



TOWER HAMLETS FEDERATION NEWS

No 95 13.02.17

An organisation run by and for residents of Council or social housing properties in Tower Hamlets.

Newsletter of Tower Hamlets Federation of Tenants and Residents Associations (TRAs)

FEDERATION MEETINGS

All Tower Hamlets residents are welcome at the Federation's monthly meetings. These are usually held on the third Monday of the month, 7-9pm, at the Collingwood Hall, Collingwood Street, E1 5DY (Ramped entrance, no internal stairs, disabled toilet)

Next meeting:

Monday, 20th February, 7-9pm

How People Power Can Win

Larry Herman from the Selby Estate TRA will be talking about how the TRA won a victory over how the estate will be developed.

20th March

Cllr Shiria Khatun, Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Community Safety, is in charge of the Council's strategy on dealing with Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB), which she has been reviewing.

The April meeting will be on the fourth Monday, 24th April, as the third Monday is Easter Monday.

Tower Hamlets Homes (THH) Sub-Group February Meeting

7pm, Monday, 13th February

Main discussion on:

Caretaking and Estate Management

Sidney Estate TRA office,
2 Jarman House, Jubilee St.
(Disabled toilet, level inside,
high doorbell).

Open to all residents but of particular interest to residents on LBTH estates managed by THH.

Next meeting: Mon. 13th March.

THH TRAs: prepare for the transformation!

The Government is cutting the money it gives to Councils. Tower Hamlets will lose around one sixth of its income and faces having to cut £1 out of every £6 it spends. Some of these cuts will inevitably feed through to Tower Hamlets Homes (THH).

THH is currently preparing a plan to deal with these cuts (and other challenges), which it has called the "Transformational Change Programme" (TCP).

THH has already done an initial consultation with TRAs about what might be part of the TCP. It

sent the results of this and other consultation events (such as focus groups) to TRAs last November and promised to hold a follow-up meeting in the New Year. This follow-up meeting will be held on 1st March, starting at 6pm, in Oxford House (Derbysire Street). TRAs are asked to confirm their attendance by email or phone to: residentengagement@thh.org.uk or Rizia Ali 7364 3676

We strongly encourage all THH TRAs to discuss the proposals in the November letter and to attend the meeting on 1st March.

STOP PRESS:

Housing activists in Poplar have noticed that Poplar HARCA is auctioning off one of its properties. They have raised objections, saying that social homes should not be sold on the private market (we agree!).

However, two years ago HARCA announced that it had received grants from the Greater London Authority and the Government to build 287 homes - on condition that it sold off 24 of its most run-down existing properties over the following four years.

We are trying to find out whether the current sale is part of that programme.

There is an argument to say that local social landlords should not enter into deals like this. However, we do have to note that the deal (if this sale is part of it) will lead to a net gain of 263 homes before we rush to present the sale of property as a net loss of social housing to Tower Hamlets residents.

Left out in the cold?

Tower Hamlets Council has announced that it has prepared for the cold snap - at least as far as the roads are concerned. Top of the Council's list was making sure that gritter vehicles were out on the borough's main roads, with enough salt to keep the ice at bay.

Beyond that, the Council has been advising us to keep our flats warm and stock up on medicines and food - measures which may be unaffordable for many residents.

TRAs have an important role to play in looking out for elderly or frail residents and in encouraging landlords to grit paved areas on our estates.

Please email this newsletter round your TRA Committee Members and put copies on your estate noticeboards

Contact the Federation

admin@th-federation.org.uk

tel. 079 03 06 03 03

www.th-federation.org.uk