

London Citizens: Housing and Homelessness wins

London Citizens has spent 4 years (2018-2021) working with Trust for London and the advisory board on an ambitious project to tackle London's housing crisis. As this funding comes to an end, London Citizens membership want to thank the Trust and the members of the housing advisory board for their support and insight over the last few years. Our particular thanks to the Chair of the housing advisory board Stephen Burns.

The below captures just a few of the great successes we have achieved together and outlines some of the ways that we will continue to fight for affordable homes and better housing across the capital.

The Mayoral Assembly at St George's Cathedral



WINS

Affordable and Community-Led Housing

Olympic Park and the Old Oak Common

- Clear commitment from Sadiq Khan to develop the Olympic Park and Old Oak Common with 50% affordable housing at our London Citizens accountability assembly in 2018 and at our Mayoral assembly in 2021
- Our campaigning has led to victories including **62 more affordable homes** at Chobham Manor and an increase of **151 more affordable homes at East Wick and Sweetwater**. These are both development sites on the Olympic Park.

Landlord Licensing

- Ealing council agreed to extend the licensing scheme
- Lewisham council agreed to develop selective licensing in as many wards as possible
- Haringey council committed to a selective licensing scheme
- Merton council agreed to pilot selective licensing scheme in 1 ward
- Lambeth council agreed to develop a selective landlord licensing scheme
- Southwark council agreed to extend landlord licensing
- Redbridge council agreed to support a selective licensing in several wards
- Hackney council agreed to a selective licensing scheme
- Barnet council agreed to: recruit police officers to accompany environmental health officers on visits to rogue landlords; set up a hotline for tenants to report landlords; bring in a tenants' charter so tenants are aware of their rights.

WINS

Affordable and Community-Led Housing

Broadwater Farm

- The residents made successful demands for immediate improvements and some residents' situation was so bad they asked to be moved. This has been organised by Homes for Haringey after they were confronted at a Citizens meeting.
- Some residents have been moved up a housing band as a result of the action taken and some families have been moved to alternative accommodation.
- The team put together a list of local demands pertaining to the existing flats as well as listening to the community about what the new sites will look like.

Developing leaders

- At least 11,535 people have been involved in political assemblies where housing has been on the agenda. This includes an accountability assembly with Mayor Khan, a London Citizens Mayoral assembly, and local election assemblies in 2018.
- At least 647 people have attended housing workshops or housing summits to improve their understanding of the housing crisis and how to take steps to tackle it.
- Hundreds of community leaders have been trained in community organising, giving them the tools they need to run local housing campaigns.
- At least 505 people have participated in public action related to housing (excluding assemblies).

Affordable and Community-Led Housing

Other success

- Through the relationships we have developed with the GLA we have been able to campaign for 2 plots of public land and £3.2 million of grant to build community land trust homes in Streatham and Shadwell.
- We continue to work with Ealing council on a site for affordable homes. The council has committed to 100% affordable and has just signed a Memorandum of Understanding with us to this effect. There will be 118 homes half of which will be Community Land Trust Homes
- We have also used the Good Development Standard agreed by Sadiq Khan at the Copper Box in 2016 and confirmed again at the London Citizens Mayoral accountability assembly 2021 to increase affordable housing. In particular:
- In Haringey the Old Welbourne Centre was due to have only 25% affordable housing, but this was increased after Haringey Citizens met with the developer and successfully negotiated for 131 genuinely affordable homes.
- Hackney council have agreed to build 500 Living Rent homes.
- Ealing council committed to build 50% affordable homes on new developments where viable and to be more transparent about the extent of affordable housing in the borough.
- Waltham Forest's council leader agreed to 1,200 Social rent and 25% 3 bedroom homes of the 5,000 affordable homes that the Council will build over the next 5 years. They also agreed to 50% affordable homes on public land, including on The Score, Lea Bridge Road and Whipps Cross developments, and 35% on private land.

Part of the commitment in our original bid for this work was "to bring together campaign partners, allies and experts in tackling London's housing crisis, influencing policy at a local, regional and national level."

We chose to approach relationships at a national level through a series of housing summits. We developed a national housing action team of about 40 community leaders from across 10 cities.

The purpose of the summit was to share some of our work and develop new relationships to help influence national government on issues relating to housing. The most fruitful relationships included:

- Jack Airey at the No 10 Housing Policy Unit
- Nicholas Boys Smith at Create Streets
- Danny Kruger MP
- Lord Gavin Barwell
- Baroness Philippa Stroud, CEO of the Legatum Institute
- Will Tanner, Director of Onward

The culmination of the summit was a series of proposals made to Rt Hon Robert Jenrick.

Sadiq Khan responding to London Citizens manifesto and community leader John Paul Ennis

