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Mayor John Biggs
Mulberry Place
5 Clove Crescent
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20 December 2016

Dear Mayor Biggs,

Shuffle Festival

EastendHomes has supported the Shuffle Festival since it was first held in the former St Clements Hospital in 2013. We have helped in a number of ways, as we value both their innovative cultural offer and also their commitment to place, and the local neighbourhood.

We have used the festival as an opportunity to make new advantageous links and relationships, and the Festival has been supported throughout by our local residents association. The festival has offered readily accessible access to their diverse event programme, brought positive publicity for the neighbourhood and has also created high quality opportunities for recreation and learning.

The festival has been used to provide new experiences for a number of our residents. It has been a great pleasure for me to see some of our young adults be provided opportunities which would not ordinarily be open to them. It is also wonderful to see our local residents be so enthused about the festival, helping in many ways. Our provision of our Southern Grove Community Centre to them for their festival offices has enabled us to learn from not only their event management skills but also their broaden skillsets and overall, the benefits have been considerable.

I have liaised with the Festival since 2013, and I can say that their processes and staffing are commensurate with the scale of the festival. Hence my surprise to be made (informally) aware of some difficulties with this year's event. Such matters have not been a factor in previous festivals, and indeed I would not have continued local facilitation had I not been confident in their running of the festival, being immediately upon our estate 'doorstep' and also based in our community building. Over the years, I have found them to be receptive and responsive to feedback. Any minor operational issues arising from their use of community building have always been listened to and I am very happy with their response to concerns and suggestions raised.

Shuffle's commitment to resident engagement and broadening access to arts and culture is exemplary, and the festival will I hope be an annual highlight for the neighbourhood for years to come.

Do please let me know should you have further questions concerning our involvement with Shuffle Festival.

Yours sincerely,



Paulette Noble
Neighbourhood Housing Manager