the other facilities. A community garden is proposed to the Farrer Road side of the site, hopefully providing produce for use in the café and helping introduce gardening classes for residents.

**Figure 1:
Site Plan**



3. PROPOSED USES

A selection of proposed uses are listed below, these will be carried out generally between the hours of 8am to 8/9 pm daily. It is not intended to have late night activities or to apply for any alcohol licensing. The café will be open during the day mainly between 9am and 5pm, providing warm space and weekly hot food for service users as well as drop in customers.

Women's Voices have been active in the Longsight area for several years and provides women and age friendly, mentoring and networking events; 1:1 support sessions; help and support on budgeting & cost of living concerns; social inclusion; health and education and many other things, to help new immigrant and socially excluded women and children to have confidence to take an active part in the wider community.

They arrange community engagement activities, like street parties and fundraising events, along with children's activities and play areas by providing safe community spaces and meeting areas, for networking, campaigning and learning.

Women's Voices activities:

Teaching/Training – IT & Digital inclusion classes, Sewing, Crocheting & Embroidery classes, First Aid training, ESOL classes, Food Hygiene training, Cancer awareness training, Flower arranging & Terrarium classes, Yoga Classes, Confidence building classes, Photography classes, Driving theory classes, Health and beauty classes, Children's English/creative classes during school holiday, Dance classes.



Workshops – Creative arts and craft workshops, Massage workshops, Healthy eating and cooking workshops, Creative writing workshops, Older migrants employability and community activism workshops, Climate Change/sustainability, All FM radio presenters, Health and wellbeing sessions, Setting up social enterprises, Women's writing workshops, Workshops with qualified dietician, Working with social prescribers, Hate Crime workshops, Mental Health workshops, Poetry workshops, Café English classes, Recycling & Upcycling workshops,

Programmes/Projects – Empowerment programmes, Pear Project, Rice Project, Platt Hall in-between – Embroidery project (windows spaces), Uncertain Futures – Project on women over 50's and unemployment with Manchester Art Gallery, Fundraising for Flood victims in Pakistan, Cost of living campaign, Distribution of food parcels in the community, Distribution of Iftari, Covid 19 campaign, Save the children Play and Learn, **Green spaces community garden project**, Growing/sowing fruit and vegetables, South Asian Heritage Project, NHS – health inequalities, Volunteering programme, Intergenerational projects, Sessions on improving lifestyles and exercise, Awareness on Diabetes/heart disease and strokes, Obesity amongst children.



Events – Greater Manchester Spaces Festival, 'Everywoman' film on Menopause, Unity Feast – Event to celebrate Manchester's diverse community, International Women's Day, Wellness weekend event, Crowcroft Park – event on climate change, Food festival, We Stand Together event, Platt

Hall sharing and learning, Cultural & Community events, International mother language day, Women's contribution to history and politics, Chand Raat, Litter cleaning in local neighborhood's.

Drop ins – Weekly drop-ins, Chai Dostana weekly drop in, Trips, Meetings and events with local councilors, **Community kitchen and Café**, Refugees and asylum-seeking communities (support and drop ins)

Groups – Foraging & Walking group, Focus Groups for consultation with BAMER women to identify gaps in service provision, Dance group, Manchester Local Care Organisation, Support groups, Peer support group, Research and consultation with community groups, Over 50's support group, Carer's support group, Choir Group.

