

# TOTTENHAM COMMUNITY PRESS

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## Taking back control

St Ann's community group to deliver genuinely affordable housing after receiving backing from Mayor of London

By StART's Directors

**W**hen the NHS announced the sale of two thirds of St Ann's Hospital site (7.1 hectares of public land) a local group formed, determined to save the hospital that had served Haringey people since the 19th century and employed many local residents.

That fight was lost; and planning permission granted for 470 homes. Only 14% were to be "affordable" (i.e. 80% of market value) – none genuinely affordable or for social rent.

Many of us have seen friends and family move away from Haringey, no longer able to afford local rents or sale prices. Determined to do everything possible to stop this trend, we saw the St Ann's development as a chance to fight back.

In 2015, StART was formed and began campaigning for a project that would give control of the land to the local community. We became a Community Land Trust and, unable to buy

the land, initiated negotiations with the Greater London Authority (GLA). We felt our best hope for keeping it in public ownership was for the GLA to buy it and work with StART and other parties towards this goal.

We began by holding meetings, surveys and street stalls to learn what local people wanted to see happen on the site. Highest priorities were: genuine affordability, secure housing in perpetuity, keeping and developing environmental features, and the health legacy of the site.

People overwhelmingly felt StART should own or control the land. A crowdfunding campaign raised £25,000 for architects to produce a master plan (see the summary on our website: [startharingey.co.uk/blog/#our-vision-takes-shape](http://startharingey.co.uk/blog/#our-vision-takes-shape)) based on the feedback.

We are happy to announce, that after three years, 13,500 hours volunteered and intense negotiations with the GLA, StART has successfully

completed the first stage of the plan!

The Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan, announced on 14th May that City Hall has purchased the land and is "committed to working closely with local people, including St Ann's Redevelopment Trust (StART), to deliver affordable homes for the local community."

We believe everyone has the right to good quality secure housing that is genuinely affordable: no household should have to spend above one third of its income on rent or mortgage. Based on median local incomes we developed our housing allocation and rental strategy. We are currently rolling out a consultation through our website, community meetings and events.

Today StART has over 360 members and the number is growing. So is the number of active members who continue dedicating a lot of time to outreach, consultations, research, publicity, events, financial strategies (one goal is to raise £50million



Mayor of London gives StART his stamp of approval **Credit** Dionisos Olympian (Flickr)

to maximise the number of genuinely affordable homes).

The list of tasks is endless – all kinds of skills and insight are most welcome and appreciated!

We continue working towards a community-led development, promoting health and wellbeing; a mixed-use, green neighbourhood. We want to work with as many local people, groups and organisations as possible to achieve this.

### To learn more and get involved:

Visit [startharingey.co.uk](http://startharingey.co.uk)  
Facebook /StARTHaringey  
Twitter @StARTHaringey  
Email [info@startharingey.co.uk](mailto:info@startharingey.co.uk)

Or come to one of our open fortnightly Wednesday meetings at Chestnuts Community Centre, from 7:30pm

The June meetings will take place on Wednesday 6th and Wednesday 20th.