

WORLD'S END NEWS

The newsletter of the World's End Residents' Association

Winter 2010/11

TV TO COST YOU £55 A YEAR

The TMO plans to install a communal TV system on World's End in early 2011.

Residents will be forced to pay £55 a year for the installation and upkeep of the system whether they use it or not. Those residents who have installed their own aerials or dishes will be forced to remove them. You cannot "opt out".

The planned communal TV system will provide access to Freeview, Freesat, Sky and a very small number of foreign language channels for £55/year. Residents will still have to purchase their own set-top boxes and subscriptions.

WERA has repeatedly asked the TMO to consult the estate's residents properly. The TMO have refused to do so. Replies to requests for consultation have resulted in "boiler-plate" responses dismissing all of WERA's concerns. The TMO appears to intend to proceed without the proper consent or agreement of residents.

This is happening across the whole Borough and many residents are less than impressed.

Are you happy to pay £55 a year for this system? Are you happy to remove your aerial or dish? Please tell us what you think. WERA's contact details are listed below.

ABOUT THE WORLD'S END RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

The Committee of the World's End Residents' Association (WERA) is made up of residents who give up some of their free time to try to make the estate a better place in which we can all live. WERA is completely independent of the Council and TMO and all residents of the Estate can join the Residents Association and contribute – why not join today?

The Committee is here to help. If you are experiencing any housing problems (for example with repairs, cleaning or anti-social behaviour) feel free to contact WERA. We may be able to help.

You can contact WERA in writing at the **WERA Clubroom, 16 Blantyre Street**, (located between the Blantyre Centre and the Concierge Office); by telephone on **(020) 7795 3095** (leave a message); or by email at **wera@worlds-end.org.uk**. You can find further information on the World's End website at: **www.worlds-end.org.uk**.

RENTS TO INCREASE BY AN AVERAGE OF 2.7%

The Council is currently planning the rent increase for 2011.

The Council had originally planned for an overall increase of 6% across the Borough but the Council recently announced revised proposals for an increase of 9%. A formal enquiry from WERA has revealed that the average proposed rent increase on World's End will be 2.7%. The increase for two-bedroom properties (the most common on the estate) will be of 4.4%.

WERA is glad to see that the average rent increase is below the government's preferred measure of inflation and that the increases appear to reflect the fact that rents on World's End are already higher than average. But WERA remains concerned that many tenants will still find it difficult to make ends meet in the current economic climate. WERA also believes that that the overall borough-wide increase is excessive.

The Council has attempted to justify the proposed rent increase by citing the predicted shortfall in the Housing Revenue Account. WERA believes that the Council could address this shortfall by other means; for example, by drawing down on some of the Council's reserves of over £160 million. This money has apparently been "set aside for a rainy day". If this is not a "rainy day" what is?

THE 2011 CENSUS IS COMING!

On 27th March 2011 all households in the UK will be asked to take part in a census.

The census enables government, health authorities and many other organisations to identify the need for housing, education, health and transport services for years to come. The census also guides the allocation of funding for local authorities and plays a major part in identifying the needs of local communities. As well as schools, housing and hospitals, this has an impact on everyday life such as ensuring that the streets are cleaned and in good repair; that parks are kept in good condition; and that the refuse is collected.

The census should be completed by all residents. In the last census many non-UK residents mistakenly believed that it did not apply to them. By not filling in the form their communities were under-represented.

The census questionnaire can be easily recognised by the purple "2011 Census" logo. There will be a wide range of help available for those who might need it including foreign language guidance booklets large print format forms, and census staff on hand, as well as online help and telephone call centres.

More information about the census can be found online at: www.census.gov.uk.

FIRE SAFETY - OR THE LACK OF IT

WERA has repeatedly raised concerns about fire safety on the estate. Such concerns were heightened as a result of the fire in a tower block in Southwark in July 2009 in which 6 people died. **But 18 months after this terrible fire the TMO has failed to act on WERA's concerns.**

WERA is particularly concerned by the fire doors in the estate's tower blocks. Many of these are clearly deficient – they do not close properly, they have had unsuitable repairs carried out to them (e.g. replaced glazing is not fire rated) and many are simply blown open by the wind. WERA is concerned that, as a result of these faults, the tower stairwells will not provide the secure fire exit route they are meant to in the case of a serious fire. Some residents have also raised concerns with regards to the suitability of the door entry system at ground floor level.

WERA believes that these failures may render whatever steps individual residents take to ensure their safety within their homes meaningless – a smoke or fire alarm may not save you if you cannot then leave the building safely through the designated fire exit route.

WERA continues to liaise with the TMO to try and have these concerns addressed as a matter of urgency.

WHISTLER TOWER IMPROVEMENTS

Works to improve the lighting around the entrance to Whistler Tower will be carried out in January at the request of WERA. It is hoped that the works will encourage greater use of the entrance, which is considered "unwelcoming" by many residents.

Further works to relocate the main entrance door are being considered. Before a decision on whether or not to carry out these works is taken WERA would like to hear your views.

Do you live in Whistler Tower, Whistler Walk or Upper Whistler Walk?

Do you use the entrance to Whistler Tower? If not, why not? Would improved lighting help? Would relocating the main entrance door help?

Please let us know.

If you have any views on any possible improvements to the Whistler Tower entrance please contact WERA. Contact details are on the front page.

"WORLD'S END NEWS" is the newsletter of the World's End Residents Association (WERA).

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