



Control Rents, Secure Homes For All
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To Jeremy Corbyn MP Labour Leader, leader of the Opposition

Cc John Healey MP Shadow secretary of state, housing and planning

1 Nov 2017

Dear Jeremy Corbyn,

We were delighted to read the Labour conference policy decisions and your conference speech on housing, and welcome your comments on listening to tenants, rent controls, regeneration, and on ballots for tenants and leaseholders.

We are keen to make these policies a reality. Can you make a statement calling on local councils to commit to holding a yes/no ballot on any major estate redevelopment plans? In London many councils including Labour-led councils, are working with developers to drive regeneration schemes which are threatening our homes and communities.

We know of more than 100 estates currently facing large scale redevelopment and demolition, and we are keen to act on the call for estate ballots. We believe it is within councils' power to help slow these schemes down, by calling on local landlords to hold ballots, and/or by organising ballots themselves.

We very much agree with you that genuine consultations with binding outcomes are required, to end the situation you describe, where "tenants and leaseholders feel ignored and not listened to." There is deep cynicism regarding public "consultations", too often run as tick box exercises, and ultimately ignored.

At 'Homes For All – Axe The Housing Act' meetings we have heard reports from activists in Haringey, Southwark, Rochdale and others, where majority Labour councils are continuing with demolition, regeneration, gentrification and the social cleansing you so eloquently condemned in your speech.

We would be happy to provide more details or discuss this further, and look forward to contributing to the review of housing policy you announced at Conference. We would hope to ensure wide participation from grassroots tenant groups and housing campaigners. Please let us know if we can help with these initiatives.

Yours

Eileen Short

on behalf of Homes for All – Axe the Housing Act