

Get Involved

Autumn 2011

Your guide to having your say



Looking for a job with the Olympics?
Page 4



Sign up to scrutinise
Page 4



News around the neighbourhoods
Page 6



Community Halls for hire
Page 11



We hear from you...
about resident participation

IN THIS ISSUE: READ ABOUT RESIDENTS WHO GOT INVOLVED

Welcome

Welcome to this edition of the Get Involved Newsletter.

Over the summer, we were busy organising a number of fun days right across Hackney and getting to meet lots of residents. Thank you to everyone who came along and helped out on the days., we really appreciate your time and assistance.

It has been a few months since we have written to you about getting involved and that is why in this issue, you will see a round up of some of the activities that have taken place and some areas that you may want to take part in. (Page 6 onwards)

You can also find out about training courses that are currently available for residents. These include treasurer skills, how to be an effective chair and one of the most popular courses – bidding or grants. (Page 10)

Take a few minutes to read about the Scrutiny Panel and see if this will be of interest to you. This is a really good opportunity to make a difference and to hold Hackney Homes to account about the services that are important to you. (Page 4).

I do hope that you find this edition interesting. Feel free to let us know your comments by email getinvolved@hackneyhomes.org.uk

Once again, I want to thank you for your continued input and please do get in touch should you have any queries about getting involved or want advice on how you can have your say.

Faisal Pirbhai
Resident Participation Manager



*Faisal Pirbhai
Resident Participation Manager*

Your Opinion:

Earlier in the summer this year, we carried out a borough wide survey to find out your view about resident participation in Hackney.

As you will be aware, our mission is to support and promote involvement of council residents in services and as such, your views about how well we are doing this is essential so that we can make any necessary improvements.

The survey asked how satisfied you are with the opportunities for involvement and the extent to which you feel that your views are taken into account.

Here is a short outline of what stood out from the responses that we received:



Resident Participation



When we asked about opportunities to get involved, you said:

- ▶ You are aware about the Neighbourhood Panels and the work that they do
- ▶ Your main motivator is to bring about a difference on your estate
- ▶ The range of activities seem to be at the right level

When we asked your views about the Resident Participation Team

- ▶ Majority of you felt that the Resident Participation Team are helpful, polite and knowledgeable
- ▶ The vast majority feel that the Team give you an opportunity to make your views known

When we asked you about this Get Involved Newsletter

- ▶ The majority of you said that you read the newsletter
- ▶ Most of you stated that you find the newsletter interesting, informative and easy to read

You mentioned some areas that needed some improvement and these are:

- ▶ Better information on funding opportunities
- ▶ Promoting the alternative forms of engagement

For more information about the survey, please contact the Resident Participation Team on 020 8356 7845 or email getinvolved@hackneyhomes.org.uk

Thank you to all residents who took the time to complete the survey. We look forward to working with you to make the necessary improvements that you have requested.

The winners of the prize draw are Ms E Roger from London Fields and Ms P Unwin from Clapton.



Sign up to Scrutinise

Could you hold Hackney Homes to account for the services that you get?

Would you like to work with a group of local residents to check how well Hackney Homes is performing in key areas such as cleaning and repairs?

Why not sign up to be on the Tenant's Scrutiny Panel and you will challenge Hackney Homes to improve performance? You won't only take Hackney Homes word for it, you will test services anonymously and see if improvements have been made.

You don't have to give up too much time, just a few hours every three months and you will feel good knowing that you are helping to improve your community.

For more information contact the Resident Participation Team on **020 8356 7845** or email **getinvolved@hackneyhomes.org.uk**



Looking for a job with the Olympics?

Thousands of job opportunities in the lead up to and during the Olympic and Paralympic Games are due to be advertised over the next seven months.

If you are interested in a job in catering, security, retail and many more, come to the Hackney Service Centre, 1 Hillman Street, E8 1DY every Monday between 10am and 4pm.

You can also find out more by calling Hackney's own 2012 jobs brokerage On Site call **020 7275 7843**.



News in brief

Are you over 55?

The Elders focus group has been established for residents aged over 55, discussing policy changes and housing services that are provided. The group do not currently need new members but you can find out more by contacting the Resident Participation Team on **020 8356 7845**.

TRA Handbook is on its way to you

We are currently in the process of revising the handbook for all residents groups. This will provide detailed information and practical tips on how to start a TRA, day to day running and useful documents to act as a guide for you.

You may remember this handbook as it was published a few years ago, however the revised version includes case studies from other residents who have started groups and hear their experience. The revised version also takes on board resident views as we felt it was important that residents had the opportunity to feed in their views and experiences.

Copies will be sent to all TRAs and Panels, so please take some time to read through this.

Want to know when meetings and events are taking place?

You can now go to any neighbourhood housing office and see dedicated information about TRA meetings, Panel meetings and when the meetings for the various different forums are taking place.

You can also find out the location and times for the meetings and who you can contact for more information.

If you need information that is not available please speak to staff at the reception or contact the Resident Participation Team on **020 8356 7845**.

Log on and sign up to the Hackney Homes Communities of Practice website

Do you know about the new online tool that you can sign up for? It's called **Communities of Practice** and allows you to share ideas and join in discussions about Hackney related topics. To log in, type in a search engine – 'Hackney Homes Communities of Practice', click the link and register to log in.

What's **happening**

Over the next few pages, you can read some of the innovative and exciting projects that have been ongoing on estates across Hackney. These have only been possible as a result of the hard work and commitment of residents, supported by the Hackney Homes Resident Participation Team.

If you are interested in starting a community project, please contact the Resident Participation Team on 020 8356 7845.

Arty Children transform Regents Estate playground

Local school children have helped transform an area on the Regents estate into a Children's playground. With the help and support of the community police the children helped turn a small area into a play space, and decorated it with a mural.

Hackney Speaker Cllr Susan Fajana Thomas officially opened the playground and paid tribute to the hard work of everyone involved.

The Tenants and Residents Association would like to thank everyone who was involved in the playground project.

Residents to help tackle anti-social behaviour

Hackney Homes has got together with residents in the London Fields area to form an Anti-social Behaviour group. By working together it is hoped that this group will be able to collectively tackle issues and target resources effectively and they are keen to hear from local residents.

The aim is to have residents involved in tackling ASB matters by providing advice and having their views considered on what is required for their estate.



across

Hackney?

Residents push for parking enforcement on their estate

Grand Union Crescent and Dublin Avenue TRA has been successful in campaigning for parking enforcement on the estate. They are now looking to expand the parking scheme to Dublin Avenue. Since the implementation of the parking scheme, parking has improved dramatically.



Fun Day on Priestley Close

Residents on the estate took time out to have some fun over the summer. Hackney Homes donated a bouncy castle for the day and Stamford Hill Panel contributed £100 towards refreshments for residents.

Harry Hifi Piper from the Disabilities Forum provided some lovely music on the day.

Thanks to all residents who contributed food, cakes and drinks on the day.

Darville Road TRA

has been established and formally registered having held a successful Annual General Meeting. The group's enthusiasm is demonstrated by its commitment to having a community fun day to officially launch themselves as a collective group of residents who wish to make a difference in their community. Gardening and food growing projects are just some of the ideas the TRA are looking to pursue.

Millfields TRA in Clapton has been relaunched with a new Chair and a determination to address local issues, such as lighting, potholes and fences. The TRA is working closely with the TMO Board to push through improvements.

Well done to Joseph Court

The Joseph Court TRA submitted a funding application to the National Lottery Awards to install outdoor gym equipment on their estate. They were awarded £8850 from the National Lottery Awards for all. Well done!!

Is someone doing good in Hackney?

Why not nominate them for an Active Residents Award. They could win up to £1000 for community projects. You will find a nomination form with this newsletter. Please send in as many nominations as possible by Friday 25th November 2011.

Lordship North goes from strength to strength

Lordship North estate opened a brand new play area for all residents to enjoy recently.

Officially opened by Chairman of the Hackney Homes Board, Rupert Tyson MBE, residents, young and old tried out new swings, slides and play equipment.

The Lordship North TRA were integral to this and they are also involved in lots of other activities such as:

- a. Working with the London Wildlife Trust (LWT) to set up a wildlife garden. The LWT holds monthly workshops with residents to build things like bird boxes and bird feeders.
- b. An edible garden project for residents to grow fruit and vegetables. Capital Growth helped the TRA set up this project.
- c. Funding for Bike enclosures on the estate so that residents can store their bikes overnight.
- d. Annual trips for residents including family trips to the seaside and to the pantomime at the Hackney Empire as well as a Christmas lunch trip for the pensioners.



Art Exhibition on Beckers Estate

Beckers TRA recently held a fun day and along with the face painting and bouncy castles activities, there was also a resident art exhibition within the community hall.

Kate Michaelson who was part of the TRA had an idea of broadening community

participation by taking and providing free portraits for residents by a professional photographer to help get to know each other and foster greater collective spirit. Not everyone likes to attend public meetings, so by putting up portraits of local

people, this was another way in which people could become more familiar and reduce anonymity. Over 17 portraits were exhibited and remain a permanent feature of the hall.



Wilton Estate gets the kids on board

Wilton Estate TRA together with Songololo Feet has started a programme of Saturday workshops on fabric printing, garment making and newspaper furniture construction. The programme started in June and will continue until December 2011.

On Tuesdays and Saturdays, the TRA youths also run sports activities on the estate central lawn, such as ball games and athletics, which are very popular with the estate children.

On 29th July, residents and children were treated to an Olympic site trip which included a guided bus tour which gave children the opportunity to ask lots of questions about the different buildings and disciplines.



Linzell Estate turn derelict area into green oasis

Linzell Estate TRA have been successful in gaining £7000 to develop a derelict land next to the estate. The area will be given new trees, shrubs and paths will be transformed into a vibrant green space for the enjoyment of local residents.



Homerton residents enjoy fun day

The funday was organised by the Homerton Neighbourhood Panel and involved lots of fun activities for children and grown ups alike. Children played on the large bouncy castles, they were treated to sausage rolls and

refreshments and everyone entered lots of prize draws on the day.

The winner of the coveted Nintendo Wii was John Williams from Gascoyne 2 Estate who guessed the number of sweets in the jar.



One Year party for Mayfield Close & Forest Grove TRA

Mayfield & Forest TRA celebrated turning one with a fun day. The gazebos set up by residents looked grand and children kept themselves busy on the bouncy castle, having their face painted and decorating home made cakes.

Everybody else tapped their feet to the reggae and worldwide music, filled their plates at the BBQ stall, had a go at playing drums and gently soaked themselves in the warm sun.

Sign up for a resident training course

Are you interested in training to further develop your skills or increase your knowledge? Hackney Homes is working with Hackney Community Voluntary Service (HCVS) to run training sessions across various locations for residents.

There are thirteen different courses all based on what you have told us are important to you. These include:

There are thirteen different courses all based on what you have told us are important to you. These include:

- ▶ Treasurer skills
- ▶ Understanding Equality & Diversity
- ▶ Accounts & Bookkeeping
- ▶ Easy Chair – chairing skills

- ▶ Confident Committee
- ▶ Successful Secretaries
- ▶ Conflict & Resolution
- ▶ Developing & Managing Community Projects
- ▶ Bidding for Grants
- ▶ Introduction to Hackney Homes
- ▶ Managing Community Halls
- ▶ Getting started – starting a community Group
- ▶ Better Money Management

To find out more about a course or to see all the courses available, contact the Resident Participation Team on **020 8356 7845**.



Community Halls

AVAILABLE FOR HIRE



Whether you're tying the knot, organising a small party or holding a performance, Hackney Homes has a number of community halls for hire at really good rates.

Many of these are conveniently located to bus and train stations and they can accommodate a range of layouts to suit your requirements.

There are large halls and smaller rooms which can accommodate up to 100 people.

Some halls also come with kitchens that will be available to you as well as parking spaces for you and your guests.



Some of the events that have been hosted are:

- ▶ **meetings**
- ▶ **celebrations such as wedding receptions, engagements, first communion, christening**
- ▶ **social events such as dance performances**
- ▶ **educational classes**



All community halls are fully accessible.

For more information or to make a booking, email communityhalls@hackneyhomes.org.uk or call **020 8356 7845**.

Make your event a memorable one at one of our community halls.

Useful Contacts

Resident Participation Team

Telephone: **020 8356 7845**

Email: getinvolved@hackneyhomes.org.uk

Visit: Units (2-4), 3 Olympus Square,
Nightingale Estate, London E5 8PL

North East (Stamford Hill)

Clock House, 149 Stamford Hill,
London N16 5LG

Telephone: **020 8356 6500**

Nightingale Estate Office

20 Olympus Square, London E5 8PL

Telephone: **020 8356 1914**

North West (Stoke Newington)

Stoke Newington Municipal Offices,
Stoke Newington Church Street,
London N16 0JR

Telephone: **020 8356 6100**

Community Hall Hire

Email:

communityhalls@hackneyhomes.org.uk

Homerton

92 Well Street, London E9 7JA

Telephone: **020 8356 7800**

De Beauvoir & Queensbridge

31 De Beauvoir Road, London N1 5SJ

Telephone: **020 8356 6600**

Shoreditch

1 Cropley Street, London N1 7PT

Telephone: **020 8356 6705**

Whiston Road

2 Whiston Road, London E2 8BW

Telephone: **020 8356 1731**

If you would like to find out what this document says please tick the appropriate box, put your name, address and phone number at the bottom of this page and return it to the address below.

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如果你想知道这份文件的详细内容，请在方框内打钩，在下面写上你的名字、地址和电话号码寄到下面的地址。(Chinese)

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Ger hun dixwazin bizanibin ku ev dokument ci dibêje, ji kerema xwe qutika minasib îşaret bikin, nav, navnîşan û hejmara telefona xwe li jêrê rûpel binivîsin û wê ji navnîşana jêrîn re bişînin. (Kurdish)

Jeśli chcesz dowiedzieć się, jaka jest treść tego dokumentu, zaznacz odpowiednie pole, wpisz swoje nazwisko, adres i nr telefonu w dolnej części niniejszej strony i przeslij na poniższy adres. (Polish)

Haddii aad jeclaan lahayd in aad ogaato waxa dokumeentigan sheegayo fadlan calaamadi godka ku haboon, ku qor magacaaga, cinwaanka iyo telefoon lambarkaaga boggan dhankiisa hoose ka dibna ku celi cinwaanka hoose. (Somali)

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Bu dokümanda ne anlatıldığını öğrenmek istiyorsanız, lütfen uygun kutuyu işaretleyerek, adınızı, adresinizi ve telefon numaranızı bu sayfanın alt kısmına yazıp, aşağıdaki adrese gönderin. (Turkish)

(Urdu) اگر آپ یہ جاننا چاہتے ہیں کہ اس دستاویز میں کیا لکھا ہے تو اس پر "خبرہ" کے مناسب خانے میں "صحیح" کا نشان لگائیے اور اپنا نام، پتہ اور فون نمبر اس صفحہ کے نیچے لکھ کر ہمارے پتے پر واپس بھیج دیجئے۔
Nếu bạn muốn biết tài liệu này nói gì hãy đánh dấu vào hộp thích hợp, điền tên, địa chỉ và số điện thoại của bạn vào cuối trang này và gửi lại theo địa chỉ dưới đây. (Vietnamese)

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Return to: **Communications Team, Freepost RLTS-GHGU-UJTR,
Hackney Homes, Christopher Addison House, 72 Wilton Way, London E8 1BJ**