



## The principles of One Tower Hamlets

“I am proud that the council, residents and our community partners continue to make Tower Hamlets such a great place to be. Working together we have formed a cohesive borough.”

MAYOR LUTFUR RAHMAN

## Places to meet up

The council has also been investing in youth centres – three new centres have opened in the last year.

SEE BELOW

### Council focus: safety and the environment

Feedback from residents and performance figures show that Tower Hamlets has never been cleaner or greener, and that residents feel the borough is a safe place to be. **East End Life** caught up with some local people who are doing their bit to improve the borough further, while some other residents reflect on the council services they have received.



### Environment

**THE council continues to invest in the local environment to support a cleaner and greener borough.**

There is a four-year rolling programme of tree planting on streets, parks and open spaces in place.

Lene Milaa, from Mile End, has the borough’s environmental interests as one of her top priorities too. In her role as a recycling champion, she makes sure that she promotes recycling to her neighbours, friends and colleagues.

“I hope that with good information about recycling in the community, slowly, slowly we’ll all get there and one day, sorting our waste will become second nature.

“The knowledge that I have built up as a recycling champion has given me job opportunities too. I’ve just found work in a local school – Phoenix Special School – as its recycling person.

“I would really recommend the role of recycling champions. Your enthusiasm is really the main thing so if you are already a keen recycler you are qualified!”

### Did you know?

Over the past year, the council has:

- reduced levels of graffiti and flyposting
- repaired 1,700 potholes
- introduced the Find It Fix it Love it app so that residents can instantly tell the council about issues that need to be fixed and what they love about Tower Hamlets
- further improved the recycling rate & made over 2.8 million refuse collections
- achieved the London in Bloom Gold award in recognition of its contributions to improving the local environment.

# Cleaner and safer than ever



(Above left) recycling champion Lene Milaa  
(Above right) Assan and Mohammed

### Community safety

**THE council’s commitment to the principles of One Tower Hamlets and a safe, cohesive community across the borough continue.**

With its support, residents have also found innovative ways to show how these principles work in practice.

Nurull Islam, 36, from Stepney set up Mile End Community Project with his friends Assan Ali, 37, and Selim Uddin, 34, in 1995 to highlight the importance of cohesion in the community.

Nurull said: “There are lots of changes taking place in Tower Hamlets – new builds, people moving out, getting old. As one of our projects, we wanted to capture those changes through an outdoor community art exhibition, and allow local residents and visitors to see what the past, present and future of Mile End looks like.”

Assan added: “This borough is a great place! It’s full of amazing community projects run by people who have a passion to make a difference to people’s lives and environment.

“The council and our local housing association, East End Homes, have helped make this project possible via their funds.”

The council has also been investing in youth centres to give young people places to meet up and take part in different activities. Three new centres have opened in the last year.

Among those who have been making the most of the borough’s new youth centres

is 16-year-old Mohammed Abdul Wadood. “I started coming to my youth centre because I can socialise and make new friends who live in the same community,” he said.

“The youth centre keeps me and my mates out of trouble. I regularly take part in workshops, and recently took part in a residential weekend, which involved learning teamwork and leadership skills. The youth workers encourage and motivate me through difficult tasks and activities so I can achieve my goals and targets.”

One woman who needed help from the anti-social behaviour (ASB) team to deal with a noisy neighbour said she was very impressed with the service she received: “I was so grateful when the team turned up. To be honest I was expecting to have a sleepless night and praying that the music would not wake up my child.

“The team that came out were very efficient and helpful. The music stopped straight away and I was given a number to call if they started playing the music again.”

Maggie, who has lived on her housing estate for 30 years, praised the introduction of canine patrols where she lives: “The patrols make me feel much more confident in getting about. I would like to see the dogs patrolling with the THEOs all night.”

Kevin, a black cab driver from Bethnal Green, added: “It has been quiet here recently. I am very happy with the impact of the canine patrols and I would like them to continue.”

Over the next year, the council will

invest in an additional 20 police officers to patrol the borough, introduce a police contact van and making improvements to street lighting.

Tower Hamlets will also give further support to victims of domestic violence, and sexual and hate crime through a new violent crime casework service and independent domestic violence adviser.

Mayor Lutfur Rahman said: “I am proud that the council, local residents and our community partners continue to make Tower Hamlets such a great place to be.

“Working in partnership, we have formed a cohesive borough with some excellent examples of where the principles of One Tower Hamlets shine through.”

Cllr Ohid Ahmed, cabinet member for community safety, said: “We know that community safety is one of our residents’ key priorities, and that is why we have worked so hard to ensure that people feel safe in the borough.

“We will continue to invest in making Tower Hamlets as safe as possible for all.”

Cllr Shahed Ali, cabinet member for clean and green, said: “The borough has never been cleaner or greener. Tower Hamlets has just scooped the most prestigious London in Bloom Award, a gold level for the borough.

“Our parks win national awards, recycling is a priority for the council and community alike, and I am pleased that the community, the council and our partners have achieved this together.”