

# Statement from the Trustees of the Glamis Residents' Association

The trustees are aware that concerns have recently been raised regarding the Association's finances and governance.

The trustees take these concerns extremely seriously. As soon as the issue came to light, appropriate action was taken at the time. This included ensuring that all the funds concerned were repaid to the Association. We have also obtained professional advice and have reported the matter to the Charities Commission as well as other relevant authorities. We have also commissioned an independent review of the Association's financial records covering the last three financial years.

The trustees recognise that this matter has caused concern amongst residents. Because of its seriousness, the trustees considered it essential to establish the facts, seek professional advice and begin the appropriate independent processes before making a public statement. We believe it is important that residents receive accurate information based on evidence rather than speculation.

The purpose of the independent review is to provide residents with confidence that the Association's finances have been examined objectively and that any recommendations for improving financial controls can be implemented.

The review is expected to be completed in time for the Association's meeting in September, where the trustees will present the findings and answer appropriate questions from residents.

The trustees remain committed to openness, transparency and acting in the best interests of the charity and the wider community. In the meantime, the Association will continue to operate and continue to provide services and activities for residents while the review is being completed.

The trustees recognise that confidence has been affected and are committed to implementing any recommendations arising from the independent review to strengthen the Association's governance and financial procedures.

We respectfully ask residents to allow the independent review to be completed before reaching conclusions. We hope the findings will provide clarity, help restore confidence and allow everyone to focus once again on supporting the community with the work of the Association.

## **Future Use of the Former Nursery**

The trustees are also aware of the interest shown by residents in the future use of the former nursery premises.

The GRA welcomes constructive proposals that would benefit residents and are consistent with the Association's charitable purposes. To date, one detailed proposal has been submitted and is being considered by the trustees and freeholder.

Before any proposal can proceed, the trustees must be satisfied that it is properly planned, financially sustainable, appropriately insured and supported by the necessary safeguarding and risk management arrangements where applicable.

There is also an important legal issue that requires clarification. The GRA does not currently hold a formal lease of the premises, and the trustees are working with Eastend Homes, as freeholder, to establish what authority the GRA has to enter into any agreement relating to the former nursery space. No long-term arrangements can be made until that position has been clarified.

The trustees would encourage any residents or community groups with ideas for the future use of the former nursery to submit their proposals in writing. To ensure all proposals are considered fairly and consistently, they should include:

- A description of the proposed use.
- How the proposal benefits residents and supports the GRA's charitable purposes.
- A business or operating plan.
- Details of funding and ongoing financial sustainability.
- Appropriate insurance arrangements.
- Safeguarding arrangements where relevant.
- Health and safety and risk management information.
- Details of who will be responsible for managing the project.
- Proposed days and times of use.
- Details of any alterations or improvements that would be required.

All proposals will be considered fairly, consistently and on their merits once the legal position has been clarified.

The trustees remain committed to working positively with residents, Eastend Homes and the wider community to ensure that the Association continues to provide lasting benefit for everyone living on the estate.