

# Newsletter

## January - February 2017

### DFTRA Update

Here at Dudley Federation we didn't have the best start to the new year after discovering that the office had been broken into.

Luckily as a non-profit organisation we didn't have a lot for anyone to take, but the destruction has set us back a couple of weeks.

There are lots of exciting things happening this year, starting with discussions around TRA constitutions to see how they can be adapted for modern day Tenants and Residents groups.

We already have some events coming up in Brierley Hill in the next couple of months - check our Facebook page to keep up to date on these and all future events.

### Mayor's Civic Awards

You only have until 19th February to nominate your community heroes from the world of sport, art, community spirit, education, business and environment!

For more information or to make your nomination, go to:

[www.mayorofdudley.org.uk/civicawards](http://www.mayorofdudley.org.uk/civicawards)

Alternatively, call 01384 817449 or pick up a nomination form from libraries and leisure centres across the borough.

### Dudley's Big Switch

After the pricey festive season, now is a perfect time to be thinking about saving on your home gas and electricity bills.

Dudley Council is urging people to sign up to its latest Big Switch energy switching scheme. The scheme offers householders market leading deals on home energy not available elsewhere. Average savings per household of up to £300 per year have been made by people signing up to the scheme.

Signing up is simple – either contact Dudley Council Plus who will guide you through the process, or sign up online.

In previous auctions more than 6000 people across Dudley have registered to switch to enjoy the potential of the great savings on offer. Since the scheme began in June 2013 the collective savings made by borough residents has topped £520,000 and if everyone had proceeded to switch, savings would have reached £1.5 million.

The Big Switch is open now and closes for registrations on 13th February. To take advantage of the cut price rates offered by energy companies call 0300 555 2345 or visit [www.dudley.gov.uk/bigswitch](http://www.dudley.gov.uk/bigswitch).

The scheme is open to all householders, including people living in rented accommodation and people with a prepayment meter.

### Adult and Community learning

The new prospectus is now available! Go to

<https://goo.gl/Wa6fzz> to view it on our website.

Stay up to date on meetings and events - sign up for FREE email and text alerts



Online at [www.dudley.gov.uk/housingalerts](http://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



Call 01384 815168 to sign up to the service





## TRA Updates



We can't wait to see what our groups are up to! Don't forget to let us know what you have planned for your 2017!

## Events in Dudley

Interested in finding out what's happening in the Dudley Borough? Sign up to the Dudley community email on interests.me at

[dudley.interests.me](http://dudley.interests.me)

## The Green Space Improvement Project

After the very successful (and very cold!) event in Quarry Bank in November, the scheme has taken a well earned break over the frosty months.

We'll be back up and running before you know it though, so please get in touch if you know any worthy sites in need of a make over or if you're willing to pitch in for a few hours. It's great exercise and you'll go away knowing that you've made a difference to people's lives - a win-win!



## Have your say on the Homelessness Prevention Strategy 2017 - 2019

The draft strategy has been produced in partnership with a range of agencies who help to prevent homelessness from occurring in the Borough.

View the draft at:

[www.dudley.gov.uk/resident/housing/plans-policies-strategies/](http://www.dudley.gov.uk/resident/housing/plans-policies-strategies/)

Make your comments by 23rd March 2017 to

[joanne.forbes@dudley.gov.uk](mailto:joanne.forbes@dudley.gov.uk)

## Snow Busters - Snow Clearance Programme

Do you want to help your community by clearing pathways and pavements for those less able?

### Become a Snow Buster!

Snow Busters is a community snow clearance scheme. We're looking for volunteers who are able to clear pathways and pavements within their community during periods of bad weather and heavy snowfall.

Snow Buster volunteers will receive the following:

Snow Pack that contains a shovel, a spreader, 2.5kg or 5kg bag of salt and a high vis vest

Volunteer Briefing Sheet

Snow Clearing Guidance

Manual Handling Guidance

Who you gonna call?!

If you're interested in volunteering or would like more information about the scheme, please contact Helen Langley (Dudley Council's Winter Warmth Service) on 01384 817 086.



**Winter warmth support**

keep warm, keep well  
Call 01384 817086

## Dudley Federation of Tenants and Residents Associations

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