

Newsletter - April 08

Most important: please note that changes have been made to the venue for open meetings.

Our Aims

- To listen to and represent the concerns of the borough's leaseholders and freeholders
- To assist leaseholders and freeholders who pay service charges on individual disputes
- To educate leaseholders and freeholders who pay service charges about their rights
- To communicate all progress made by the Forum on leasehold and freehold issues
- To work alongside Hackney Homes and Hackney Council to come to fair resolutions on issues affecting all leaseholders and freeholders who pay service charges
- To monitor Hackney Homes' service standards and facilitate improvements

Hackney Leaseholders & Freeholders Conference

The first ever Hackney Leaseholders & Freeholders Conference was held last January 26th. It was organised by Leasehold & Right To Buy Services with the involvement of the Forum and other Leaseholder and Freeholder Associations. On the day the work of the Forum was well publicised with a presentation by our Chair, the presence of many Committee members and our stall.

Forum membership tops one thousand

The Forum currently has in excess of 1,000 registered members. This includes the absorption of members from Shoreditch Leaseholder & Freeholder Association, which has recently been wound up.

Subscription

It was agreed at the last AGM that membership of the Forum should now be by subscription. This is £12.00 a year per member (or members in one household), to be paid in one sum. A letter with full details is currently being sent out to all leaseholders and freeholders in the Borough.

Open meetings

The Forum is holding four open meetings in 2008. These proved very useful last year, so if you are a member, please come along whenever you can. If you are not, they are convenient times to join up and join in!

Meetings for the rest of this year are on Tuesdays 3rd June, 2nd September and 4th November, starting at 7pm. All will be held at Regan Way Community Centre, Regan Way (off Hoxton Street), N1 6PH.

Buses to the venue are:

Kingsland Road - 67, 149, 242, 243, 394 - Pearson Street bus stop

New North Road - 21, 76, 141, 271, 394 - Hoxton bus stop

Helping the Forum - Website design and other skills

At the moment the Forum has a space on the Hackney Homes Website. However, we are planning a dedicated site of our own in the future. We wish to recruit an experienced volunteer to help us create it. If you could help us in this particular area, or feel you have any other skills that might help the Forum, please contact us as soon as possible.

Working with others

The Forum has made sure our views are consistently represented to both Hackney Homes and Hackney Council at a variety of levels.

For instance, we have regular monthly meetings with Leasehold & Right to Buy Services. The last, on April 8th, covered issues relating to the new Disputes procedure, the future provision of Leasehold Officers in Neighbourhood Offices, and the practices of Managing Partners in Hackney Homes.

We also meet with the Chief Executive of Hackney Homes.

We are well represented on the Board of Hackney Homes (where Brian Marsh, our Vice-Chair, is the Leaseholder representative), on the Residents Liaison Group, various Neighbourhood Panels, TRAs and in Tendering Evaluation Groups.

How to contact Hackney Borough Wide Leaseholder & Freeholder Forum

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