



ISLINGTON LEASEHOLDERS ASSOCIATION

**ILA general meeting
Wednesday
8th October, 7pm
Islington Town Hall,
Upper Street**

PHOTO: The ILA's recent open meeting, when leaseholders came to meet their elected representatives, express support for the new organisation, and voice their opinions on a range of issues. With around 250 attending—like all Islington Council leaseholders, automatic members of the ILA—this was one of the largest assemblies in the borough for many years.



Although these meetings are being organised independently of the ILA, they are a valuable service to leaseholders during the period of setting up the ILA, and the Board is happy to recommend support for them.

Wednesday's open leaseholders meetings

As former chairman of Islington Leaseholders Forum (ILF) I would like to express my gratitude to all the leaseholders who regularly attended over the last four years our monthly meetings and public demonstrations, for their continued presence which highlighted leaseholders' problems.

Although a mere handful of Islington's 11,000 leaseholders actually attended these meetings, they were paradoxically a resounding success with an average attendance in excess of fifty leaseholders – the best attended gatherings in the borough.

Notably, during its short life span the ILF played host to, amongst many others: Jeremy Corbyn MP, Emily Thornberry MP, Eamon McGoldrick (CEO, Homes for Islington), Andy Jennings (Islington Council), Cllr Cathrine West (Leader of Islington's Labour party), Cllr Steve Hitchens (Lib-Dem Leader), plus a leading housing barrister, a surveyor, and a plethora of assorted guests too long to enumerate. Attendees at these meetings were always given the opportunity of "grilling" the guests during the open question and answer sessions, and generally obtained full and comprehensive answers to problematic areas of government and council procedure and law, which would otherwise remain at best nebulous.

Islington Leaseholders Association (ILA) has now replaced the ILF, with greater independence from Homes For Islington; but while its elected Board members are busy formalising the organisation, setting out priorities, and raising funds, I will continue holding the regular monthly meetings in the Town Hall in order to maintain contact and continuity with the "grass roots" element of the ILA's proposed future membership.

Essentially, all future monthly meetings are intended to take the form of open group surgeries, to allow leaseholders the opportunity to express their opinions and concerns on any subject associated with leaseholding and thereby provide their elected representatives, who will service the meetings, with a clear indication of leaseholders' expectations and priorities.

Since no formal agenda is provided, the usual format is that of a general discussion session, which is intended to cover a broad spectrum of housing issues. However, we recognise from past experience that most leaseholders will be inclined to concentrate on the question of the legality of major works billing by LBI/HfI.

Please note that these meetings are open to all Islington Council leaseholders, all of whom are more than welcome, and that they take place on the second Wednesday of each month, in the main Council chamber of Islington Town Hall, Upper Street, starting at 7pm sharp. Buses 43, 271, 4 stop outside the Town Hall.

Brian Potter



ISLINGTON LEASEHOLDERS ASSOCIATION

A message from the ILA

Dear Leaseholders,

Our job as the elected Board of the ILA is to make sure that you as leaseholders, get a fair deal.

Leaseholders want a strong, independent organisation to represent their interests; to help fight their battles over poor workmanship, big bills and ever rising annual service charges; and to insist on a part in the negotiation of major contracts. This is the aim of all Board members of the ILA and we are working hard to build an organisation that will fight for you.

The news that residents in Attneave st will be faced with bills for £24,000 for major works is a timely reminder that a strong and independent voice for leaseholders is long overdue.

That means we must all join together to support each other. The Board of the ILA was elected to serve your interests and that is our purpose. **Now we need you!** We held our first public meeting this April and you packed the Town Hall. **We hope you will all come and do the same on 8th October.**

Leaseholder Fair

Hfi and Partners are holding a second Leaseholder Information Fair, to take place at the Rocket Complex at London Metropolitan University (Holloway Road) on 16 October 2008. Leaseholders will be sent individual invitations. Stalls include Home Ownership Services, Partners, the framework contractors, Area Programme Teams, Resident Involvement and Community Engagement, Contractors, Estate Services, Kier Islington, CHAS advice service and Recycling. As last year, sponsorship is anticipated from Kier Islington.

JOIN NOW!
Help us to help you:
only £20 a year
See inside for details