



Dudley Federation

of Tenants and Residents Associations

Newsletter June 2014

DFTRA Update

Blowing our own trumpet

When DFTRA heard that Oval & Tudor TRA were doing a door knock to promote the group and attracting new members, we decided to go along with Participation Development officer Janet Hand and Joan and Terry from the TRA to help them cover the area. We hope that this will help the group to grow and continue to do great things for the community.

Important dates for Oval & Tudor: Gornal Fun Day on 12th July at the Recreation Ground, Vale Street, Upper Gornal 12-4pm

Oval & Tudor Annual general meeting Wednesday 8th October 2014 at 7pm at the Pensioners Club in Upper Gornal.



Need a meeting room?

DFTRA have 2 meeting rooms, both available for your groups and partner groups to use (subject to availability).

To book a room just give us a call.

Boost your numbers with social media!

Struggling to get people to meetings? Want to reach more people and ignite new interest?

72% of all internet users are now active on social media, and it's not just the younger generation, 60% of 50-60 year olds are active on social media, as well as 43% of over 65s. It has become a part of people's every day life, and whether you're interested in it or not, you can't deny that there's a great opportunity for free promotion of your group's activity.

If you're in need of some assistance then we can help, just let us know!

Who's After Your Money?

The guest speakers at our last General Meeting were Sarah Roper (Principal Learning and Development Officer for DACHS) and Christopher King (Dudley Trading Standards Officer) who came to give a taster of their 'Who's After Your Money?' training. They gave a brief overview of the most common scams and lots of useful advice on how to watch out for rogue traders and what to do if you suspect fraudulent activity.

More information can be found at

www.dudley.gov.uk/resident/your-council/trading-standards/rogue-traders or via www.dftra.org.uk.

We will be setting up a full training session with Chris and Sarah later in the year - if you're interested in attending please let us know by calling **01384 868 010** or emailing info@dftra.org.uk.

In the meantime here are some useful numbers to call if you see any suspicious activity or would like to report a rogue trader you can call:

Dudley Bogus Caller hotline (24/7): 01384 812045

Dudley Trading Standards: 01384 818871

Citizen's Advice Online: 08454 040506

Files and folders

We have lots of ring binders, box files and lever arch files in various colours in our office which we will happily give away free to TRAs and their members! We also have some magazine racks and filing trays available.

If you're interested please contact us.

Brierley Hill Residents' SNOW* (Say No to the Waste-site) Campaign

The consultation period for the SNOW campaign in Brierley Hill has been extended to the 20th July.

SNOW has also learned that the Environment Agency are going to serve notice on Clean Power for more information and clarification concerning its application.

The application is now available to view on CD at Brierley Hill Library, you can also download a copy in pdf format at www.brierleyhillsnow.info and submit your comments via the online form.

Q&A with...Corbyns Bromley TRA

Q. How long has the TRA been active

A. Since October 2013.

Q. What is your biggest achievement?

A. Within our first eight weeks of being formed we had organised a successful Christmas Fair which raised over £350 for our group. Along with a Community Forums grant, this money has funded a huge family fun day celebration in honour of Black Country Day in July. We are also very proud of our first litter pick in April which saw 18 people in attendance and resulted in almost 40 bags of rubbish being removed from pedestrian footpaths and surrounding bushes.

Q. Have you had any difficult times?

A. As none of our group have done anything like this before, learning the ropes hasn't been easy. Constitutions, meetings, Dudley Council, Councillors, grants and funding... all these things were foreign to us at the beginning. There are a few complicated issues in our local area which have required assistance from several Council departments and it can be a long process. We have found the employees of DMBC helpful and we hope to keep making progress.

Q. What are your plans for the future?

A. Generally, to carry on trying our best and keep up the motivation. Specifically, and in the short term, we have a consultation about regeneration in our area in June, our large Summer event at the Dell Stadium (Sunday 13th July) and a litter picking exercise in July, and are continuing to investigate many local issues which include problems with fly-tipping and litter, potholes, housing issues, drainage and a lack of local facilities. Long term we plan to improve green spaces in our area, renew fencing around the estates, stamp out fly-tipping and increase community participation with consultations and reporting of issues.

Q. Any other comments or advice?

A. We have become a close-knit association since forming last year and are a motivated friendly group of varying backgrounds which we believe contributes toward our success. Working toward a common goal we have achieved much in little time and hope to keep up the dynamic for many years to come.



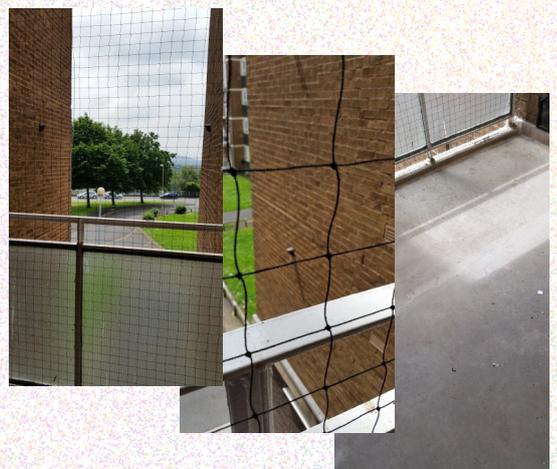
Don't forget! - Black Country Fun Day, Sunday 13th July 1-5pm - blackcountrydaypensnett.co.uk

Spotlight on a Capital Bid project at...Chapel Street Estate TRA

Chapel Street TRA applied for a capital bid for pigeon netting on the communal balconies in August 2012. And the first block to be completed was Briar Court, following the success of the initial bid they made another bid for netting at Dean Court in August 2013.

The group decided to bid for the netting as pigeons were getting on to the balconies and causing a lot of mess, now that the nets are in place the TRA have said that it has improved the balconies a lot. When asked how they found the application process they said that it was a bit of a struggle to start with but with a bit of help from DFTRA they managed well.

The TRA say that they would definitely apply for a bid again in the future and that everyone at DFTRA was a big help.



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