

Press release

16 May 2007

Hackney's very own 'Kew Gardens' to be showcased at Chelsea Flower Show

The gritty urban landscape of Hackney might not be in the same 'leafy' league as Kew Gardens, but the green spaces of the Clapton Park estate will get the royal seal of approval when they are showcased at the Chelsea Flower Show in May this year.

What used to be bland often dog-fouled green spaces four years ago are now vibrant, blooming spaces that residents have been involved in transforming. Designed in partnership with the Clapton Park Tenant Management Organisation and the Grass Roof Company, the garden at the Chelsea Flower Show will recreate the look of the estate 'warts and all'.

It will bring to life a typical green space with railings, paving slabs, brickwork, a green roof, a park bench and even grass borrowed from the estate!

The garden will showcase the innovative use of space which includes a football area and communal seating areas. The design of the garden has also minimised water use and discouraged vandalism.

Over the past four years, the green spaces in Clapton Park have become valued by old and young residents as areas to be proud of.

"It's no longer railings, walls and fences, but flowers shrubs and grasses. Just waiting for a bus, while looking at poppies, cornflowers and swaying grasses, lifts the spirit", said one proud resident.

The Clapton Park Flower Power garden will be located in the Lifelong Learning area of the Chelsea Flower Show which runs from 22nd to 26th May 2007.

Ends

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Notes to Editors

- Hackney Homes is an Arms Length Management Organisation (ALMO) launched in April 2006 to manage the Council's social housing stock. Hackney Homes is responsible for managing 22,000 tenanted properties and 8,000 leasehold properties in the borough.

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.

- The Clapton Park Tenant Management Organisation (TMO) manage housing in the Clapton Park area on behalf of Hackney Homes. Offering a range of opportunities for residents to get involved, young and older residents get together to select and plant seeds in public areas as well as in their back gardens. Resident input has led to more people centred public areas such as communal sitting areas, allotments and grow your own areas where residents grow their preferred vegetables.