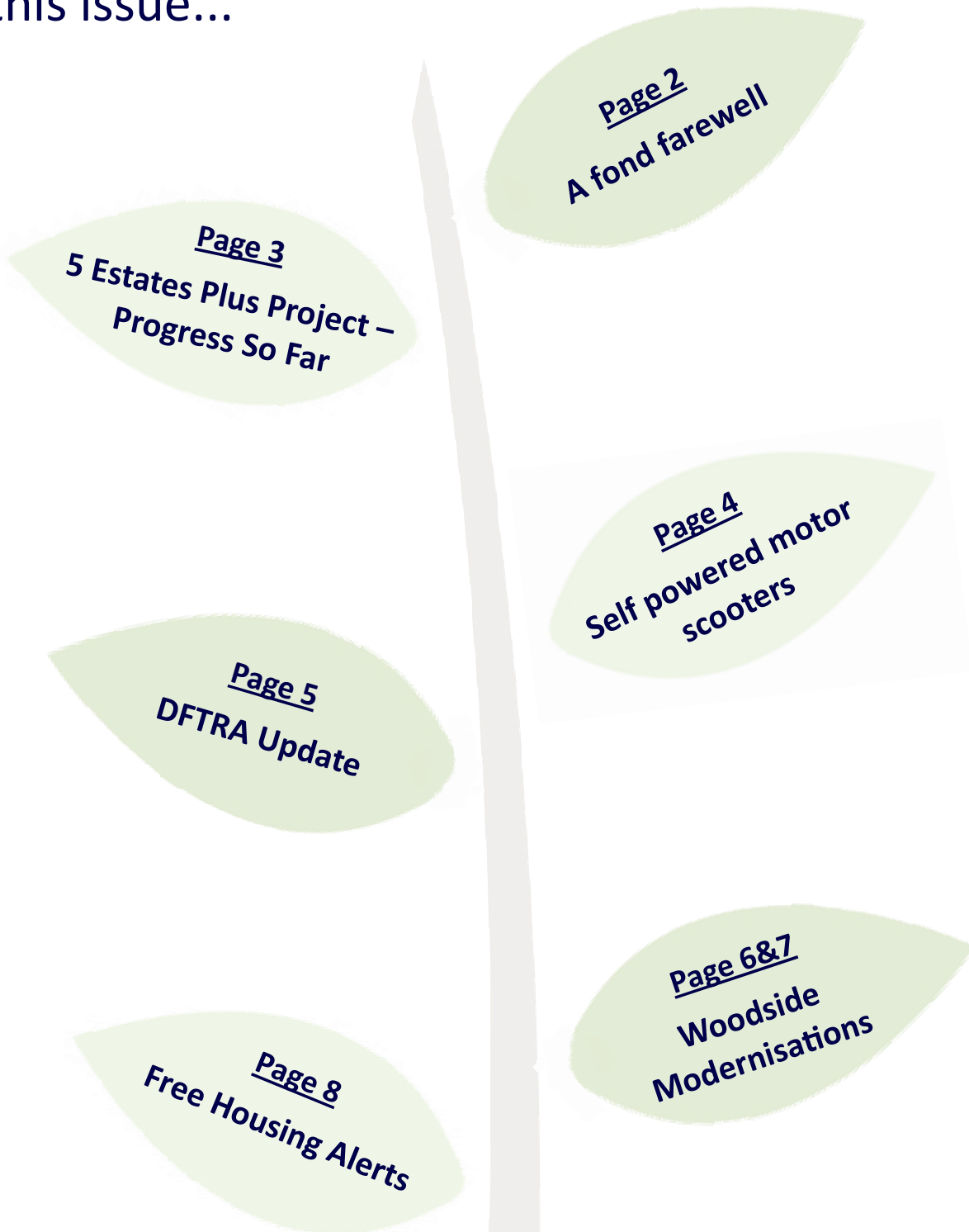


DFTRA News

Dudley Federation of Tenants and

July/August 2012

In this issue...



A fond farewell

On Monday 18th June, the Federation said a sad farewell to two stalwarts of DFTRA when Allan and Myra told the rest of the board that they were going to resign from the federation.

Allan and Myra Miles were part of the original board and played an integral part in setting up DFTRA. They have given a considerable amount of their own time over the years and have worked tirelessly on behalf of the tenants in the Dudley Borough.

The board wish them all the best and on behalf of all the TRAs we hope that they have a happy retirement.



5 Estates Plus Project – Progress So Far

The 5 Estates Plus Project in partnership with Dudley Councils Participation Development Team is still going strong within Dudley.



Since January 2012, we have held, Community & Neighbourhood Decision Making and Effective Community Engagement training. The evaluation from both of these courses showed us that people thought the training was excellent and they will be able to use the skills learnt within their community.

We have worked with a group of volunteers and they are now attending a free 2 week Media Production course at Wolverhampton College. It is hoped the skills learnt will help to promote the work of volunteers within Dudley.

There are out-reach sessions being held at the Hope Centre, Halesowen and at the Meeting Room, Bodmin Court, Brierley Hill. These sessions are an excellent way for people from migrant communities to find out about community groups in the area, how they can get involved and become active within their local neighbourhood and to find out about services offered by local agencies.

We are visiting local Tenants & Residents Associations to talk about how they can reach out to the wider community; this is proving successful for everyone involved.

Activities are being planned for Refugee Week (18th – 24th June), if you would like more information you can contact Thierry Barholere, at the Centre for Equality & Diversity on 01384 456166.

If you are interested in attending training or getting involved with the 5 Estates Plus Project please contact Kim Avantaggiato, Participation Development Team on 01384 815168 or email participation@dudley.gov.uk



Self powered motor scooters

Are you thinking about buying a self powered motor scooter, and live in one of our high rise blocks, low rise blocks or sheltered housing scheme? If yes, you must to talk to your housing manager or scheme manager before purchasing one.

It is important you consider the responsibilities of your tenancy/lease before committing yourself to owning a scooter, as well as the practicalities. If you buy a scooter you will be responsible for its maintenance, storage, charging, insurance, etc.



Conditions have been put in place to ensure the safety of all residents (and their visitors) living in our blocks. These conditions have been developed due to legal requirements, advice from the fire service, ease of evacuation in the case of a fire, plus the general health, safety and welfare of our residents.

Motorised scooters are highly flammable. They cannot be stored in communal areas, including landings, corridors and stair wells. They must be charged within your property.

The Disabled Living Foundation as a lot of information on their website www.dlf.org.uk or by telephoning 0845 130 9177. They can offer you free, impartial advice about buying scooters.

Remember, talk to your housing manager or scheme manager before buying one.

As always, we warn everyone to keep their eyes peeled for any bogus caller activity. Beware of any cold callers, unknown visitors or anyone requesting money for incomplete works.

If you have any concerns about anyone in your area that seems suspicious, or your or someone you know has been a victim of a bogus caller, call the bogus caller hotline on 01384 812045, West Midlands Police on 0345 113 5000 or your local police station to report it.

We want your views!

Here at DFTRA, we are going through a few changes. To make sure that we are providing you with the best service we can offer, we would like your opinions.

If you have any suggestions about what the federation can do in the future or what you would like from us, please let us know.

Also, if you are interested in getting involved in events or anything to do with the organisation, give us a call or come and see us.

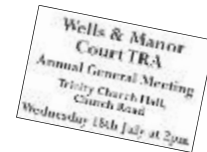
Leaflets

Are you having trouble getting people to your general meetings and AGMs? Do you have a TRA activity to advertise? We may be able to help.

If you feel that you would benefit from sending leaflets as a reminder about your General Meetings and AGMs, we can print them for you. You can either send us your own design or just the information required and we can put something together for you.

For more information, or to request leaflet printing, contact Caroline at the DFTRA office on 01384 868 010 or email on caroline@dfta.org.uk.

We may also be able to help with delivery of your leaflets if you need help.



Woodside Modernisations

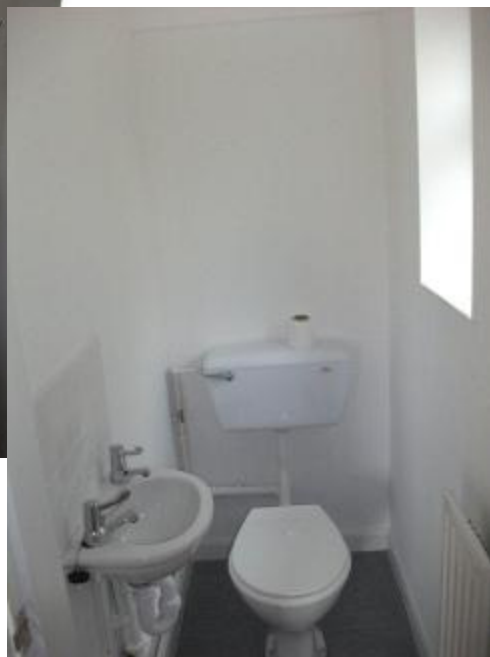
Last year Dudley Council with the help of Lovell set to work to modernise 25 properties on the Woodside Estate in Dudley. The modernisations consisted of relocating the bathrooms upstairs, which were previously located off the kitchens. The downstairs bathroom was replaced with a cloakroom and toilet. New kitchens were put in each property as well as central heating if there wasn't any already in the property.

Earlier in the year Martin and Stan went to visit one of the properties that had been modernised and they were really pleased with the results. After talking to the Council and Lovell, they decided to take photos before and after the modernisation of one of the properties, the chosen property was 2 bedroomed.

See photos before and after the modernisation was done. The tenant did not want the kitchen tiled because she said she would tile it herself.



Kitchen before and after



Downstairs toilet before and after with a sink added.



**Bathroom before
(downstairs off kitchen)
and after (re-located
upstairs)**

**Main bedroom
before and after**



**Second bedroom before
and after**

On the day Stan went to see the finished property, the tenant was passing and asked if she could have a look round before she moved back in and she was very pleased with the work that had been done.

Stan said that the work done on the property was very good and that no one should have any worries about having the modernisation done to their property.

Free Housing Alerts

Don't forget, if you want to know when your local Tenants & Residents Meetings are being held and what's happening in your area and you own a mobile phone you can sign up for free alerts being offered by Dudley Council.

What do I need to do?

1. From your mobile phone:

text your name, address and postcode to 07797 870352

Or

2. Complete an online registration form at:

www.dudley.gov.uk/housing/council-housing/tenant-participation/keeping-you-informed/

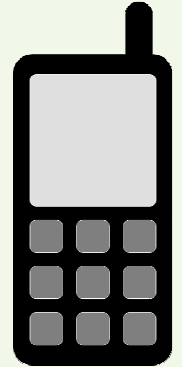
Or

3. Ring the Participation Development Team on:

01384 815168

So if you want to know, sign up for free today.

Remember to tell your friends and neighbours how easy it is too.



If you would like to submit an article or any information to this newsletter, let Caroline know at the DFTRA office on 01384 868 010 or email on caroline@dfta.org.uk.

Articles submitted will also be put onto our website— www.dfta.org.uk, and if your TRA has a Facebook Page, blog or website we can put a link to it from our website, just let us know!

You will also find links to our Facebook and Twitter pages on our website.