

Councillor Peter John, OBE
Leader of the Council
Labour Member for South Camberwell Ward
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15th August, 2017

Ref: Cllr PJ/H8682

Dear residents,

I wanted to write to you following the events of recent weeks on the Ledbury Estate, which I know have been extremely worrying for you and your neighbours, to give you a brief update and thank you for your patience and understanding.

As you know, on Thursday, we took the urgent decision to turn off the gas in all four tower blocks, following a structural survey that identified safety concerns. Since then we have been making arrangements for the short and longer term, to provide temporary hot water and cooking facilities, and install an alternative power supply.

Councillors Cryan, Livingstone and Situ, along with officers, have kept me updated on the issues on the Ledbury, and I visited the TRA hall yesterday afternoon and spoke to several residents. I know you have worries and concerns, and we will do all we can to address these through further communications and through one to one conversations with officers in the hall.

The council is moving as quickly as it can to provide you with a permanent replacement for your gas boilers and ovens. Yesterday and today we have had engineering staff on site and we have spoken to all our contractors. We believe we will be able to fit immersion heaters and electric cookers into every flat within the next few weeks. Work will begin to test and install the immersion heaters this week.

Until this work is completed, the leisure centres will continue to offer free shower facilities for all Ledbury residents, and hot plates are still available for anyone who hasn't picked one up yet.

I do understand that while your needs as residents vary, and some of you have alternative cleaning and cooking options, the prospect of a week or two with no hot water is difficult for everyone. Our staff are on hand 24 hours a day in the TRA hall to offer

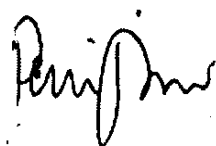
personal support and advice. Please do go along and speak to one of our officers, who will be able to explore other options with you, including temporary accommodation.

We know there are still many questions you need answers to, regarding a long-term timetable, compensation and other matters, and officers are pulling all this information together to share with you in the coming days. In the meantime, please let me reassure you that the blocks are safe, and the council is not planning to evacuate anyone. The offer to move remains open, but anyone who wishes to stay in their home can do so.

The electric cookers and boilers will help you get back to normal, but there is still a major works programme we need to carry out, which is likely to start next year, to bring the Ledbury Towers up to an excellent standard, with a permanent solution to the cracks. We want to work with you to develop a plan and timetable for this work – once we can discuss the work required and how it will be done, we will talk to you about what you would like to do and where you would like to go. You will, of course, be given the right to return to the towers, to high quality council homes at council rents, once they have been repaired and refurbished.

I'm really sorry for the worry and disruption you have experienced.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter John', written in a cursive style.

Councillor Peter John, OBE
LEADER OF THE COUNCIL