

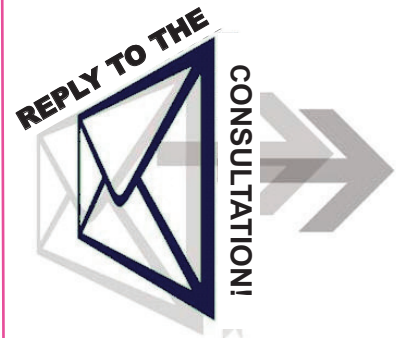
CrownResidentsAgainstSellOff

Campaign gets off to a flying start

Hands off our homes



Make sure you have your say!



It is vital that we all participate in the Crown's consultation.

Tell them that you:

- are against the sale of your home to a new landlord
- fear your rent will rise
- you are against the abandonment of key-worker and affordable housing provision
- are worried about security of tenure
- are concerned about higher service charges for leaseholders
- fear the break-up of our communities

If you would like help replying to the consultation, bring your paperwork to a residents' meeting for assistance..

Over 100 people attended last Saturday's demonstration at Victoria Park against the Crown Estate's plans to sell off the four estates at Lee Green, Cumberland Market, Millbank and Victoria Park to a new landlord. Footage and a report of the demonstration appeared on BBC London News bulletins and ITV's London Tonight. The Hackney Gazette was also there and will run a story this week.

Residents waved placards and chanted 'our homes are not for sale' outside the office where Crown representatives were holding the second of the planned 'drop-in' meetings. Windows of nearby homes were plastered with campaign posters declaring 'our community is not for sale' and 'hands off our homes'. Local councillors including Abjul Miah, Katie Hanson, Geoff Taylor and Dan Kemp spoke in support of the campaign and pledged to help, while local MPs Meg Hillier and George Galloway sent messages of support. Victoria Park residents were also pleased to see tenants from the other estates lending their support. Protestors, a mixed bunch of older residents, keyworkers, leaseholders and families, listened as residents took to the microphone to express their

shock and dismay at the Crown's proposals. The feeling of the demo was strongly in favour of remaining with the Crown and fighting the sell-off proposals.

London tonight interviewed Joan Bird, who has lived on the estate since the 1960s, as well as her friend Iris, and local teacher Jamie Duff. Resident's Committee Chair Joannie Andrews appeared on both BBC and ITV bulletins, and the BBC also interviewed Cissy Paterson. The BBC also got Paul Clark, the Crown's Director of Investment and Asset Management who is driving the sell-off plan, out of bed on Saturday morning to defend the proposals. "It's important to remember that at the moment we only have a proposal, and yes the proposal does say we're considering a sale, but that's with a number of conditions." Yet at last week's House of Commons meeting with MPs Meg Hillier and Frank Dobson, Clark refused to give any information on prospective buyers, or any guarantees of continued keyworker provision or an affordability policy remaining in place.

That's why we need to keep up the pressure and keep our campaign in the public eye. Join the campaign.

www.ourhomesarenotforsale.co.uk

email: handsoffourhomes@yahoo.co.uk



I've lived here since 1968. I brought up my family on the estate but now I live on my own. I'm registered blind but I feel safe around here because I know so many people, and I have friends on the estate who come and help me get to the shops and the doctor and so on. I have to say I've always found the Crown very good landlords, and I can't understand why they would want to sell us off. The reason they give just isn't good enough as far as I can see. I find it very difficult to understand why the Crown would do this to us.

Joan Bird, 94, former Hackney Social Service worker

News from the Estates

Cumberland Market Residents have organised **A DEMONSTRATION** at Saturday's 'drop -in' at 11am on 13 February. **JOIN US**

Update on Paul Clark and the Church Commission sell off



Paul Clark, Director of Investment, Asset Management. Can we trust this man?

Residents' representatives have made contact with tenants of the Church Commission properties that were sold off by Clark in his previous post there in 2006. Their stories convince us that we need to stop any

sale going ahead. The Church Commission sold their homes to Grainger plc which had formed a partnership with Genesis Housing Association to acquire the properties. Despite initial assurances that existing tenants rights would continue under the new landlord, after the sale rents rose and the keyworker scheme was closed. Some of the properties have since been sold off. Local MP Kate Hoey, who campaigned against the sale, is still dealing with residents' problems in its aftermath.

Clark has said of his role at the Crown Estate: 'We are a commercial business. It is very important to me that we are seen as an organisation that is open for business with anyone who has a proposition for us.'

A royal disgrace

We think the Queen and Prince Charles might be interested to know that land owned by the Crown might be sold off for profit in this way. The Prince of Wales has often spoken about the need to build sustainable, socially-mixed communities, and about the role that affordable housing plays in this. And we hope they'd be appalled to find out that elderly tenants of their land are being sub-

jected to such unnecessary stress and uncertainty.

Write to them and ask them to intervene to stop the sale:

**Her Majesty The Queen
Buckingham Palace
London SW1A 1AA**

**HRH The Prince of Wales
Clarence House
London SW1A 1BA**

Meeting with Paul Clark this Friday 12th of February

Chairs and representatives of the residents associations will meet with Paul Clark this Friday. They will report back on this at residents association meetings and in the next newsletter. You can contact them in advance of the meeting with your concerns:

Joannie Andrews (Victoria Park)

Joannie.Andrews@btinternet.com
Steve Smith/Shireen Bilimoria (Cumberland Market)Crownstatera@hotmail.co.uk

Ben Bowling (Millbank) benjamin-bowling@googlemail.com
Janine/ Roger Rankine (Lee Green) janandrog@btinternet.com

Cumberland Market Housing Office

Camberley House
Redhill Street, NW1 4AU

An open meeting for tenants will be held at 7pm on 22nd February at Christchurch School. Frank Dobson MP will be in attendance as well as Cllrs Heather Johnson, Theo Blackwell and Nasim Ali and the Camden Federation of Private Tenants.

Victoria Park

An emergency Residents Association meeting will be held at **7pm on Thursday 18 February at St James the Less Church, St James' Avenue, E2 9JD.** We have invited local politicians and contacts from the Church Commission campaign, as well as a legal adviser.

Millbank

Mark Field, MP for the Cities of London and Westminster has asked for a meeting with Paul Clark and we will report back on that as soon as we can.

We will hold a demonstration outside the Crown Estate Office, Bessborough Place, SW1V 3SE at 11am on Saturday 20 February.

We will be following this up with an **Emergency General Meeting - scheduled for 23 February, 6.30pm (TBC) in St Saviour's Church Hall, St. Georges Square London, SW1V 3QW.** We are aiming to have local councillors and others present. This is to be confirmed, so please call Ben Bowling, Millbank CRA, if you would like to attend (mobile 07944 803 042.)

Lee Green

We are distributing posters and knocking on doors to ask everyone to write to our MP Bridgit Prentice, local Councillors and the Crown. We intend to draft some generic letters for people to use if they need help. We will announce a meeting for residents once a venue is confirmed.

A protest rally on Saturday 27th February at 11am at the 'drop in' meeting at Colfeian Sports Club. Please join us.