



Don't Gamble with Our Homes



NoTMO campaigning against a proposed tenant management organisation on Unwin and Friary

We support COUNCIL HOUSING and democratically accountable Tenants and Residents Associations

Stay safe, stay with Southwark

News

NoTMO campaigners elected to TRA!

Supporters of the NoTMO campaign were elected to positions in Unwin and Friary Tenants and Residents Association at the recent AGM. Veronica Naraine is the new TRA Treasurer and Julian Jackson is the Secretary.

This will make the TRA more representative. Before it was dominated by **pro-TMO** supporters. But the TRA needs to represent the views of *all* the residents – including people who are undecided about the TMO issue. The pro TMO campaigners don't exactly keep the estate informed, do they?

Successful NoTMO Public Meeting with Lionel Wright of Tabard Gardens - the Estate where TMO rule led to disaster

The NO TMO Campaign's first public meeting on 18th March was a resounding success. Long-standing Southwark & Tabard Gardens tenant and local campaigner Lionel Wright spoke about the many problems of the former Tabard Gardens TMO. 18 people attended, including a couple of proTMO campaigners which gave the discussion an added dimension

The Tabard Gardens TMO Story

From 1995-2005 Lionel's estate was governed by a tenant management organisation called Tabard Gardens Tenant Management Cooperative or 'TMC'- a TMO. Before the TMC was launched residents were told it'd be just a new kind of housing management without a change of landlord away from Council control. But soon after the TMO took over the Manager and a tiny unrepresentative group of residents began the **process of transferring the estate to a Housing Association** - that is **privatise** it. Lionel described how he worked with residents to launch a grass-roots campaign against this. **In less than two years they defeated the housing association plan.**



Don't Gamble with Our Homes



The Tabard Gardens TMO Story - continued

Dodgy Continuation Ballot

In 2003 when a TMO 'Continuation Ballot' was held, Lionel and others organised a Vote No campaign called 'LET'S GO BACK TO SOUTHWARK'. The official ballot result was a "Yes" majority for TMC continuation, with 39% against. However there were serious concerns about the conduct of the ballot by an outside company with links to the acting TMC manager.

The Tabard Gardens TMO collapses

Management problems continued and the TMO racked up **£400,000 of debts**, and in August 2005 the Council took back direct management of the estate.

When tenant management began many Tabard residents saw a TMO as a more democratic arrangement than Council control, and hundreds of people bought £1 shares to participate in TMC meetings. Ten years on there was widespread disillusionment with the TMC, and so few people were willing to put themselves forward for Committee places the organisation collapsed.

Rule by a Small Clique

Lionel says: "Residents who hoped a TMO would empower them were cruelly disappointed. Instead of genuine resident control, power passed to a small clique of housing managers who ran rings around residents and tried to remove their rights by transferring people's homes to a housing association."

Southwark Council, despite its problems, is a an accountable organisation, with many checks and balances built-in to make things fair for all residents.

The TMO has no such structures: it is a private limited company, with very little real accountability.

Stay safe, stay with Southwark

CONTACT NoTMO CAMPAIGN: Julian Jackson 12 Reading House, Green Hundred Road, SE15 1RS Tel: 020 7635 9720. Veronica Naraine: 07908 067911

E-mail: southwarknotmo@yahoo.co.uk
Website: NoTMO.org.uk