



# Dudley Federation

## of Tenants and Residents Associations

2021/22 3rd Quarter newsletter November 2021 - January 2022

### Dudley Federation Update

We're finally holding our overdue Annual General Meeting! After waiting, (and waiting!) for it to be safe to hold an in-person meeting, we have decided to hold our AGM online via Microsoft Teams. It will take place on Thursday 27th January 2022 from 6pm. If you would like to join please email [info@dftra.org.uk](mailto:info@dftra.org.uk) and let us know.

It has been great to see and hear of groups getting back to holding in-person meetings. If you're not comfortable meeting face-to-face just yet, that's ok. If you would like assistance with holding online meetings just ask your Participation Development Officer or Dudley Federation for advice/training.

Dudley Federation will be closed from 22nd December 2021 and will reopen on Tuesday 4th January 2022. Emergency Dudley Council numbers can be found overleaf.

### TRA Focus Group

The focus group has been set up to navigate Tenants and Residents Associations returning to having meetings safely following the disruption caused by Covid-19. The group discusses many aspects of TRA meetings: how to hold them responsibly as well as issues that may arise such as venue availability and a rise in costs. Digital meetings are also discussed, and members are encouraged to make suggestions and submit ideas to encourage involvement both face-to-face, digitally, or even both at the same time.

If you would like to attend a future focus group meeting please email [participation@dudley.gov.uk](mailto:participation@dudley.gov.uk) or call 01384 815168. The next meeting will take place on Microsoft Teams on Thursday 6th January 2022 at 10.30am.

### Winter Security Tips

The dark winter nights can encourage bogus callers to target older and more vulnerable people. Distraction burglaries often increase during winter, particularly around Christmas.

Older people in particular are often targeted by scammers, in their homes. Recent local scams have included property maintenance cold callers, bogus mobility equipment and bogus home security alarm sales, along with fake lotteries and prize draws. Always be wary of people selling things at the door. If you are concerned, seek advice from Dudley Trading Standards on 01384 814600 who are always happy to help.

The council's Living well, feeling safe service offers free home safety and security advice and equipment, such as door chains and window locks.

Fire risks also increase during winter. The service can offer free fire risk checks, smoke alarms and fire safety advice.

Request a Living well, feeling safe assessment by calling 01384 817 743.

## New benches pay tribute and bring community together

Thanks to Darby End TRA, Mousesweet park now has two lovely new benches. As the park is well used by local dog walkers and children who play football on the 5 a side pitch, the TRA decided some time ago that it would be a good idea for users to have somewhere to sit and relax on a sunny day, or watch their children playing football. The TRA hope that the benches will help to further develop positivity within the community.

Consultation was carried out with local residents who were unanimously in favour. Participation Development Officer Luke Tilt assisted the group in securing funding through Community Forum in April 2020. Installation of the benches was delayed, firstly due to Covid-19 and lockdowns and then staffing issues but are now proudly in place in the park.

The group wanted to pay tribute to John Mason who was the long time chair of the group, and a well known community champion in the Netherton area. Therefore they decided to dedicate one of the benches to him. John's son who lives in Malvern found out about the benches and came along to the opening day, saying he would visit again in future when he wishes to sit and spend some time with his father. "Rest a while and smile."



## Coronavirus Update - Plan B rules in response to Omicron variant:

- Wear a face covering in most indoor public places and on public transport
- Get tested and self-isolate if required
- Work from home, if you can
- If you haven't already, get vaccinated
- Let fresh air in if you meet indoors. Meeting outdoors is safer.

## Dudley Council Christmas Opening times & emergency contacts

- ❑ Dudley Council plus: 0300 555 2345 – The walk-in centre at Castle Street, telephone and online services will be closed from 24th to 28th December and on 1st January.
- ❑ The Repairs Management Centre: 0300 555 8283 – There will be an emergency repair service only from 24th to 28th December and from 1st to 3rd January. Emergency repairs are anything that is a threat to your property or health. Out of hours emergency calls will be dealt with as usual. Day to day standard repairs will need to be reported when the Repairs Centre is operating as a normal working day.
- ❑ Callpay 0300 555 7000
- ❑ Children's and adult care services emergency duty team 0300 555 8574

## Dudley Federation of Tenants and Residents Associations 1 St Giles Street, Netherton DY2 0PR

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