

Press release
14 March 2011

Clean Britain gives first five star rating to Hackney Homes Estate

Beecholme Estate in Hackney has been acknowledged by the national Clean Britain Awards with a five star rating. One of the only estates to get the highest rating from Clean Britain, the judges were impressed by the way in which residents have worked with Hackney Homes to create an estate with a well cared for and pleasing visual environment that both visitors and residents alike can feel at ease in. They gave a special mention to the Estate Cleaner, Steve Lacey for his hard work and obvious dedication to the estate.

Residents of the estate have worked with Hackney Homes on a variety of improvements and additions, from covering the usually plain galvanized estate bins with specially produced artwork to created a visually attractive estate identity.

They have also started an allotment for all residents to enjoy and even managed to commission well known sculptor Tim Norris to design three curved, sculpted benches for the estate, the first and largest of the three to go in over the next few weeks.

David White, Secretary of the Beecholme Estate Tenants and Residents Association said: "The quality of our visual environment is critical to our quality of life and feeling of self worth. We concentrated on areas that your eyes are drawn to and made features out of the less pleasant things such as bins, signage and bike shelters. Today the estate is much more attractive and all residents have embraced this".

Christophe Tabi, Head of Estate Environment, Hackney Homes said: "This is a fantastic achievement and we want to thank the residents of Beecholme Estate for their creativity and support as we work together to improve the environment of the estate".

For more information about the Clean Britain Awards, log on to www.cleanbritainawards.co.uk

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Notes to Editors

- Hackney Homes is an arms-length management organisation managing around 30,000 council properties in the borough of Hackney.

- A total of thirty eight entries to the 2010/2011 Clean Britain Awards were received from Local Authorities all over the UK in three separate categories, Cities, Towns and Districts.
- All entries received an anonymous half day inspection visit during the second half of 2010 and judged against a number of criteria, including; litter and fly tipping; waste bin management; chewing gum and cigarette butt litter, dog fouling and signage and street furniture cleanliness – all issues which impact on first – and lasting – visitor impressions.
- To read more about Beecholme Estate, log on to Local News & Beecholme TRA website: <http://www.beecholme.blogspot.com> - the "Sculpture" page is a good place to start.