

Deutsche Wohnen congratulates Hellersdorf on creating a world record

Berlin, 18 December 2015. The longest picnic table in the world can be seen today in the Boulevard Kastanienallee in the Berlin borough of Marzahn-Hellersdorf. With a length of 173 metres it breaks the world record by a significant margin. This new world record will now be entered into the Guinness Book of Records. In order to achieve this success, numerous residents of all ages, refugees living in a nearby hostel, young people from vocational projects run by the association KIDS & CO, pupils from local secondary schools and students from the Alice Salomon Hochschule (ASH) all worked together for six weeks with saws, hammers and screwdrivers. The world record was both initiated and organised by the association KIDS & CO, the Alice Salomon Hochschule and the Anhalt University of Applied Sciences. Deutsche Wohnen made the workshop premises available and financed the project with EUR 5,000 in total.

In the run-up to the world record, the Mayor of the Borough of Marzahn-Hellersdorf and patron of this project, Stefan Komoß, was delighted “that this wonderful project has brought together in such a short period of time so many people who are willing to help.” He added that the project was an expression of the sense of community and day-to-day neighbourliness in the borough and proof of the ability of its inhabitants to stick together.

At a pre-Christmas picnic, residents, refugees and other people involved with the project celebrated with apple punch, grilled sausages, waffles, music and a short programme of entertainment. The picnic table, which had been lovingly assembled, was at the centre of this event and extended along almost the full length of the Boulevard Kastanienallee.

To break the existing world record, a total of around 300 project participants had met regularly over the past few weeks in a workshop belonging to Deutsche Wohnen at 35, Stollberger Straße. Here, the amateur carpenters worked on the table under the guidance of skilled craftsmen. The table is made up of individual wooden elements that can be joined together on a modular basis. The table tops were individually designed by the project participants to ensure that the overall appearance of the table is colourful and creative. Every project participant will receive a certificate and modular elements of the table as a souvenir and as something they can use in future.

As Stefanie Steinfurth, Regional Manager East at Deutsche Wohnen Immobilien Management GmbH, explains, “Deutsche Wohnen congratulates Hellersdorf, and in particular our committed tenants and other project participants, on achieving this world record. We were very pleased to support this project because it brings people together, promotes integration and improves social cohesion here in the neighbourhood.”

The world record attempt is a first result of the evaluation of the residents’ survey conducted in the Boulevard Kastanienallee neighbourhood. With the support of Deutsche Wohnen and the local borough, students from the Alice Salomon Hochschule and the Anhalt University of Applied Sciences conducted interviews and held consultations with focus groups in spring 2015 in order to mobilise the interests, views and potential of residents for the benefit of their neighbourhood and to use these findings as a basis for developing new ideas. With over 2,200 flats in the Boulevard Kastanienallee

neighbourhood and with around 15,000 residential units in Marzahn-Hellersdorf, Deutsche Wohnen is one of the largest housing companies in the borough and has been active there since 2013.

About Deutsche Wohnen

Deutsche Wohnen is one of the leading publicly listed residential property companies in Germany and Europe with a business focus on managing and developing its residential property portfolio. As at 30 September 2015 the portfolio comprised 149,100 units, of which 147,000 were residential and 2,100 commercial properties. Deutsche Wohnen owns flats in four Berlin Modernist housing estates, which were given UNESCO world cultural heritage status in July 2008: White City, the Horseshoe Estate in Britz, the Carl Legien Estate in Prenzlauer Berg and the Ring Estate (Siemensstadt).