

Briefing note to the Friends of the Happy Man Tree regarding our relationship with residents who live on the Woodberry Down estate

Background: A very small number of negative comments have been made by people who live on the Woodberry Down estate. Here is a summary of the issue:

- They mainly say that the people protesting about the tree will be creating a delay in the building development by preventing the tree being cut down.
- They fear that the date when they can move to their new home will be significantly delayed.
- We understand this fear. We do not want to cause any anxiety or upset over this issue or indeed any others for the estate.
- Equally it is fair to say that most of the comments we receive are very supportive.

We thought it might be helpful for everyone to understand who represents the interests of the residents and what our relationship is with them

- 1) The residents are represented by the organisation The Woodberry Down Community Organisation (WDCO). WDCO is a democratically elected body for all residents and retailers in all of the Woodberry Down Estate. They are recognised by the development partners Hackney Council, Genesis Housing Association and Berkeley Homes as the main negotiating body when discussing all aspects of the Woodberry Down regeneration.
- 2) The WDCO Board has not met to discuss the tree issue during the COVID crisis. However, a majority of the executive, between 5 and 6, has consistently supported the tree's retention. (Only 2 are known to take a contrary view) The Executive Committee majority are working with the "Friends Of the Happy Man Tree", and other activists, in the ongoing campaign.
- 3) We are in regular contact with WDCO. If WDCO consider that we are not acting in the interests of the local residents then they will inform us of that fact. If they do we have promised to discuss this carefully and respectfully and see how we can change our activities as a result.
- 4) To date WDCO have not raised any major concerns about our activities. We will continue to listen carefully to any and all concerns raised by residents.