

STRAWBERRY VALE RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

We are all experiencing difficult times. None of us have gas for cooking and some of us are still without heating and hot water. Many residents are worried and uncertain of what is happening. We want you to know that we are doing all we can to get the gas supply restored after all the safety checks have taken place.

This is what we know on 6th February:

The estate gas supply for cooking was turned off by National Grid on 20th January because a meter was faulty reducing the gas pressure to unsafe levels. This has been confirmed to us in writing by National Grid. The following day Peabody sent out a letter to the estate confirming exactly the same problem.

The meter is provided by contractors employed by Peabody. It was replaced on Friday 22nd January when it was Peabody's intention to begin the safety checks necessary to restore the gas supply. That would have taken a day or two depending on how many people they could get on site, but it was Friday afternoon and the contractors weren't available

The following week, on Thursday 28th January, Peabody sent out a letter to the estate saying 'the gas supply to hobs and cookers will not be turned back on again' stating as a reason 'we can no longer rely on the current gas supply for cooking facilities'. They told some residents that National Grid would 'not guarantee a safe supply'.

We called National Grid to test the gas supply pressure into the estate on the 29th and 31st. On both occasions it was 'perfect.' The same gas supply powers the boilers for the community heating but through a different meter. The boilers use ten times the amount of gas that cooking does and have been unaffected. National Grid are very clear that the problem was with the faulty meter and it was this that caused the low pressure.

We have asked Peabody verbally, in writing and on radio to give us the evidence that they claim exists that makes it unsafe to restore the gas supply. They haven't done so.

On Friday 5th a group of residents instructed solicitors to start legal action. Peabody have been given until midday next Tuesday to restore the gas supply or provide the evidence why the system is unsafe. If it goes to court any resident: tenant, leaseholder or freeholder, may join the action. We will update you on this next week.

We are not happy that Strawberry Vale has been portrayed in negative terms in the media and want to do as much as possible to improve that. People are coming together and helping each other and we should feel proud to live here. Thanks are due to Hope House and the Green Man team for their great efforts during the past weeks.

Please come to the next Residents Association meeting.

It will be 10am on Saturday 20th February at The Green Man.

It is for all residents: tenants, leaseholders and freeholders, all are welcome.

Our website has more information www.strawberryvale.org.uk

email: strawberryvalecommunity@gmail.com

or drop a letter at 13 Nursery Road or 149 Old Farm Road