

DFTRA update

We have updated our policies and procedures for 2014, and have decided to save money by making these available on our website instead of printing them out and giving them to TRAs at a general meeting. If you would like a printed copy sent to you please let us know. Our latest Service Level Agreement report is also available to view via our website.

Blowing our own trumpet

From April 2013—February 2014 the DFTRA Board members visited 47 TRA meetings, that's almost one a week!

Social Media

Following on from the Social Media training that took place earlier this year, we will be holding monthly support sessions on the first Thursday of every month 10am-12noon in the Resource Hub at DFTRA. The first session will be on Thursday 5th June and members from any Tenants and Residents group are welcome.

Just in case you need a little more persuading on the use of Social Media to promote your TRA, here are some ways that social media can help you:

- By making people aware that there is a community group active in their area
- To promote meetings
- Engaging interest in upcoming, ongoing or completed projects in the local area
- Enabling conversation from people who are unable to attend meetings

Clean Power Energy Centre in Brierley Hill and the SNOW* campaign

You have probably heard about proposals put forward by Clean Power Properties to build a plant in Moor Street in Brierley Hill. After their initial proposal was put forward in October 2012 and rejected in August 2013, Clean Power then lodged an appeal earlier this year.

This has led to a group of local residents and councillors resuming their campaign to object to the plant and make residents aware of the potential implications that this may have on the surrounding area. This campaign is now known as Brierley Hill SNOW* (Say no to Waste site).

The campaign is not against the development of the Moor Street site, but they have fears that this kind of development could cause excessive noise from heavy vehicles, damage to roads and unpleasant odours in the surrounding areas.

Clean Power Properties have denied that the plant will produce an odour and have listened to comments on the amount of traffic in and out of the plant and vowed to reduce the number of deliveries to an average of 3 per hour and for these only to take place during daytime hours. More information can be found at www.brierleyhillenergy.info

As a result of the appeal by Clean Power properties, a Public Inquiry will now take place. This will start at 10am on Tuesday 17th June at Dudley Council House and the public are welcome to attend. At this inquiry the SNOW* appear as a "full party" with the same status as Clean Power and Dudley Council. This is a big step for a group of this kind and proof that community action can have a big voice.

Of course DFTRA are in full support of finding ways to produce renewable energy, but we must support the local tenants and residents in their campaign to stop this plant being built in a residential area.

The public are also welcome to attend the next SNOW* public meeting on Wednesday 4th June at Hawbush Primary School, Hawbush Road, Brierley Hill DY5 3NH at 7.00pm. This meeting will give you the chance to find out about the SNOW* campaign so far, plans up to and including the Public Inquiry, what part SNOW* will play at the Public Inquiry and what you can do to help.

You can find more information on the SNOW* campaign at

Web: www.brierleyhillsnow.info.

Facebook: Brierley-Hill-Snow

Twitter: @BrierleyHillsNO

Email: brierleyhillsnow@gmail.com



Spotlight on a Capital bid project at...Tanhouse TRA

We spoke with Richard Priest, the Chairperson at Tanhouse TRA about the recent capital bid project in the area.

He told us that the group were in support of the project which protected the privacy of people living in the ground level property in Milton House.

Richard praised the support that he and the group received and the work that was done.

If you would like more information on what can be bid for please let us know. If you are interested in applying for a capital bid please get in touch with us and we will guide you through the process.



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...The New Wrens Nest TRA

Q - How long has the TRA been running in its' current format?

A - The TRA was set up in September 2013.

Q - How are things going with the group?

A - Like many other TRAs, the committee are finding it challenging to encourage the local community to get involved and attend meetings but we are endeavouring to find solutions to the problems.

Q - Have you found any difficulty with the running of the group?

A - Meetings to be used as stepping stones to improve the communication between the TRA and the general public.

Q - What would you say is your biggest achievement to date?

A - Keeping the committee together and remaining positive.

Q - What are your plans for the future?

A - To tackle the litter on the estate.

Q - Any other comments?

A - More communication between TRAs would be helpful, as well as more support across the areas.



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

Dudley Federation of Tenants and Residents Associations

The Ground Floor Complex of Booth Court, Lower Derry Street, Brierley Hill DY5 2SJ

-- **Tel: 01384 868010** -- **Website: www.dftra.org.uk** -- **E-mail: info@dftra.org.uk** --

-- **www.twitter.com/DudleyFed** -- **www.facebook.com/dudleyfed** --