

Central West Sounding Board: Way of Working

1. Background

Central West (CW) is a block of 69 apartments on Ruislip Road, Greenford. The block is owned and managed by the Shepherds Bush Housing Association (SBHA). The Sounding Board (SB), referred to as the 'Board,' will interact with stakeholders throughout developments for the block. Stakeholders include SBHA, the Guinness Partnership (TGP), and Central West residents. The Board is one of three main channels (e.g., Residents direct communications, NewmanFrancis, SBHA) through which resident engagement can take place and across all available digital communications.

2. Objective

The objective of the Sounding Board is to advocate for all residents, ensuring that their views and concerns are effectively communicated and addressed in discussions with SBHA/TGP. This involves providing feedback, co-designing approaches, and fostering transparency and accountability in decision-making processes related to remediation, buyback, and current living issues at Central West.

3. Terms of reference

Members of the Board are expected to attend Sounding Board meetings and to contribute to exchanging information by sharing information discussed during SB meetings with residents, channelling questions from their living with those residents, and engaging in discussions with NewmanFrancis (NFL) during Sounding Board meetings. Equally, the Board will support NFL in the coordination of interactions between residents, SBHA, and The Guinness Partnership.

4. Composition

The Sounding Board are a mixture of residents from different cultures, within various professional backgrounds, and of varying living tenures at Central West. Their collective experience and resources are valuable and enable the Board to advocate on behalf of their neighbours, including vulnerable households, and to be involved in all developments related to Central West.

5. Meetings

The meetings are virtual, and on 11/04/2024, the Board agreed to hold the meetings fortnightly due to the state of play with SBHA (additional meetings). On the matter of voting - if there are 6 voting members of the Board, the quorum is 3. If there are 7 voting members of the Board, a quorum is 4.

6. Advisory Panels

Advisory panels are a think tank approach, defined as task and finish groups. They will be setup and be composed by and of residents who are willing to participate in periodic meetings and discussions. They will contribute their perspectives and insights to the decision-making process and provide ongoing feedback and advice on Central West related matters.

7. Reporting

The SB will operate under the principles of engagement and focus on transparency. Meeting notes or email summaries from SB meetings will be made available in 7 working days to Board members for approval/amendments and subsequently published/distributed to stakeholders (including the agenda, participants list, and presentations, where applicable).

8. Timelines

The Sounding Board will be operational throughout developments involving Central West.