

norse
CONSULTING

DESIGN

WOOD STREET LIBRARY

WALTHAM FOREST COUNCIL





DESIGN OVERVIEW

Norse Consulting were appointed project managers for the Marlowe Road Estate Redevelopment. In addition to this, Norse were awarded a separate commission to carry out a shell and core fitout to form the new Wood Street Library - including the shopfront design & MEP services.

“ The most rewarding aspect was being involved in the community liaison event and watching the mood of the room change in 2 hours from frosty faces with folded arms to participants (who did not know each other) standing up and presenting their vision of the library with an eagerness to see the proposals be built. It clearly demonstrated the importance of consultation in design development to take client and end users with you on the design journey. ”

SARAH TOWNSEND-ELLIOTT
SENIOR INTERIOR DESIGNER/PROJECT MANAGER



PROJECT

WOOD STREET LIBRARY

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Occupying 3 ground floor units facing Wood Street and Troughbridge Square, Wood Street Library's central location offers easy access to the venue's enhanced services and has quickly become a much-used community resource.

The library was a replacement for the original Wood Street Library, this move was not popular with a vocal percentage of local residents. Norse prepared presentation material and took part in a community consultation event where residents, local councillors and members of the end user client team worked together to establish the priorities for the new space.

This was a turning point in the popularity of the scheme, demonstrating the power of listening and involving communities at pre-planning stage and how that can reverse negative opinions. Norse Consultants are skilled in facilitating and running such workshop events.

Developed in consultation with residents and community groups, the design incorporates spaces their community lacked, one priority being meeting rooms.

The increased size of space and meeting rooms has meant the library staff can now run free daily activities including, computer support sessions, rhyme times and a number of clubs offering - games, films etc..



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OUTCOME

The internal fitout of the library was an enjoyable project to be part of, the starting point was the LibraryPlus programme, which I had previously worked on the branding guidelines and interior fitouts for 2 sites. As this was a new location it had its own challenges to overcome.

The units were originally intended to be divided by an entrance to the flats above – liaison with planners & the developer allowed this access to be reconfigured to provide an uninterrupted library space.

In the SPACES Annual Awards 2022, Wood Street Library received the Highly Commended accolade for the Small Project award.



WOOD STREET LIBRARY



CONTACT US

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