

RESIDENTS' VIEWS MATTER

Kedge House, Starboard Way and Winch House News



This newsletter has been produced by Mike Tyrrell who is the Residents Advocate for the residents on the Resident Steering Group for Kedge House, Starboard Way and Winch House.

In January One Housing invited residents to form a Resident Steering Group (RSG). Here you can get to know some of the members who now make up that group and find out what they have been working on.

Kedge House

Anthony Rae

Anthony lives in Kedge House with his partner Keeley who is also on the steering group. He works for a housing association, L & Q and is in an ideal location for work.

'I'm happy to be part of the steering group as I like to be involved in the area I live.'

Gemma Finch

Gemma has lived in Kedge House since 2006. She works long hours as a florist.

'I joined the steering group because not a lot of people were coming to the meetings. Although I don't like to speak up a lot, I wanted to find out what was going on, so I put myself forward'.

Husnara Choudhury

Husnara has lived in Kedge House for 14 years. She works for the NHS and her favourite thing is to spend time with her three children, especially during holidays.

'I joined the steering group because I like to know what is going on in my community and to know what is going to happen.'

Keeley Vincent

Keeley has lived in Kedge House almost 20 years and brought two sons up in the area. They both have families of their own now and have moved out so Keeley now lives with her partner Anthony, who is also on the steering group.

'I'm in an ideal location to commute to work and visit family but the block is very outdated and in need of a lot of work. I joined the steering group so I can be involved in any decisions about the block.'

Leanne Ward

Leanne has lived in Kedge House for 24 years. She has a teenage son and works at Cubitt Town school as a teaching assistant.

'I joined the steering group to find out what's going on and be part of it. It's our homes and I want to see what the future holds for us.'

Marie Batchelor (chair of RSG)

Marie has lived in Kedge House since the last refurbishment 24 years ago.

'I'm a financial controller working at Billingsgate market. I have also helped run a voluntary group of majorettes on the Island for 18 years. I put myself forward for the steering group because these are our homes and I want to know what's going to happen to them and be part of the decision making. I agreed to



chair the group when I was asked as I tend to be quite organised and reliable'.

Maureen Clayton

Maureen has lived in Kedge House for 24 years. She is disabled, works full time in a job she loves and enjoys visiting family around the UK in her spare time.

'I joined the steering group to be up front with other concerned residents in making sure this project is done right and the residents are not shafted'.

Rosie Blake

'I've lived at Kedge since 1992 after the last refurbishment of the block so I've seen many changes on the Island. I was a Facilities Manager at a college in the city for twenty years. I have an interest in my family's history and have traced them back to the 12th century'.

'I have always been very vocal about problems on our estate, but never seemed to be heard. When this new project came about I went to all the meetings and am now on the Steering group, where I hope to be able to get things moving and make a difference'.

Toni Catania

Toni has lived in Kedge House for 7 years. She works in a school and has two children.

'I joined the steering group because I want something to be done to the block as we have so many issues. I also want to be informed and have my say about what is done'.

Trina Morgan

Trina has lived in Kedge House for 13 years with her partner and 2 children, now aged 17 and 21. She has worked in a local school, a betting office and is now a cashier at Asda on the Island.

'I've always tried to come to resident meetings but it was difficult because they often clashed with my work. The steering group meets on a Thursday evening, which I can do. I want to be involved in decisions about my home and find out at first-hand what is happening without having to wait for a newsletter'.

Starboard Way

Amanda Chang

Amanda's family has lived at Starboard Way since 1984 and although she moved out aged 17, it is still the family home. She lives nearby and works full-time providing support to enable people with vision impairment to maintain independence.

'I joined the steering group as I strongly believe that factual knowledge is important to ensuring that our voice is represented appropriately.'

Lupy Kostadinova

Lupy has lived in Starboard Way with his partner, Vesalina for 6 years and is a leaseholder. He owns a construction company and works mainly in the City doing office refurbishments. He didn't join the steering group at first as he could not commit to being at every meeting.

'I was asked to join the steering group as there were not enough members from Starboard Way and I agreed when I realised it was ok to commit to attending most meetings, as long as I didn't miss three in a row. I joined because I want to know what is happening and be more informed. I can also offer advice to the group based on my experience.'



Michelle Canaway

My family has lived in Starboard Way for 15 years. I'm a house wife and stay at home as need to be here for my children. My husband is a bricklayer.

I joined the steering group as I'm very interested and care what goes on with our estate.

Terry Canaway

Terry has lived on the Barkantine estate all his life, beginning at Bowsprit Point before moving to Spinnaker House, Topmast Point and finally Starboard Way, where he has lived for 15 years with his wife, Michelle, who is also on the steering group.

'I joined the steering group because I'm interested in knowing what's going on and want to see if there's anything I can do to help'.

Winch House

Although several residents said they would be interested in joining the steering group, no-one from Winch House has yet been able to attend a meeting.



If you live in Winch House and can attend a meeting at a local venue on a Thursday evening once a month, please let myself or Alison know and we will send you details of the next meeting.

What have the steering group been working on?

The group meet monthly on the first Thursday of each month, with members of the One Housing team present for the first part only.

Since their appointment in February, the RSG have met a further three times and have:

- approved a resident questionnaire to 'start the conversation'
- elected a resident to chair the meetings
- appointed me 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 short list of candidates
- adopted interim Terms of Reference, which will be reviewed once the Independent Resident Advisor is on board
- considered different methods of appointing an architect and other specialist services to work with One Housing and the RSG in developing proposals
- started to keep a log of questions to be included in the Residents' Charter.

You can view minutes of the RSG meetings on the 4 Estates Forum website: www.4estatesforum.org.uk.

Starting the conversation survey results

The One Housing regeneration team have been able to speak to 59 households at Kedge House, Starboard Way and Winch House to find out what it is like to live there. That is 83% of households who were living in one of the three blocks whilst the survey was carried out.

However, One Housing were not able to get hold of every household. If they missed you and you would like to speak to a member of the regeneration team, please get in touch – the details are across the page.

This is the breakdown of households who completed the survey:

Kedge House

One Housing spoke to 32 of the 40 households living in Kedge House and 30 agreed to complete the survey.

Starboard Way

16 out of 19 households currently living in Starboard Way completed the survey.

Winch House

One Housing was able to contact 11 of the 12 households living in Winch House and 10 completed the survey.

Thank you to everyone who took part. A summary report of the feedback from these conversations will be published by One Housing next month.

Independent Resident Advisor

The Independent Resident Advisor's role is to guide the RSG through the process and offer impartial support and advice to residents. Several companies have been invited to bid for this role and the interviews will take place on Thursday 23rd May.

Although One Housing fund the role, the Independent Advisor is accountable to both One Housing and the RSG. The interview panel will be made up of representatives from One Housing, four residents from the RSG and myself as the residents' advocate. We'll let you know who has been appointed when they have selected their preferred partner.

Next steps

Next month you will receive a copy of the 'Starting the Conversation' survey report. There will then be an exhibition over the summer where residents will be invited to come and see how the results of that survey provide a starting point for improvements to the area.

The steering group are currently working with One Housing to appoint an architect who will work with residents to investigate different options for future of the blocks.

Keep in touch

You can contact me, Mike Tyrrell, the residents' advocate on 07958 225416 or mike@puttingresidentsfirst.co.uk.

You can email the One Housing regeneration team at islandregen@onehousing.co.uk or call Alison White, Regeneration Officer (Island) on 020 8821 4340 or 07964 117543.