

Newsletter March 2014

DFTRA update

Welcome to our new look newsletter! After reviewing our newsletter and its' format, we decided to produce a more concentrated newsletter on a more regular basis, so here it is! This will now be produced monthly and we hope to bring you any important information that may be useful to your TRA, as well as a few new features from us.

Input from our members has never been more important, if you have any thoughts, ideas or opinions about the organisation please let us know. Don't forget, we're here to help you!



Happy Birthday Phyllis!

All at DFTRA wished our longest serving board member Phyllis Rowley a very happy 77th birthday earlier this month.

Blowing our own trumpet

In the last 12 months DFTRA have printed over 40,000 general meeting leaflets for Tenants and Residents Associations!

Social Media training

After receiving funding from the lottery last year for equipment and training we are very happy to announce that the long awaited Social Media training has now taken place!

We worked with Chris Perks from Blue Ethos who is a brilliant trainer and all round marketing and social media genius to ensure that the training was specially tailored for community groups, outlining the world of Social Media but focussing on the platforms, advice and information that groups would find most effective.

The feedback from the sessions held has been excellent, with almost everyone who attended reporting that their knowledge of Social Media had improved, and all said that they found it useful and relevant. If you are interested in future training in this area please let us know.



Partnership meeting updates

► New tenants – assistance with decoration

Following an article in our last newsletter we have been asked to confirm that decorating allowances for new tenants are only given where the internal decoration of the property is not considered to be of a reasonable standard. The Property Liaison Officer will advise incoming tenants if they are to receive an allowance at the viewing.

Tenants are then issued with a B & Q card when they sign for their new tenancy. This is similar to a bank or gift card which can be used for decorating materials at any B & Q store.

A message from Norton Green TRA

We had our first walkabout of the year in March, it was well attended. While having a good tour around and about we decided that it was keeping clean and tidy at the moment.

We have our annual open house booked for St George's Day on Saturday 26th April from 12-4pm. Everyone is welcome, there will be good food, a friendly chat and excellent raffle prizes. All funds will be raised in aid of Air Ambulance.

On Saturday 5th July there will be a coach trip to Weston-Super-Mare, if anyone is interested please call Bas Yeates on 01384 441014.

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 the Participation Development Team on **01384 815168** to sign up to the service

Q&A with... Wells and Manor Court TRA

In each edition of the DFTRA newsletter we will focus attention on a Tenants and Residents Association. We will tell you their story, highlight their achievements and outline their plans for the future. This month we put the spotlight on Wells and Manor Court TRA.

Q - How long has the TRA been active?

A - Since 1999

Q - What would you say is your biggest achievement?

A - The car park and the doors that were fitted.

Q - Have you had any times that you found difficult?

A - Yes, at the moment. We have some outstanding works to be done through Aerial Bids. It's disheartening when you don't see the results from things that are agreed on, there have never been such delays before.

Q - How does the group get through these times?

A - Persevere, because if you don't keep going to the meetings then nothing will get done. The only way to get results is to keep trying.

Q - What are your plans for the future?

A - We would like to get the outstanding aerial bids done, as well as the ones that we have recently agreed. Our long term goal as always is to make the area a better place to live in. The flats are great properties, and we want it to be an area to be proud to live in.

Q - Do you have any other comments or advice?

A - Make your area better by getting involved in your local TRA. It is the best way to get your opinions across and address problems in the local area.



Wells and Manor Court TRA Public meetings are held at Trinity Church Hall, Church Road, Netherton and the next meeting is on 16th July 2014 at 2pm

Spotlight on a Capital bid project at...Wells and Manor Court TRA



before



after

Another new addition to the newsletter will be reports on Capital Bid projects granted by DFTRA.

Wells and Manor Court decided to put in a bid for tarmacking of Manor Court car park as the car park was in a terrible state (see photos on right). The final estimate for the work was £13,800.

The TRA are very happy with the work that has been done and have thanked us personally for helping them with the bid.

If you are interested in applying for a capital bid grant to fund a project in your area, please contact us for an application form and we will guide you through the process.



before



after

The PDSA are bringing their pet check event to Dudley again

Free well being checks for dogs (dogs only for safety reasons). During the check, an experienced veterinary nurse will discuss the five welfare needs of your dog including diet and nutrition, body shape awareness; dental care; general health and wellbeing. A range of preventive treatments at an affordable cost are also available including microchipping, nail clipping and ear cleaning. Free advice is also available on the care of other pets.

Tuesday 29th April - High Fields Estate Halesowen location Hope Centre B63 4TT

Wednesday 30th April - Clent & Claverley Courts, Vicarage Prospect, Dudley DY1 2AU

Thursday 1st May - Chapel Street Estate, Housing Office, Hill Street, Brierley Hill DY5 2SD

Friday 2nd May - Arley & Compton Courts, Swan Street, Netherton DY2 9EE

For more information please call Jo Gumus on 01384 815168



Want more? Check out our website and social media sites for more photos, news and information!

Dudley Federation of Tenants and Residents Associations

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