

EMERGENCY MOTION TO COUNCIL

Islington Park Street Community

Proposer: Cllr. Poole

Secunder: Cllr. Picknell

This Council notes:

- Islington Park Street Community is a housing co-operative whose residents have lived at this address continuously since 1976.
- The community was originally set up by Patchwork Housing Association with the purpose of providing supported living to low-income single adults in Islington.
- Residents are a mix of those who need support and those who can provide support. They live communally like an extended family of people aged between 19 and 79 years of different genders, sexual orientations, and ethnic backgrounds.
- One Housing Group first served a Notice to Quit on the community in 2009, but agreed to enter formal mediation with the residents after the intervention of Emily Thornberry MP. Mediation unfortunately broke down in 2010.
- Notices to Quit have now been issued again, which expire on 5 July 2015. After this date One Housing Group will be able to issue possession proceedings in court, and bring to an end this unique community.
- One Housing Group is seeking vacant possession and has admitted in media reports that it “might elect to sell” the building thereafter, despite having no plans to replace the homes in Islington.
- Ward councillors have been closely supporting the residents, and the Executive Member for Housing has written to One Housing Group’s chief executive urging him “to halt plans to evict the residents, to look at how you can protect their way of life whilst addressing any concerns you may have, and to think again about any plans you might have to sell the building.”

This Council resolves:

- To call on One Housing Group to immediately suspend their Notices to Quit.
- To ask the One Housing Group to engage in dialogue with the Council about their intentions with regards to 38-44 Islington Park Street.
- To encourage One Housing Group to work with residents to formalise the tenancy agreements, management arrangements, and allocations policy at 38-44 Islington Park Street, so that this unique community can continue their way of life.