



Berneslai Homes tenants invited to Palace of Westminster

Photo caption: Berneslai Homes tenants Jayne Faulkner (left) and Bridie O'Brien (right) at their visit to the photography exhibition at the Palace of Westminster.

Two tenants from Berneslai Homes, Bridie O'Brien and Jayne Faulkner were delighted to have been invited to attend the formal opening of the 'Ordinarily People: Extraordinary Lives' photography exhibition at the Palace of Westminster on 10th October.

Hosted by Lady Victoria Borwick, the National Federation of ALMOs (NFA) exhibition celebrates the lives of tenants and residents living within social housing. Each person featured within the exhibition makes a really positive and meaningful contribution within their neighbourhoods and communities, and each has an extraordinary story to share. Bridie and Jayne were invited after taking part in Berneslai Homes' Proud Tenant campaign last year.

Challenging the unpleasant and sensationalist stereotyping of social housing tenants portrayed by some media in recent years the NFA launched its portrait photography competition to tell tenants stories. The exhibition, initially sponsored by Resource, shows that even in what may seem like the most ordinary of streets, in the most unassuming of houses, the most inspirational of stories can be found.

Berneslai Homes Chief Executive Helen Jaggar adds: "I was thrilled to attend the exhibition with our 'Proud Tenants' Bridie and Jayne and it was a great opportunity for them to share their stories and experiences of living in social housing with MPs and Peers."

The exhibition will open Monday 10th October 2016 and will remain on show at the Palace of Westminster until Friday 14th October 2016.

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Editors notes:

Berneslai Homes is the Council's managing agent for the management and maintenance of council housing in Barnsley. They have a track record for excellent performance at value for money cost and in 2015 the Council extended the service agreement for a further five years from April 2016 to March 2021 with the ability for rolling five year extensions. They have been listed in the Sunday Times Top 100 Best Companies to Work For In The Not For Profit Sector for the last four years and achieved the Investors In People Gold Standard. They work closely with many partner agencies within the Sheffield city region and are part of the One Barnsley board.

The organisation is run by a board comprising of a Chair, three councillors, three independents and three tenant members. Berneslai Homes manages approximately 18,745 properties and employs just under 500 employees.

Exhibition - Ordinary People Extra Ordinary Lives: The exhibition brochure can be downloaded here: <http://www.almos.org.uk/include/getDoc.php?did=7467&fid=8694>

Tenants from the following ALMOs will be attending the launch event:

- Berneslai Homes
- Brent Housing Partnership
- East Kent Housing
- Lewisham Homes
- Six Town Housing
- South Essex Homes
- Stockport Homes
- Wigan and Leigh Homes

NFA -The National Federation of ALMOs www.almos.org.uk

There are 37 ALMOs (arm's length management organisations) across England managing 501,885 council homes across 40 local authorities.