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**RECLAIMING THE CITY**

**SEMINAR 2**

**CHAIR’S WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION**

Ladies and Gentlemen welcome to the second seminar in the 2016 Engage seminar series ‘Reclaiming the City *from consumer and stranger to citizen and neighbour’*.

And welcome to this delightful Grade II\* Listed venue, the recently opened Aloft Hotel formerly the Royal Insurance Building which was the head office of the Royal Insurance Company. Work started 15yrs after the opening of the building we were in two weeks ago, and lasted from 1896-1903. Designed by James F Doyle he was also the architect of Albion House and the original Liverpool Royal Infirmary but this building was his greatest achievement. Built in a Neo-Baroque style it was the first building in the UK to be constructed around a steel frame.

Last week’s seminar ‘from consumer to stranger’ inspired many of us to re-think how society defines us and in turn we define ourselves. Jon Alexander encouraged us to become part of a global movement of people drawing strength from being citizens who think, behave and act in a new way. Tonight’s seminar takes us to another level where we move ‘from stranger to neighbour’. City centre living is designed mostly around isolation and individualisation which creates strangers and separates us from one another. But the truth is we are also neighbours who don’t know how to act from within that reality. Engage hopes that tonight’s speaker will enable us to revisit the idea that we are neighbours and explore how we can become more neighbourly.

**Clare Devaney** writing in her first blog on Citizen-I states: “When you start with people you do everything differently. People are the new place. Citizenship is the new place-making.” Engage has a passion for creating neighbourhoods in the city centre but there will be no neighbourhood without neighbours, no place-making without people to make it.

The Founder of the Big Lunch and the Eden Project, **Sir Tim Smit**, wrote in an article in the i newspaper on 10th June 2016, that he agrees with the value of starting with people and stated his firm belief in the power that emerges when people act together. He speaks of ‘human warming’ in a way that he says could eradicate ‘global warming’. “To do that successfully, we will need to build bonds of trust between individuals, groups and nations at a level that has never been witnessed in history”. Social cohesion, writes Tim Smit, is of paramount importance. And the first step is to get to know those alongside whom we live. That is the theme of tonight’s seminar.

Engage is delighted to be bringing to Liverpool over the next two seminars two wonderful international speakers - tonight from **Paris** and in two weeks’ time from **Rome** to continue a conversation begun at the first seminar about reclaiming the city as a space for real human encounters and for the genuine empowerment of the civic body.

I am going to repeat what we commenced at the first seminar taking Gandhi’s words ‘to be the change you want to see’. Will you just spend a moment **introducing yourself** to those people around you, either-side, in-front and behind – simply your name and where you are from is enough for now!

Thank you! In a moment I will introduce our speaker and then following his presentation you will be given a few moments to share your first impressions and reactions with those around you. Then we will ask our panel members for their brief reflections following which I will open the discussion to everyone. We will bring the proceedings to a close by 7.30pm.

Let me welcome and introduce our 3 Local Panellists this evening:

POLITICIAN: **Cllr Tim Beaumont**: Mayoral Lead for City Well-being

ACTIVIST: **Dr Emlyn Williams**: Love Canning Neighbourhood Forum

ACADEMIC: **Prof Rhiannon Corcoran**: Academic Director at the Heseltine Institute for Public Policy and Practice

Please Tweet during the seminar and the hashtag is **#reclaimingthecity** and we are @engageliverpool.

Finally I want to thank our Sponsor who has contributed to the series – **Moda Living** - who are a specialist investor, developer and operator of high quality PRS communities.

Now let me introduce our guest Speaker from Paris – **Atanase Perifan**

Atanase was born in August 1964 in Paris of Macedonian parents who made France their place of safety as they fled death threats from the Ceaucescu regime in Romania in 1948. Atanase graduated from universities in Paris and Lille and is now married to Florence and they have 4 children. In 1999, he launched in his neighbourhood Neighbour’s Day which rapidly became a national event. As a result of encouragement from many people he stood for political office and got elected to the Paris Mayor’s Council.In 2003, he became the Founder and President of the European Federation of Local Solidarity**.** Today European Neighbour’s Day is celebrated by 30 million people in 36 countries throughout the world. Neighbours Together was launched in 2007 to move from conviviality to solidarity. Atanase has brought about an amazing outpouring of neighbourliness and his work is recognised and supported by the European Parliament, the European Council and the European Commission. Little did we think when we booked Atanase over 12mths ago that 52% of British people would have voted to break ties with the EU and potentially cut us off from such enriching ideas and projects. Tonight it is a genuine honour and privilege to be able to express our admiration of and gratitude to Atanase for the extraordinary vision and courage he had in establishing the critical importance of neighbourly relations in order for our cities to become places of flourishing and happiness. Thank you for all you have achieved and for all you have enabled.

Please welcome to the podium a friend and fellow-European **Atanase Perifan.**

THANK YOU

**Sponsors:** ModaLiving and James Blakey Planning Director

**Venue:** Aloft Hotel and Danielle Garrigan and Molly Dunne

**Panellists:** Cllr Tim Beaumont, Dr Emlyn Williams, Prof Rhiannon Corcoran

**Speaker:** Atanase Perifan

**Marketing, Design and Digital Agency:** Nonconform, especially Rachael Biggs but all the team

**Video:** Joe Campbell of Culture City TV for videoing

**Engage Board:** for helping to make tonight run so smoothly

THANK YOU GIFT AND NOTICES

**10 WORDS booklet:** Thanks to the generous support of our Hotel Partner the Titanic Hotel we have been able to publish a 2nd edition of our 10 Words arts project which is an attempt to suggest positive ways that city centre dwellers can take action to become more engaged with their city. Take a free copy home with you, keep it handy and use it as often as you can to aid a behavioural change. We would like to share this booklet with others too so let us know how you would like to help us distribute them to city centre and waterfront residents.

We would like to publish thousands of copies for free distribution that means we need sponsors whose advert we’ll put into each copy. £750 will print 1000 booklets and £500 will print 500.

**Workshop for Residents of Grade II Listed Buildings:** Fri Oct 21st 5.30pm at Cunard Building for those who live in The Colonnades Albert Dock; Wapping Quays; Tower Buildings; Waterloo Warehouse. Register on website. Supported by New York University and Harcourt Developers, Stanley Dock.

**Local Plan Residents Consultation Meeting:** Mon Oct 24th 5.30pm at Cunard Building with Planning Dept. Register on website. Preparatory reading also on website.

**Seminar Three** will be in a fortnight in the historic Leggate Theatre part of the magnificent Victoria Gallery and Museum, the original home of the red-brick university designation. Engage continues to get you into venues that the general public don’t often access! Our speaker will be from Rome and is internationally renowned Professor Christian Iaione lecturer in Public Law and Founder of LabGov.

Thank you and Goodnight!



**European Parliament**

"The aim of your initiative, namely to reinforce the spirit of solidarity, social ties, and mutual assistance among citizens, while promoting good relationships between neighbours, intercultural dialogue and social cohesion in urban areas, is greatly appreciated by the European Parliament. Our institution is convinced that citizens occupy a key position at the heart of the European project and they are its main players and beneficiaries. Activities that put common European values at their core help to strengthen social ties and to form active and responsible citizens. It is, therefore, with great pleasure that I grant your initiative the European Parliament's high patronage."

Martin SHULZ

President of the European Parliament



**European Council**

"I believe in the importance of bringing the citizens of Europe closer together. Getting to know the people who live next door is a very good start. Therefore I am happy to lend my patronage to the Neighbours Day 2014. I fully support its objective to develop a network of partners willing to promote a 'better living together'. I hope that this year's Neighbours Day events shall enhance people's interest in contributing to a society founded on common values, such as solidarity, tolerance, mutual respect and the fight against discrimination. Europe begins next door!"

Herman VAN ROMPUY

President of the European Council