

Candidates Statement

Please see below Omar Villalba's statement for the Executive Committee Vice Chair vacancy.

As Chair of the Maplewood and Birchwood Tenancy Association and a long-standing resident of over 30 years, I have a deep understanding of the challenges and opportunities facing our community. My experience in tenant advocacy, combined with my background in project management, enables me to effectively represent local residents and drive meaningful change.

The regeneration is now at a critical mid-point, with a growing number of proposed homes and rising rents and service charges. A proactive, strategic, and coordinated approach is essential to ensure that the needs of all residents—particularly those in social housing and temporary accommodation—are considered and addressed. I am committed to ensuring that all voices are heard and that regeneration efforts reflect the priorities of the entire community.

With my experience, ability to engage with diverse stakeholders, and strong understanding of housing and regeneration issues, I believe I can make a valuable contribution to supporting WDCO in achieving its community goals. I would welcome the opportunity to bring my skills and dedication to this role.

Please see below Geoff Baron statement for the Design Committee vacancy.

I'm relatively new to the area and live in KSS4 which is next door to the proposed new phase of the development. Hence, I have an interest in making sure that the proposals are of high quality, meet the communities needs and also that all new construction will blend in and compliment what is already in place. This is important because this phase will effectively complete the chain of buildings along the whole length of the East Reservoir and they need to look unified.

I admit however, that I am new to the board, so I might need to rely on others to help me get to grips with some of the procedures. Having said that, I'm a fairly practical person partly through necessity (DIY etc.) and would be able to interact with partners etc on design plans as I have experience of working with technical drawings, blueprints and electrical wiring diagrams.

I'm relaxed about representing all shades of opinion regarding the development, as so far in my conversations with other board members, all want things to work for the best and are keen to preserve the community spirit of the area. That can't be a bad thing!