



Dudley Federation

of Tenants and Residents Associations

Newsletter August 2014

DFTRA Update

The Who's after your Money event information has now gone out to groups - if you are interested in attending either the afternoon or evening session on Thursday 9th October please let us know **as soon as possible**.

Upcoming events that DFTRA will be attending and you may be interested in:

Face the people - a public meeting from Dudley's Community Safety Partnership which gives you the chance to ask questions and have your say on crime and safety. The event will be held on Tuesday 16th September at Netherton Arts Centre, DY2 9ER from 7-9pm (doors open at 6.30pm).

First World War Day - This community event to commemorate the centenary of the First World War will take place on Saturday 20th September at the top of Northfield Road between Lloyds Bank and Recreation Street, Netherton with a wide range of activities and entertainment taking place.

Macmillan Coffee Morning - Butterfield Court hold a coffee morning every Tuesday from 10am to 1pm and will be holding a special coffee morning on Friday 26th September 2014 to support Macmillan nurses.

Get connected to health and wellbeing - an event to provide information on supporting vulnerable people in their homes. It will take place at Himley Hall on Thursday 9th October from 9am to 4pm. Email kay.woolls@dudley.gov.uk if you are interested in attending.

Our website has had a facelift thanks to the excellent Michelle Morgan from Corbyns Bromley TRA, we hope that the new layout is more attractive and dynamic. Take a look at www.dftra.org.uk.

Blowing our own trumpet

We recently supported the residents in Marlow Close and Bowling Green Road who were having a problem with vermin. We spoke to the local press who did a report on the issue.

As a result a notice has been served on the land where the rats were found to be nesting. The owner of this property now has a period of time to clear the land or the land will be cleared by the local authority at the owner's expense in accordance with the notice.

Free Travel Support

The Smart Network, Smarter Choices Project offers free travel support to members of community organisations who are over 16 years of age and live, work or study within 400m of the catchment areas.

The free travel support includes;

- Free bus/train/metro tickets for job seekers (WorkWise)
- Free 8 week bus/train/metro pass for people who are about to start a new paid job after a period of unemployment
- Level 1-3 cycle training (minimum group of 6)
- Ride Leader Training (minimum group of 6)
- Led cycle rides
- Bike Instructor Training
- Cycle maintenance sessions training (minimum group of 6)
- Walk Leader Training
- Led walks training (minimum group of 6)
- Travel Planning Support

Please contact LizWood@centro.org.uk or call 0121 214 7601 for more information!

Social Media

Chapel Street Estate TRA are the latest group to seek help and advice on their Facebook page. A brand new page has been set up at:

www.facebook.com/chapelstreetestatetra

Head on over to 'like' their page, see information they are sharing and share any relevant information with them.

If your group needs any assistance with social media just get in touch with us on 01384 868 010 or the Participation Development Team on 01384 815168.

Would you like free tenants and residents associations meeting alerts?

Sign up for emails at www.dudley.gov.uk/housingalerts

Text your surname, house number and postcode to **07797 870352** e.g. Brookes, 10, DY1 1HF (initial text will only cost your standard text rate)

Or ring on **01384 815168** to sign up to the service

Spotlight on a Capital Bid project at...Norton Green TRA

Norton Green Tenants and Residents Association decided to put in a bid for sensor lights as the street lighting was not providing sufficient light for the properties and as most were duplex flats this meant that the side doors in particular were really dark.

The tenants who received the lighting improvements were delighted and it proved to be a great help. When asked how they found the application process the group said that they found it very easy to follow. The members of the TRA also say that the lights have improved the look of the local area as well as making it possible for people to approach their properties safely.

The group stated that they are very happy with all the work that has been done.

Q&A with...Hawbush Tenants and Residents Association

Q. Who are Hawbush TRA?

A. We are a Tenants and Residents Association run by tenant and resident volunteers covering around 1300 properties in the Hawbush area.

Q. When was the TRA formed?

A. The group was first formed in 1987, of course there have been changes over the years and more recently there was a bit of a struggle during 2010 and the group was re-established in October 2011 with a brand new enthusiastic committee.

Q. What are your biggest achievements?

A. In 2008 Dudley Federation gave the committee a shield and certificate of lifetime achievement for being the longest-serving TRA (21 years). Every member of the committee works hard to improve the area and over the years the committee of volunteers have served the community well. In November 2013 we were able to secure money through the Community Safety Bids for the steps by the cemetery in Addison Road to be replaced with new ones. Also, following walkabouts we were influential in getting the path between Bushway Close and Lower Valley Road re-surfaced.

Q. Have you had any times that you have found difficult?

A. There was a struggle at the A.G.M. in December 2009 to form a committee. Thanks to the Federation and the Participation Team of D.M.B.C. we were able to hold an A.G.M. in December 2010, where a group of dedicated volunteers formed a committee, with one goal in mind, to do their best for the Hawbush Estate, and they are continuing to do so.

Q. How are things with the group at the moment?

A. We hold three public meetings a year, one of these being an annual general meeting where a new committee including officers is elected. These meetings are usually held at St Pauls Community and Learning Centre and start at 7pm. Look out for the posters and leaflets that will drop through your doors confirming the meetings. If you have not attended before just come along and have your say – you will find that everyone is helpful and friendly.

Q. What's next for the group?

A. Hopefully more local people will attend our public meetings so that we can find out what you think the priorities are on the estate. We know that trees are regularly discussed at our meetings, and we appreciate that a suitable solution is difficult to arrive at. When possible our Housing Manager and local Councillors attend our public meetings. They all do their best to improve the area that we live in. We would like to see more of you at our General Meetings as your views are much appreciated. We would like to thank those who are always there. We just wish there were more.

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