



Monday 27th January 2014

New 20 ft tall 'Neighbours' for East Village residents

Today sees the arrival of two very special guests moving into East Village, London's newest neighbourhood at the former London 2012 Athletes' Village. The two new giant dwellers, who are each 20 feet tall and collectively know as 'Neighbours' are green topiary sculptures living in Victory Park in the heart of the new East Village neighbourhood.

The colossal figures created by Shipshape Arts were originally part of Southbank Centre's Festival of Neighbourhood last year and have now been loaned to East Village. The two 20 foot-high 'Neighbours' sculptures have been made using a timber and metal wire framing covered by a plastic topiary material, and depict a scene of two neighbours in conversation over a fence, representing the importance of community and neighbourhood.

The vast 'Neighbours' figures installed today will be reunited with fellow topiary giants 'Little Boy' and 'Old Woman' known as 'Sweepers', which were also relocated from Southbank Centre in December for new East Village residents, existing local communities, and visitors to Westfield and Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park to come and enjoy. The existing 'Sweepers' figures and the new 'Neighbours' sculptures are part of a range of arts and cultural activity planned to help bring East Village to life over the coming months.

Nearly 300 new residents are now settled into East Village, with further new homes now available to suit everyone - from one-bedroom apartments to four-bedroom townhouses with a choice of private rental with Get Living London, and both affordable rental or purchase with Triathlon Homes.

Derek Gorman, Chief Executive of Get Living London commented: "With hundreds of residents now living at East Village and Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park reopening this Spring, a new quarter of East London is starting to come to life and our latest sculptures will be a great addition to the neighbourhood. These huge sculptures demonstrate the sense of community we are looking to encourage not just in East Village but across East London as a whole. I'd encourage everyone to come and meet our impressive new residents and see how London's newest neighbourhood is taking shape."

Dale Meredith, Executive Director for Triathlon Homes said: "We look forward to welcoming these two 'Neighbours' to join the 'Sweepers'. This nod towards community-based spirit and neighbourhood is a perfect fit and we are sure that residents and visitors alike will make them welcome"

Mike De Butts, Director of Shipshape Arts Ltd said: "We're delighted that all four of our giant topiary figures have found a second home as prestigious as their first. We hope both the 'Neighbours' and the 'Sweepers' will be enjoyed by the Neighbourhood as it grows around them, and that in Spring they will journey on to bloom in pastures new."



-ENDS-

Notes to Editors:

For images of the sculptures and more information please contact eastvillage@wcommunications.co.uk or call on 07718 986 508

About East Village:

- East Village is London's first Olympic legacy village and newest neighbourhood on the doorstep of the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park
- Set in 27 hectares of breathtaking parkland, with more than 10 hectares of mature parklands, new parks and open space
- Positioned next to the world-class sporting venues of The Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, East Village is located within 285 hectares of parkland, waterways, and nature trails connected by paths for jogging cycling and walking
- One of the best connected neighbourhoods in London with Stratford International and Stratford Regional stations offering links to London's key locations such as the west end in 20 minutes, St Pancras International in 6 minutes (by High Speed 1), Canary Wharf in 12 minutes, Ashford in less than 30 minutes and London airports within an hour
- Plans for an eclectic mix of 30 shops, restaurants, cafes & bars in the city's newest neighbourhood, ensuring that East Village is a thriving place for residents and visitors
- East Village will offer a world-class education campus Chobham Academy for students aged 3-19, a state-of-the-art medical centre and over 30 independent shops, cafes and restaurants
- Visit eastvillagelondon.co.uk to find out more

About Shipshape:

Shipshape Arts are a group of artists and designers who build large-scaled outdoor installation at UK festivals including Green Man Festival and Secret Garden Party. Visit <http://www.piratetechnics.com/>