

# ALICE SHEPHERD HOUSE AND OAK HOUSE NEWS

MARCH 2019

In your January news update we reported that a Resident Steering Group (RSG) had been formally appointed. Here you can learn more about the twelve members who now make up that group.

## ALICE SHEPHERD HOUSE

### Abdullah Bourne and Nadia Mahmood

Abdullah has lived at Alice Shepherd House for four years, Nadia for 16 years. “We’d like to share responsibility of being on the steering group as we have a small child. I’m currently on maternity leave, having previously worked as a secretary across different sectors.

Abdullah works in the charity sector. We want to join the group because although our own needs will change over time, it would be an upheaval to move elsewhere and we would rather be involved in making sure any changes keep that sense of community that we value so much.”

### Ashley Lowther

Ashley has lived at Alice Shepherd House for 34 years. “My family have lived on the Isle of Dogs for generations and both my children were raised here. I have worked in early years education for over 27 years, including at Cubitt Town school, day nurseries, playgroups and early learning centres in Tower Hamlets. I am passionate about the environment we live in and concerned that residents are heard, that their needs and requirements are addressed and that we as a community are treated fairly. I want to make sure One Housing are held to account, fulfil any promises made to residents



and that any form of redevelopment is in the best interest financially and emotionally, and is respectful to residents and local people.

### Cynthia Owusu

Cynthia has lived in Alice Shepherd House for over 25 years. “I am a volunteer and a homemaker and I live with three children and my partner. I have put myself forward for the steering group because I want the opportunity to give my fellow residents and myself a chance to be heard and to be informed on upcoming plans for our houses.”

### Darren Brown

Darren has lived at Alice Shepherd House for over 15 years. “My wife and I live here with our two daughters and I work as a black taxi driver at London City Airport. I want to make sure we get the best deal, keeping rents as they are and making sure everyone has their say when it comes to a vote. Personally, I would like the block to be replaced because we are overcrowded but I understand everyone has their own opinions and I want to consider all the options.”

### Jane McGregor

Jane has lived at Alice Shepherd House for 16 years. "I've lived on the Island for 50 years and was in Hedley House before this. I live with my three children and work in the after-school club at Mudchute Farm. I put my name forward for the steering group because I want to know what is going to happen to our homes before it happens and to make sure people get the best from any offer."

### Laura Tracey

Laura has lived at Alice Shepherd House for 17 years. "I was born and bred on the Isle of Dogs and live here with my partner and three kids. I work part time at Cubitt Town School. I put myself forward because I know a lot of people can't get out to meetings as they have young families. Alice Shepherd House is a community and it would be sad to lose that but the block needs sorting out and there are a lot of repairs need doing so some kind of change is needed."

### Noel Redmond

Noel has lived at Alice Shepherd House for 21 years. "I live with my daughter and keep myself occupied chauffeuring her around and visiting my other daughter regularly. As I am retired, I have more time on my hands and want to be useful. I will listen to what other people have to say and do what I can to help in the process."

### Salma Ahmed

Salma has lived at Alice Shepherd House for over five years. "I live here with my husband and three children aged 18, 16 and four and spend my time cooking and looking after the family. I want to join the steering group as this is our home and I want to be more involved. Like many others, we are overcrowded and want a more secure future for our children."

### Sulfa Begum

Sulfa has lived at Alice Shepherd House for four years. "I put myself forward for the steering group to help steer decisions in the right direction so that problems are not repeated. I want to make sure any changes are for the better and incorporate the different needs and views of all the residents. I would like to be involved in design decisions that improve the lives of residents by creating warm, comfortable homes and avoiding problems such as poor drainage and noise from communal areas."

### Trish Nyamunama

Trish has lived at Alice Shepherd House for over four years. "I live here with my sons aged eight and six. I'm a law graduate and was a volunteer at Island Advice Centre, where I also worked as an apprentice.

I now work for a private company. I am interested in being on the steering group to better understand how developments happen and how councils and housing associations balance their own interests with those of the residents. I want to use my legal experience to make sure tenant welfare is a priority. If this consultation leads to redevelopment, I want to understand how that decision is reached and how One Housing looks after tenants and other residents who have to move."



## OAK HOUSE

### Shanaz Chowdury

Shanaz has lived at Oak House for 16 years. "I live here with my husband and three children aged 16, 12 and eight and work part-time as a nursery nurse. I put my name forward to make sure people are aware of what is going on, that we receive the correct information about our options for the future and that any changes take us in the right direction. My family is overcrowded but we do not have any priority for a larger home and I want to make sure the process is fair to everyone."

### Sharon Holmes

Sharon has lived at Oak House for 15 years. "I have lived in Tower Hamlets for most of my life. I work for a local council and want to join the steering group to take part in discussions about the future and understand what One Housing want to achieve. I especially want to represent the interests of those living in Oak House to make sure that residents here achieve the best possible outcomes."

## WHAT HAVE THE STEERING GROUP BEEN WORKING ON?

The group have agreed to meet monthly, with members of the One Housing team present for the first part only. The St John's Tenant and Resident Association (TRA) will observe meetings and provide support where required.

The RSG will report back to the TRA at their monthly meetings (on the third Monday of each month at the St John's Community Centre, from 7pm). You can also view minutes of the RSG meetings on the 4 Estates Forum website: [www.4estatesforum.org.uk](http://www.4estatesforum.org.uk)

Since the last newsletter, the RSG have met twice and have:

- approved a resident questionnaire to 'start the conversation'
- appointed Mike Tyrrell as resident advocate and to act as the interim Independent Resident Advisor until one is appointed
- agreed the brief for an Independent Resident Advisor and are working with us to appoint from a shortlist of candidates
- adopted interim Terms of Reference, which will be reviewed once the Independent Resident Advisor is on board
- started to keep a log of questions to be included in the Residents' Charter.



## Independent Resident Adviser

The Independent Adviser's role is to guide the RSG through the process and offer impartial support and advice to residents. Although One Housing fund the role, they're accountable to both One Housing and the RSG. Along with three residents, Mike Tyrrell will be interviewing the companies who applied for the role and we'll let you know who has been appointed when they select their preferred partner.

## Next steps – please get involved!

We want to encourage you all to get involved in shaping what happens next and are in the process of contacting all residents to find out what you like and dislike about your home, the estate and the Isle of Dogs generally.

The findings will help inform the options for the future of the area, by addressing any issues you might have, whilst making the most of what you like.

Your feedback will be summarised anonymously and published in a report in the Spring. These findings will then be reviewed by the RSG before being shared with the

architects, who will take on board your comments as they work with residents to draw up the options.

## Keep in touch

You can email us at [islandregen@onehousing.co.uk](mailto:islandregen@onehousing.co.uk) or call Alison White, Regeneration Officer (Island), on 020 8821 4340 or 07964 117543.

You can also contact Mike Tyrrell, the independent resident adviser for the 4 Estates Forum, on 07958 225416 or [mike@4estatesforum.org.uk](mailto:mike@4estatesforum.org.uk).

## TRANSLATION

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