



Colville Estate Regeneration, London Borough of Hackney, London N1

We have been Independent Advisers to the residents of Colville Estate since 2008, during this time we have developed and conducted a wide range of resident advice and engagement activities. Early on, we worked with and supported local residents with advice and training and as advocates to produce a Residents' Charter, baseline Expectations Document. We assisted residents have a real input into producing the masterplan and development brief for the estate.

Our core work is all about supporting residents through the implementation of this masterplan for the phased demolition of all existing 450 homes (340 tenanted homes and 130 leasehold), building more than 900 new homes for rent and sale and new community and retail facilities. We have also investigated with local people, using government funding, the options for greater resident control over local services. Since 2008, we have been re-appointed through a competitive tender process, on 3 occasions.

Working with the whole community

To be effective resident engagement needs to be more than just meetings. Direct contact with people is one of our core activities, for example, regular drop-in sessions and targeted ones for Turkish residents. We always try and make sure that the voice of the silent majority is heard and use a variety of engagement tools and opportunities to do this.

Working with tenants

We worked in partnership with the Residents Association and the Council to shape the final version of the local lettings policy, for the decant phases. We currently assist tenants on a 1:1 basis who have to move home. This involves discussing tenants' circumstances with the council and on occasions, making representations on behalf of individuals and households. We work to help ensure that in practice, the local lettings policy is applied fairly and equitably.

Working with homeowners

We worked in partnership with the leaseholder members of the Residents Association and Hackney Council to finalise an updated version of the leaseholder and freeholder options policy. Our aim is to try and make sure that these options are affordable and that leaseholders are able to stay on the estate in new properties. We have also been supporting leaseholders in valuations, the buy-back process and the compulsory purchase process.

New initiatives

The regeneration of Colville is currently at stage 2c out of 7. 116 new homes have been built. Currently, in partnership with the residents' group we're using a neighbourhood plan approach to look at a range of local issues. This is being developed along the lines of a Neighbourhood Agreement, involving regular dialogue and updates with the landlord.

If you would like to contact Colville residents on the Steering Group, let us know.