

N E W S R E L E A S E

West Silvertown Urban Village

1 November 1996

MEDIA OPPORTUNITY ENVIRONMENT SECRETARY MARKS PROGRESS AT URBAN VILLAGE

John Gummer joins local resident to unveil commemorative flagstone marking start of work on 235 new homes in London Docklands

Date: Wednesday 6 November 1996
Time: 10 am for 10.15 am
Venue: Britannia Village
Royal Victoria Dock
Silvertown Way
London E16

Environment Secretary and Minister for London, John Gummer, will mark the start of work on 235 new homes at West Silvertown Urban Village, a 1000-home development which is bringing new life to 28 acres of a once derelict area of London Docklands.

Joined by Docklands resident and Peabody Trust tenant, Dave Fallows, John Gummer will unveil a commemorative flagstone on the quayside of Royal Victoria Dock to mark the start of work on social housing at the Urban Village, the first major development underway in the Royal Docks. The new homes include the 23,500th to be built in London Docklands since 1981.

The 235 homes for rent are being built by Hunting Gate Group for Peabody Trust and East Thames Housing Group, integrated with 770 homes and quayside apartments for sale at Britannia Village, a development by Wimpey Homes. John Gummer will view at first hand the progress on Britannia Village which started on site last year following an agreement by Wimpey and the London Docklands Development Corporation (LDDC), the promoters of the Urban Village.

[more/...](#)



Wimpey
Homes

Peabody
Trust

Hunting
Gate
4444

EastThames

London Docklands

Mr Gummer will meet Britannia Village's first residents, Nigel and Maria Sapherson who moved to their new home this summer. The first release of new homes in Britannia Village sold out in weeks and Wimpey have already taken reservations for the next phase due in Summer 1997. West Silvertown Urban Village also includes new shops, a pub, a village common and a community centre.

After a ballot of tenants, two Newham Council 1960s tower blocks on the site will be demolished to build some of the new homes for rent. Tenants have been given the choice of moving into the new housing in the scheme, with some already occupying an adjacent Peabody Trust development.

Further new homes, creating a community of up to 5000 people, as well as offices, workshops, shops and leisure facilities are proposed in the second 40 acre phase of West Silvertown Urban Village, to the east. The Zoological Society of London has plans to build a National Aquarium on the site, subject to the successful outcome of a bid for capital funding to the Millennium Commission.

John Gummer's visit to West Silvertown takes place during a week in which the Government is focusing on regeneration issues. He will go on to the 50th floor of Canary Wharf to launch International Cities '97, the fifth annual conference and exhibition on urban management and strategy which will be held at Canary Wharf in June 1997.

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