

Parliamentary Reception, December 2018



*Back Row, left to right: John Cotton (EC Member), Lord Roy Kennedy (Host and LHG Patron),
David Leah (LHG Membership), Paul Eastwood (LHG Chair). Front Row,
left to right: Heather Johnson (LHG Vice-Chair), Nicky Gavron (LHG Patron)
Amanda Tattershall and Janet Berry (LHG Members) Patron),*

Members of LHG and invited guests attended an end of year Reception at the House of Commons on December 7th 2017, hosted by one of our Patrons, Lord Kennedy of Southwark. At what was an enjoyable event, Lord Kennedy gave a brief address, stressing that housing was now very high on the political agenda and that the work that LHG does has never been more important. A vote of thanks was given by Paul Eastwood, Chair of LHG, and the event concluded with a raffle organised by LHG's other Patron, Nicky Gavron, Labour Spokesperson for Planning at the London Assembly.

Paul Eastwood

NB Individuals must be members of the Labour Party and agree to be bound by Labour Party rules and the LHG constitution

The opinions expressed in articles in this Newsletter are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of Labour Housing Group

HOUSING

L HG
February 2018
Editor - Ed Derrick

Honorary Patrons: Lord Roy Kennedy and Nicky Gavron

The Newsletter from Labour Housing Group

Editorial

This first 2018 Edition of LHG's Newsletter focuses on LHG Activity rather than policy matters, and hence on activity in which you as a member of LHG are invited to take part. A good turnout at the Open Meeting next month and the AGM in May will help LHG develop Labour's housing policies ready for the day - hopefully not to be long delayed - when the Tories' hopeless and blundering "Government" finally collapses and is consigned to the dustbin of history - one aspect of refuse disposal for which recycling will certainly not be needed!

Some details of the Birmingham Open Meeting on 24th March have yet to be finalized.

Finally, also included is a Membership Form for you to sign up a new member for LHG!

Ed Derrick

Labour Housing Group Open Meeting

**Insert Topic / Name of Session
Speaker: John Healy MP
Shadow Secretary of State for Housing**

Saturday 24th March 2018

10.45 am to 3.00 pm

Birmingham Midland Institute

9 Margaret Street

Birmingham B3 3BS

John Lee Theatre Room

Joining Fee £ 7.00 or £ 3.50 unwaged

Catering to be arranged

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LABOUR HOUSING GROUP 2018 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

LHG's Annual General Meeting will be held on **Saturday 19th May 2018** at Camden Town Hall, Judd Street, London, at WC1E 9JE (Opposite St Pancras Station), starting at 11.00 am.

Detailed Arrangements including the Agenda and Catering arrangements will be circulated in due course.

For the time being, please note the administrative arrangements below and respond if you so wish.

ELECTION TO THE LHG EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Following decisions made in 2016, LHG now holds an open election for members to form the Executive Committee every two years. Therefore, this year there will be an election for the Executive Committee. The process will be as follows.

- 1 Any paid up member of LHG may stand for election to the EC. The EC has 12 members who are elected by the membership.
2. Any member wishing to stand for election should submit a **personal statement** to the Secretary, 120 words maximum, in Word format, to the following e mail address – **ksdunne@gmail.com** – **by Monday 16 April 2018**. Statements received after this date will not be included on the ballot paper.

If you do not have e-mail access, please send your statement by post: **3 Lismore Close, Isleworth, Middlesex, TW7 6QX**

3. **Ballot papers** will then be sent out to all members during the week commencing 23 April 2018 to be returned to myself, by e-mail or by post, by **Friday 11 May 2018**.

4. The outcome of the ballot will be reported to the **AGM**, which is being held at Camden Town Hall, on **Saturday, 19 May 2018**, beginning at 11:00

If anything is unclear, please contact me directly.

Katherine Dunne, Secretary, Labour Housing Group

Resolutions for discussion at the AGM

All paid up individual members of LHG, affiliated LHG branches, and CLPs who are members, may submit a Resolution for discussion at the AGM.

The Resolution should:

- be on a current topic
- no more than 150 words in length

and sent, in Word format, by e mail, to the Secretary, Katherine Dunne, at **ksdunne@gmail.com** or by post to **3 Lismore Close, Isleworth, TW7 6QX**

The deadline for the receipt of Resolutions is Friday, 11 May 2018.

Labour Party Conference - Delegate's report

My overall impression of conference was that it was very well attended (the increase in membership means many more delegates in attendance) and of a positive atmosphere. There was a feeling of the party having put aside many of the differences that were apparent at the previous conference a year before. An exception to this was a row around antisemitism, although most members backed the NEC-recommended motion tightening the rules on antisemitic and other hate speech. The other rule-changes – lowering the threshold of PLP nominations for leadership candidates and increasing the size of the NEC – were passed with equally high levels of support.

I also attended Women's Conference. Whilst the atmosphere is always good, giving women a chance to support each other and air their grievances away from men, there is always a wondering of what will actually come out of it, even with the policy debates this year, which included "supporting statements" from CLPs to be forwarded to the policy commissions.

Labour Housing Group's fringe event on Housing After Grenfell was held on the Sunday evening. Speakers Andy Winter, Chief Executive of Brighton Housing Trust, Alison Inman, President of the Chartered Institute of Housing, Ian Henderson, Save our Sutton Estate campaigner, and Tony Lloyd, Shadow Housing Minister, discussed the future of social housing in the wake of the Grenfell disaster and years of underinvestment. Key issues were the importance of tenants' voices and of course the need for funding to ensure the social rented accommodation could continue to be built.

Earlier in the day, during the housing debate, I gave a speech calling for improvements in social housing and arguing that the government should fund fire safety works, as promised in the days following the Grenfell disaster, rather than this being paid for via tenants' rent accounts.

Further debates relating to Grenfell and to housing supply were held on Tuesday, with delegates voting in favour of motions demanding a wider remit for a public inquiry into Grenfell, and requiring at least one to one replacement of social homes and binding residents' ballots for estate regeneration.

I also had the opportunity to attend a dinner hosted by various housing associations and attended by Shadow Housing Minister Mel Onn, Tom Copley AM and many councillors. The discussion was mostly focussed around supply but also relief (from the politicians at least) that the housing associations' voluntary right-to-buy schemes had not gained traction and that the proposed sale of high-value council voids to pay for them is postponed, perhaps indefinitely.

Katherine Dunne