



## A BRIGHT NEW FUTURE?

**S**ince the General Meeting last October we have now finished the 'Exploring the Options' phase for a Tenant Management Organisation (TMO).

Several ways to increase resident participation in the estate have been looked at and you said 'Lets go for TMO'.

In order to get to the stage of developing a Tenant Management Organisation for residents to consider we have to serve a Right to Manage Notice on Kingston Council.

CRERA now have government funding to progress further. We will be supported by Open Communities, experienced advisors for resident groups wanting to develop a TMO.

We are always looking for residents to become more involved with the work that we do. If you are interested, see bottom of page for details.

We now have to go through a programme of work in order to prepare the committee and inform the community. What this means is that the committee of CRERA have to undertake training and development of the organisation.

The Right to Manage is a legal right all Council tenants and leaseholders have but in order to do it we have to follow the government rules.

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## VICTORY FOR CAMBRIDGE ROAD ESTATE RESIDENTS



Photo by T. Bell

**T**he old Surrey Sports Centre is going to be reopened for residents as a gym, social club and community centre by the end of 2010.

Local company 24/7 security are going to put more than £300,000 of their own money into the project which, thanks to CRERA, residents will have a hand in planning and developing. It was partly to gain this resident participation that CRERA asked the executive committee of the Council to put off giving 24/7 the lease in December. Unfortunately there were some inaccurate comments sent to the press regarding our position on the project. CRERA actually supported the project and our Chairman and Vice Chairman spoke on behalf of residents at the Councils executive meeting on 13th January.

As part of the consultation, gained by your Residents Association and the Federation of Residents, we will soon be calling on everybody on the estate to find out what you do and don't want in the new centre.

Some of you have raised concerns about the project with regards to parking, opening hours and any sub-letting of the space. It is for those concerns to be addressed that CRERA felt residents had to be consulted.

This is a victory for residents on two fronts; we are going to get a new resource for our estate and our voices have been heard. We encourage everybody to have their say. If you would rather send us your comments please use the contact details below.



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Photo courtesy of Cambridge Road Computer Club

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We will need to ask you formally if you are in favour of serving a Right to Manage Notice on the Council. It is only after serving the Right to Manage Notice that we will discuss which services the TMO will actually provide. We would welcome your views on how much or how little we should look to take on.

TMO voluntary board members need to be competent to manage and the Government has set out the areas of 'competence' that TMO committee members must have.

Although we can use our experience

from work and voluntary activities we will, over the next few months, be working out what experience we have that is relevant to TMOs and where we need to have further training. We also need to develop a range of documents and policies that need to be in place when we start to develop a TMO properly, these will include; a training plan -and how we will buy this training, financial standing orders, a code of conduct for the committee, setting out a communications strategy and developing a diversity policy.

The government will then ask an

Independent Assessor to inspect us to ensure that we have a good chance of being a successful TMO.

Over the coming months we will also be asking residents of the estate to formally become members of the CRERA. We have always included everyone who lives on the estate as members automatically but have changed the constitution as the government requires us to.

We will ask everyone to sign a membership form. 150 members have signed up already. There will be no cost to join and we hope that everyone will join as when we hold a General Meeting to vote on whether or not to serve a Right to Manage Notice on the Council if you haven't joined you will not be able to vote. You will only be a member if you have completed the form.

Every Member has a right to have their voice heard. Your opinion is important to us and we have developed various ways to ensure that you can give your opinion in the way that suits you best.

You can keep yourself informed about what is going on by reading the newsletters that will go out to all residents whether members or not.

## RESIDENTS TO CHOOSE PLAY IMPROVEMENTS

### KINGSTON COUNCIL WANT THEIR RESIDENTS TO HELP GET THE RIGHT PLAY FACILITIES.

RBK has been successful in obtaining £1.1 million Play Builder Funding to spend, over two years, across the borough.

£100,000 of this will be spent on the

Cambridge Road Estate. CRERA have been asked by the Council to come up with ways to involve residents in deciding how to spend the cash.

The Play Builder Funding is aimed at the 8-13 range but the whole community will benefit from the right new facilities. It is up to you to help

make sure we get it right.

This is an opportunity for us to make where we live better.

All of your suggestions for how you want to get involved will be appreciated. We have some of our own and will keep you updated about events well in advance.

Produced with the assistance of



[www.opencommunities.org](http://www.opencommunities.org)

Contact CRERA, by Phone: 07813090751 eMail: [enquiries.crera@live.co.uk](mailto:enquiries.crera@live.co.uk)  
or by post c/o Kingston Tenants Federation, 1 Tadlow, Kingston Upon Thames KT1 3EX



## HOUSING IN YOUR HANDS

### RESIDENTS ARE THE KEY TO THE FUTURE OF KINGSTON'S HOUSING AS A NEW REGULATOR TAKES OVER AND A NEW COMPACT IS SIGNED.

As part of the 2008 Housing and Regeneration Act, a new regulator, the Tenants Service Authority (TSA), has been set up. The TSA will be applying their national standards that already apply to Registered Social Landlords (RSL's), more commonly known as housing associations, to local authority - Council - housing from April 2010. RBK will have to comply with six national standards the TSA have set out. Failure to do so could see restrictions or supervision put in place. This new approach to regulating Council housing puts residents in a stronger position than ever before. What this means for Cambridge Road Estate residents is that Kingston Council will be expected to work alongside residents and the TSA when it comes to ensuring that you get the best service possible.

Members of our committee will continue to meet with senior housing staff, as we have done for a few months now, to help to comply with these standards. We can't do this without your input and help. We are always looking for new people to join our committee and we are in a position to offer training and support to all of our members.

There are opportunities that are outside of the Residents

Association, you could become a Tenant Inspector and make sure the Council are really doing what they say they are. If you are interested in this then let us know and we will provide you with a full job description.

At the last joint meeting of the Housing Consultative Committee and Leaseholders Forum (HCC) a new Resident Compact was signed by the Mayor, Head of Housing and our Chairman amongst others to set out standards of practice for the Council, both elected Councillors and staff, in empowering residents to have a say in their housing. Again if you would like a copy of this we can provide you with one on request.

If all that wasn't enough to convince you that we are all now in a position to really have a say in where we live, you should have received a copy of the Federation of Residents (Fed) newsletter 'Home Truths' explaining further ways to get involved and explaining what they do on your behalf. CRERA are active members of the Fed.

### STOP PRESS GENERAL MEETING

Meet the Committee and find out more about the TMO plans. **Tuesday 13th July 7.30pm** at The Federation Office at 1 Tadlow

## FROM THE EDITOR

### WELCOME TO THE SECOND ISSUE OF THE CAMBRIDGE.

We were very pleased with the response we had to our first issue. It is always good to find out that our hard work has not been in vain. We hope that this issue will be as well received.

The committee would like to thank everybody who attended our AGM. We now have more members of our committee but we are always looking for more people to join us. It is a very interesting time for residents at the moment with many opportunities to get involved in really making a difference to our estate.

I would like to mention that two Cambridge Road Estate residents have been honoured with Special Mayor Awards, both Steve Everard and John Higson are tireless activists who give up their time for our estate and are well worthy of this award.

Remember we have our committee meetings on the second Tuesday of every month in the Fed office, 1 Tadlow, at 7pm and all residents are welcome. As usual you can contact us using any of the methods shown at the bottom of every page.

We hope you enjoy reading the newsletter as much as we enjoyed producing it and getting it out to you.

If you wish to contribute to our newsletter please contact us. The editor reserves the right to alter submissions as necessary and not all contributions can be used.

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or by post c/o Kingston Tenants Federation, 1 Tadlow, Kingston Upon Thames KT1 3EX



## THE GOOD PET GUIDE

### IN THE SECOND PART OF OUR PET GUIDE WE WILL FOCUS ON AQUARIUM FISH.

Most landlords wouldn't object to a moderately sized tank but do check before you start spending money. Now you have to decide whether you want marine, tropical or coldwater fish. We will focus on tropical and cold water types. The tank is going to be a fairly large feature of any room so make sure it can be placed out of direct sunlight and it can be accessed easily for feeding, cleaning and occasional changes of water. Place your tank before you fill it, moving it could cause leaks and water is heavy.

You can buy a starter aquarium kit from around £25. If you wish to buy everything separately you will need: an aquarium with matching hood and light unit, gravel, pebbles/rocks, real or artificial plants, aerator, filter, thermometer, nets, siphon, a scraper for removing algae, food, and for tropical fish, a heater. A handbook on fish keeping is advised for reference purposes. A small quarantine tank is also a good idea, to prevent any sick fish spreading disease. This could also double as a nursery tank. All gravel, plants etc should be rinsed thoroughly before use and install an under-gravel filter first,

then the gravel, pebbles etc then a couple of inches of water before the plants, then completely filling the tank. (It's a good idea to place a shallow bowl on top of the gravel when filling the tank to avoid churning up the gravel etc.) You then need to de-chlorinate your tank with a chemical additive as tap water contains chlorine which may harm your fish. If you are using real plants, add a food supplement. The tank then needs to be left to stand with the filter and aerator running and the heater, if fitted, for about seven days.

Goldfish are usually at room temperature (18-20C). Tropical fish require higher temperatures and this can vary according to species. So check with your supplier about compatibility, sociability of different species before you buy them. You will be given your fish tied in a plastic bag full of water. This should be taken straight home and floated on the surface of the tank for about twenty minutes before releasing the fish into the tank. (Don't forget about water displacement, make sure you have enough room in the tank for the bags without the tank overflowing).

Now you can sit back and enjoy your fish.

## FISHY TIPS

1. Always turn off power before putting hands in the water, shocks can kill.
2. Only feed enough food that the fish will eat in 5 minutes. Overfeeding only fouls the tank.
3. Check your fish daily, make sure they look bright and healthy.
4. Clean filters regularly, dirty filters result in dirty water and diseased fish.

## USEFUL NUMBERS

### COUNCIL SERVICES

General enquiries/complaints  
**020 8547 5757**

Council Tax and Housing Benefits  
**020 8547 5198**

Housing Repairs  
**020 8547 4656**

Rubbish and Recycling  
**020 8547 5560**

NHS Direct  
**0845 4647**

Norbiton Safer Neighbourhood Team  
**020 8721 2000**

**ALWAYS GET A REFERENCE NUMBER AND TRY TO GET A NAME WHEN CALLING.**

If you require a copy of this newsletter in large print or another language please contact 07813090751

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