

Councillor: Judith Blakeman

Ward: Notting Dale

Report dates: 3 March – 2 June 2015

Council Scrutiny Committee/s: Housing & Property; Administration; Family & Children's Services; Licensing

Summary of Key Committee Issues

The election result has shot one of our local Tories' foxes. They were proposing to sell off high value council dwellings when they became empty to pay for repairs and maintenance under the housing Revenue Account. Now they will presumably have to sell them to give money to housing associations once the legislation is in place to for the Right to Buy for housing association tenants. And this will mean a massive reduction in the amount of social rented housing in this borough. Our local associations have some wonderful properties, that will be sold on to the market once the tenants who have exercised their right to buy are able to sell onwards – for £millions.

Ward Level Issues

As 12 households at Grenfell Tower continue to refuse to allow the new boilers and heating systems to be installed, it looks as though the TMO will have to take them to court. Other residents of the Tower are furious because it will mean a delay in completing the project, which is supposed to be finished by October to enable the change over from the old to the new heating system.

Still dealing with the fallout from the loss of power, heating and water at Treadgold House for three days earlier in the year.

Am awaiting detailed information on the consultation survey at the "finger blocks" at Lancaster West estate, which may have major implications for the residents.

Casework (indicate both ongoing and new cases where appropriate)

87 cases ongoing and new between February and end of May. Mainly overcrowding, evictions, homelessness, transfers, disrepair, anti-social behaviour, still 2 special needs transport issues, bullying at the new Academy; planning enquiries, broken lifts,

Meetings Attended

3 Council meetings; Portobello Village consultation; Ladbroke Grove bridge improvement consultation; Labour Group Awayday; Credit Union AGM; 3 Maxilla Parents' Group meetings; Social Council Advice Forum; 2 Housing & Property meetings ; 3 Licensing hearings ; 2 West London Citizens' Housing Enquiry briefings; BME Health Forum, Steering Group and Board of Trustees; 2 TMO training sessions; 3 Westway Stables Steering Group meetings; Whitchurch House RA; Safer Neighbourhood Board AGM; Stable Way RA ; Social Council housing meeting; 2 TMO Board meetings; ASB briefing; Notting Dale Safer Neighbourhood Panel; Grenfell Tower visit; TMO voids tour; Lancaster West Area Manager; Henry Dickens Court Roadshow; Walmer Road residents; Large Developments Working Group; Cabinet & Corporate Services with Borough Police Commander; Kensington Society AGM; Appeals Panel; Clarendon Cross RA; TMO Operations Committee; Buy to Leave Working Group; Kensington Aldridge Academy Principal; K+C Foundation; Community Art Project; Admin Committee; Licensing Committee; Talbot House RA; Peabody Development Site Visit; Bramley Gardens sheltered accommodation event; Serious Youth Violence workshop.

Other items to report

I have been appointed to be one of the Vice Chairmen of the Licensing Committee.