

# Dudley Federation



of Tenants and Residents Associations

**2021/22 2nd Quarter August—October 2021 newsletter**

**Including Annual report 2020-21**

**Dudley Federation Update**

We have enjoyed being a part of recent conversations around groups safely returning to meetings. Please know that when a TRA holds a meeting that all precautions will have been taken to make it as safe as possible. It will be suggested that face coverings are worn, that you keep a distance from others and do a lateral flow before attending. You will also be asked to bring your own refreshments if you wish. We all have a responsibility to keep others safe.

If you're not comfortable meeting face-to-face just yet, that's ok too. If you would like assistance in holding online meetings just ask your Participation Officer or Dudley Federation for advice/training.

We still have Discretionary Bid funding available, each TRA is able to apply for up to £100 per financial year (April-March) which can be used to purchase items to assist in the running of your group. This could be helpful for purchasing items to help your meetings be as safe as possible such as hand sanitiser, masks and antibacterial wipes.

Please don't hesitate to get in touch for any advice you may need, we are always here to help.

## **Risk Assessments**

As groups get back to meetings, it's important that Risk Assessments are reviewed to ensure the safety of everyone attending. For document templates or assistance please contact your Participation Development Officer on [participation@dudley.gov.uk](mailto:participation@dudley.gov.uk) or 01384 815168.

Karen Evans, a Principal Health & Safety Officer at Dudley Council recently attended a Coffee & Catch Up event and provided attendees with some great TRA event specific information for Risk Assessments. You can view the information on our website under '[news](#)'.

## **Coronavirus Update**

From gov.uk, October 2021: Coronavirus remains a serious health risk. You should stay cautious to help protect yourself and others.

- Let fresh air in if you meet indoors. Meeting outdoors is safer.
- Wear a face covering in crowded and enclosed spaces where you come into contact with people you do not normally meet.
- Get tested and self-isolate if required.
- If you haven't already, get vaccinated.

# Dudley Federation Annual Report 2020-21

**Policies and Procedures** have been reviewed and updated on our website, with the addition of a Health & Safety Covid-19 addendum which is regularly updated in line with Government advice.

**Training** has been updated for Board members & staff where necessary and we continue to undertake online training in relevant areas.

**The Dudley Federation Board members** are a great team of people who are committed to ensuring Tenants and Residents are treated fairly. If you are interested in joining the DFTRA Board please get in touch. Necessary training will be provided and expenses will be covered.

More information can be found in the ['About Us'](#) section at [www.dftra.org.uk](http://www.dftra.org.uk).

**Partnership meetings** continue to be attended. although there was a brief interlude due to the Covid-19 pandemic, DFTRA Board members got back to attending meetings in a way they hadn't done before - virtually.

This was initially challenging and while there have been the inevitable ups and downs we are happy to now be experienced in communicating via this method. With all the negative things that Covid brought and still brings, being forced to use alternative methods of communications was a small positive to have come out of the last year and a half.

As always we continue to raise issues affecting tenants, as well as feeding back information where necessary. If you have an issue you would like us to raise, please let us know.

**Enquiries** sent to DMBC via the enquiry procedure totalled 6 during 2020-21. 5 Service Requests and 1 Stage One complaint. There were no clear patterns identified.

25 enquires were dealt with directly by a DFTRA representative, 14 of these were Building Services/repairs issues, 5 were Housing Management queries, 3 were ASB issues and there were 3 Safeguarding issues - one of these is ongoing as of October 2021.

10 Personal Independence Payment and 4 Employment Support Allowance cases were assisted with and won.

**Financial Reports, meeting minutes and Away Day reports** are all available to view [online](#).

# Our plan for 2021-22

**Support** tenants, residents and TRAs in getting back to meeting with their communities, whether this is in person or virtually.

**Continue** to make necessary changes and improvements to our office to ensure that it is as safe as possible for staff, volunteers and visitors.

**Educate** Board members and staff on any relevant topics, starting with ensuring a Covid-19 safe workplace.

**Contact** our group members now that we have sorted an issue out with post.

**Inform** members of important information.

**Raise** issues on behalf of Tenants and Residents.

**Encourage** TRAs to apply for Discretionary Bids up to £100 is available for groups to purchase items to assist them in running their TRAs.

**Take part** in TRA meetings when required - please let us know if you would like a DFTRA representative to attend your meeting virtually or in person.

**Support** the set up of new TRAs alongside the Participation Development Team.

**Hold** Dudley Federation General meetings & AGMs. We hope to hold a hybrid meeting with people attending both in person as well as virtually to allow as many people as possible to take part.

## Fire Kills!

Electrical installations cause around 10% of fires and the majority of these are because of electrical faults, which could be identified and remedied through routine safety checks.

It is the responsibility of your landlord to keep electrical installations in a good state of repair, it is therefore vital that you allow access for an electrical inspection called an Electrical Installation Condition Reports (EICR) to be carried out by our appointed contractor The Dodd Group. As part of this inspection a free USB socket will be fitted in place of a socket of your choice.

For important statistics and more information, please see our website and social media pages.

Call 01384 815256 to get your inspection booked in.

## Energy efficiency advice

As energy prices continue to rise, Dudley Energy Advice Line are on hand to give advice on energy efficiency and schemes such as the Winter Warmth Support Scheme.

Go to [www.dudley.gov.uk/residents/housing/housing-advice-information-and-support/energy-efficiency-advice/](http://www.dudley.gov.uk/residents/housing/housing-advice-information-and-support/energy-efficiency-advice/) or call 01384 817086 to see how they can help you.

## Community Clean Clean Up Day Hailed a Success

On Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> August 2021 Oval and Tudor TRA held their annual Community Clean Up which was deemed a great success by everyone who took advantage of the chance to dispose of their unwanted rubbish.

Each year, the Oval and Tudor Tenants and Residents Association puts on a day where they hire skips for local residents to use to clear-out any items they have been wanting to get rid of but may not have had the time.

Like the Olympics and the European Football Championship, it should have been held in 2020 but the impact of Covid meant that it had to be delayed for a year. As with most events at the moment the organising had to be done electronically. On the day of the event it was the first time that most committee members had seen each other face to face for over eighteen months.

Carefully marshalled and with everyone aware of the dangers that still exist, fifty one households on the estate dropped their unwanted rubbish off, some making more than one journey.

On the day virtually every member of the group's committee attended, as well as the group's Tenant Participation Officer, their local Housing Officer and two elected members -the other was on holiday.

Three skips were filled with rubbish and taken away by a local fully licenced company. Funding for hiring these skips was provided by the local Community Forum, plus a generous donation from the now defunct Netherton Big Clean Up who kindly donated what remained of their funding.

Keiran Casey, Chair of the Oval and Tudor Tenants and Residents Association said:

"This event each year is always a great success and it gives residents the opportunity to get rid of any items in their homes that they may have been meaning to throw away but just haven't had the chance to get round to taking to the tip"

"I think it's brilliant to see the community come together with things like this and I can't thank everyone on the TRA committee enough for making it a success, not only for this event but for what everyone on the committee does all year round to try and make our area a better place to live for all".

Other comments made by those who benefited from the event were:

'We have got rid of the rubbish we accumulated over the past two years-it was a godsend' and 'I haven't lived here for long and have never come across anything like this before-its a great idea.

A successful day all round, and the weather held out-just.

John Doughty—Treasurer at [Oval & Tudor TRA](#) and Dudley Federation Director



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