

Press release

4 December 2008

2008 Hackney Homes Active Residents Awards shortlists announced

The shortlisted residents for the 2008 Hackney Homes Active Residents Awards were announced this week. Now in its 2nd year, the awards have become one of the biggest events of the year, celebrating the achievements of local people, and will take place at the Town Hall on 17 December.

Every day, there are local people determined to improve their local area. They are volunteering on their estates, encouraging young people to make a difference and contributing to helping build better communities. These are the kind of unsung heroes who are making a positive difference to life in Hackney.

Chief Executive of Hackney Homes Charlotte Graves said: "With over 30,000 residents, we are committed to supporting and encouraging local people who are making a difference and recognising the extraordinary efforts that they contribute.

"Everyone who is nominated is doing their bit to make their community a better place to live. They, and the ultimate awards winners in particular, deserve our support and recognition."

To give you an idea of the remarkable people who are improving communities, Ben Woodley and Jammie Dickens who live on an estate in Stoke Newington are just one of the nominees in the Young Resident of the Year category.

The two young people aged 24 were keen to make a difference in their community and have worked together to start a youth club in their community where local kids can be entertained and have fun in safe environment.

They have played a major role in getting the club off the ground and every week, around thirty young people attend and enjoy a wide a range of activities including table tennis, snooker, play station tournaments and board games.

James Cook MBE, former boxer and Hackney local who has helped over 500 young people get into work, education or further training will join more than 100 local residents - in honouring the Active Residents Awards winners on 17 December.

Ends

Our mission is to deliver excellent, responsive housing services with decent homes and estates. To help residents lead healthy lives in safe and sustainable communities.

www.hackneyhomes.org.uk

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Notes to Editors

- Hackney Homes was launched in April 2006 and is responsible for managing council homes in Hackney. This includes managing council housing, collecting council housing rental, repairing and maintaining council homes.
- Nominations closed for the 2008 Hackney Homes Active Residents Awards in November and over 80 nominations were received across the three categories:

Resident Group of the year

This is to recognise a group of residents who together are having a positive impact on their neighbourhood. The group can be large or small and it can be a formal group such as a Tenant's and Residents Association, or an informal group who have worked together.

Resident of the year

This is to recognise an individual who makes Hackney a better place to live. They might have done something unusual or special for their community, they could have helped in the community for many years or they might stand out for starting a new project.

Young resident of the year (under 25)

This is to recognise a young person who has made a positive impact in their neighbourhood and is a role model to others.