

Arthur Coppin

Via email: arthur.coppin@btinternet.com

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Dear Arthur,

Thank you for your letter on the 18th September on behalf of the 4 Estates Forum (4EF).

As you will know since I became Mayor I have worked to bring decision making about the future of the area represented by the 4EF into the open and to encourage a more positive engagement between local residents, One Housing and Argent.

Whilst this process has not always been faultless I believe that open and honest discussion between residents, One Housing and Argent is vital. That is why I established the Isle of Dogs Working Group and why I have supported the 4 Estates Forum to have their say at each stage.

The scale of change more broadly on the Isle of Dogs has undoubtedly caused pressures but I am and have always been clear that development has to embrace and work for local people.

With regards to Project Stone I am convinced that to be successful, any proposed redevelopment of the four estates needs to command resident support.

Like you I am aware that One Housing Group and Argent have said they have alternative views about how resident support should be gauged. I await detail of these and will be open to considering their suggestions if they present a fair and inclusive process which will allow a true view of resident sentiment to be heard. That said, in absence of these alternative proposals I remain minded to agree with your sentiment that secret ballot may be the best way to conduct this.


Whatever the process, there needs to be detailed consultation on any plans which are put forward. Residents deserve easy, accessible and complete information about the future of their homes as well as the opportunity to express their views and know they will be taken into account.

I remain committed to working with you towards a process which will give all residents affected a stake and a say in the future of the four estates.

Finally,

I am hoping that under its new leadership One Housing Group will develop a more productive relationship with residents.

Yours Sincerely,



John Biggs
Executive Mayor of Tower Hamlets