

## Our Vision of working towards a Better Community

Wood Street First upholds this Vision Statement to inspire, motivate and support local groups and individuals to take action and organise efforts that will lead to a better community for everyone. We envisage a future based on our community strengths and our desire to remain a diverse, sustainable and viable community. Central to this vision are the values that we share as a community, working together co-operatively and peacefully, taking personal and collective responsibility for the well-being of the community, and celebrating the special spirit and energy of the Wood Street Ward and its people.

Wood Street First is a voluntary community group based in the Wood Street Ward of Waltham Forest. Our aim is to improve the lives of all those that live in our community. We give support and help to those wanting to set up their own community group, committees or community project. We organise various, projects and activities in the Wood Street Ward. Wood Street First assists local residents and tenants associations by loaning them street play equipment to enable them to hold Play Street Events. Over the year we have built up a large selection of event equipment and stage equipment that we are able to loan to local community groups for their events.

Wood Street First is run by a committee of local volunteers. We were set up in 2011 as part of the Government Community First Initiative. This helped communities come together to identify their strengths and local priorities in order to plan for their future and become more resilient. Government funding came to an end in 2015 but Wood Street First decided to go it alone and continue with the important work of supporting the local community. We are now totally dependent on donations and sponsorship.

Wood Street First will and does respond to the needs, desires, opportunities, expectations, hopes, wishes and challenges we face in our ward. We aim to make Wood Street a better place to live, work and play for everyone.

