

For immediate release

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Resident and Tower Hamlets Homes sows the seeds for better neighbourhood

Sheila Beeton, a resident of Royal Mint Estate for seven years and one of Tower Hamlets Homes' Board members, has shown that getting her hands dirty on her estate can be rewarding.

Sheila, a keen horticulturalist, planted and now maintains a mixture of 100 plants in planters built by Tower Hamlets Homes as part of an £80,000 upgrade carried out on the estate late last year.

Tower Hamlets Homes Chief Executive Gavin Cansfield said the upgrade involved major landscaping, lighting, fencing, painting and security improvement works and was delivered under Tower Hamlets Homes' £6 million Estate Improvement Programme.

The programme has so far carried out high impact works to improve the look and feel to a number of previously neglected neighbourhoods, including major projects on Collingwood, Roche, Berner and Newling estates.

Mr Cansfield said: "Tower Hamlets Homes is all about improving the service for residents - getting the basics right and going that 'extra mile'.

"The work on Royal Mint Estate and in other neighbourhoods shows that we are certainly doing this and committed to delivering decent living standards for our residents."

Mr Cansfield said the Estate Improvement Programme is just the beginning of a series of initiatives to rejuvenate our services to residents and our neighbourhoods.

Mr Cansfield said: "In the next 12 months Tower Hamlets Homes will be introducing Estate Action Plans to improve how we work with residents, starting on Chicksand, Will Crooks, Cranbrook and Pitsea, and Decent Homes Pilots, which will involve working with residents to significantly improve neighbourhoods.

"I encourage residents to get involved in our projects and together we can make our neighbourhoods places we can be proud of."

Sheila, who is also the chair of the Tenants and Residency Association at Royal Mint Estate, worked closely with Tower Hamlets Homes throughout the works and as our Board member promotes to residents in all our neighbourhoods to do the same.

Sheila said: "This was a real opportunity to get residents involved with identifying and implementing improvements to our estate.

"I've been a member of the Royal Horticulture Society for many years and felt I could particularly influence the planting strategy to improve the overall appearance of the estate. I chose and planted a mixture of plants and shrubs to suit all seasons, which I hope will particularly bring pleasure to some of the elderly and disabled residents whose windows look out over the square.

"I encourage residents to get involved in upcoming projects. Tell Tower Hamlets Homes what you want to see changed in your neighbourhood and be involved every step of the way."

Sheila and her neighbours said they are thrilled about the recent works and are looking forward to working with Tower Hamlets Homes in the future.

ENDS

Notes to editor:

1. Tower Hamlets Homes (THH) is an arm's-length management organisation (ALMO) managing approx. 22,000 tenants and leasehold properties on behalf of the Tower Hamlets council. Tower Hamlets Homes, which went live on 7 July 2008, is a not-for-profit and 100% owned by the TH Council. www.towerhamletshomes.org.uk

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