

For immediate release

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Residents take the lead on Bracken House improvements

New windows and doors, extensive repairs and the painting of communal areas are among the major improvements that started this week at Bracken House in Poplar.

Residents Rohima Khatun and Fabio Gutierrez welcome the £600,000 council funded work being carried out by Tower Hamlets Homes.

Rohima said: "I have lived here for 15 years and during that time my family and I have always had problems with the draughty windows and doors. The new windows will keep the warmth in – so I am definitely looking forward to that."

Residents chose new timber windows to keep in with the 74 year old building's 1930's appearance and have chosen the colour scheme for the windows, doors and communal areas.

The works also include external repair work and extract fans in tenants' bathrooms and kitchens.

Resident Fabio Gutierrez who has lived in Bracken House for seven years said of the improvements: "To be honest – it's wonderful. For us to have new windows and doors, it's a miracle."

"I really love it here. My neighbours are fantastic. It's a real community and a big family."

Lead Member for Housing and Development at Tower Hamlets Council, Cllr Marc Francis, said: "The housing investment programme is delivering real, tangible improvements to many homes in the borough.

"It's great residents were involved in these decisions and it's clear already that they'll make a real difference to the lives of the people who live in Bracken House."

Chief Executive Gavin Cansfield said: "This project has been led by residents telling us what they want to see as part of the improvements to their block.

"This is the way it should be; it's a case of real improvements being delivered and a chance for residents to create an environment they can really feel proud of."

Notes to editor:

1. Tower Hamlets Homes (THH) is an arms-length management organisation (ALMO) managing approximately 22,000 tenants and leasehold properties on behalf of Tower Hamlets Council. www.towerhamletshomes.org.uk

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