

LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

COUNCIL MEETING

TUESDAY 29TH NOVEMBER 2011

**QUESTIONS SUBMITTED BY
MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

**REPORT OF THE SERVICE HEAD,
DEMOCRATIC SERVICES**

SUMMARY

1. Set out overleaf are the questions submitted by members of the public, for response by the Mayor or appropriate Cabinet Member or committee chair at the Council Meeting on 29th November 2011.
2. The Council's Constitution sets a maximum time limit of twenty minutes for this item.
3. A questioner who has put a question in person may also put one brief supplementary question without notice to the Member who has replied to his or her original question. A supplementary question must arise directly out of the original question or the reply. Supplementary questions and Members' responses to written and supplementary questions are each limited to two minutes.
4. Any question which cannot be dealt with during the twenty minutes allocated for public questions, either because of lack of time or because of non-attendance of the questioner or the Member to whom it was put, will be dealt with by way of a written answer.
5. Unless the Chair of Council decides otherwise, no discussion will take place on any question, but any Member of the Council may move, without discussion, that the matter raised by a question be referred for consideration by the Cabinet or the appropriate Committee or Sub-Committee.

QUESTIONS

Three questions have been submitted as set out below:-

6.1 Question from Mr Ares Zaines:

“Residents are deeply concerned that the estate has no elected representative on the Main Board of East End Homes.

East End Homes has terminated the rights of residents to be represented on its Main Board by an elected local board member, who has proper delegated authority from fellow residents, and who can relay to the Main Board the concerns of the community living on St George’s Estate. This is at a time when we are grappling with a mass of problems in relation to a major construction programme that could meaningfully be resolved only at Main Board level.

East End Homes has effectively eradicated accountable resident involvement in the organization's strategic thinking and operational decisions on St George’s and other of its estates.

Do you agree that it is now time for a full review of East End Homes’ governance arrangements and the reinstatement of resident rights to Main Board representation that is accountable to residents?”

6.2 Question from Ms Claire Drake:

“Tenants and residents are delighted that the refurbishment works to bring Balfron Tower up to Decent Homes standards will start next year.

Poplar HARCA, our landlord, is verbally now refusing and not at all forthcoming with information on whether any tenants will be able to return to their homes when the works are completed. Balfron Tower was built in the late 1960s and originally all 146 homes were for rent to Council tenants. We are concerned that Poplar HARCA is planning to sell all the homes in this block on the open market rather than let them to Social housing tenants.

Will the Council help secure the right of return for tenants to their homes in Balfron Tower on completion of the Decent Homes works?”

6.3 Question from Ms Lorraine Cavanagh OBE:

“Can the Council tell me why they are supporting the culling of the monk parakeets on the Isle of Dogs when their existence is part of the Millwall Park Management Plan 2008 – 2018?”