



Dudley Federation

of Tenants and Residents Associations

Newsletter April 2015

DFTRA Update

It's been another busy month for us and our members!

During the last month, the Board members of Dudley Federation have received issues raised by you as members and have taken these complaints to the various partnership meetings where necessary. We have also requested a full report from PH Jones to explain the issue regarding certificates not being issued following yearly gas inspections which was mentioned in our last general meeting. If you have any issues that you would like us to look at and assist with, please get in touch and let us know.

As with last month, we have really enjoyed visiting our member groups as they hold events, it's really inspiring to see people giving up their time to help organise these events, especially when you see people coming away having enjoyed themselves and with the help that they were looking for.

We are also working closely with Chapel Street Estate TRA, local elected members and the Participation Team to help with the planning of various events and activities to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the opening of the Chapel Street Estate.

Stay tuned for dates and information, coming soon!

Food hygiene

Are you interested in basic food hygiene training or do you have a certificate that is due to run out? Get in touch with the Participation Development Team on 01384 815168 to book your place on the 1 day course.

Communication Group

If you're interested in having your say about the council website, Home Affairs, text alerts or any other communication within Dudley Council, there are spaces on the Communication Group.

The group meet every few months to discuss various aspects of communication as well as the content of Home Affairs.

If you are interested please call the Participation Development Team on 01384 815 168.

Stay up to date on meetings!

You can sign up for FREE email and text alerts by:

Signing up for emails at:
www.dudley.gov.uk/housingalerts

Texting 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 by ringing on 01384 815168 to sign up to the service

Changes to Dudley Council Plus

In case you weren't aware, we thought we would give you an overview of the changes that have happened in Dudley Council Plus from April 2015:

- The **opening hours** have changed to **Monday to Friday 8.30am to 5pm** and **Saturday 9am to 12noon**.
- There is a new **self-service area** (with assistance available) which has **computers, free phones** and **scanners**.
- There's a new style **reception service** which will deal with **simple queries, refer customers** and where necessary customers will be **assisted** with using the self service area. Should a customer need to see an **expert** to discuss a more complex issue, **tickets** will provided here.
- A new **'DC+ Local' service** will be in place at 3 of the main borough **libraries** - **Brierley Hill, Halesowen and Stourbridge**. These have replaced the previous Housing Service - but don't worry, the previous service will still be available, in fact there will now be **more assistance** available to help with other **DMBC queries and issues**.

Don't forget you can call Dudley Council Plus on 0300 555 2345.

What a busy bunch!

It's no secret that Corbyns Bromley are a very hard working group, but since our last newsletter they've been even busier than usual with a litter pick and a coffee morning, as well as planning their next Black Country Day celebration (12th July at the Dell)!

During the successful litter pick on 21st March, part of their continued Fighting Dirty campaign, there were 20 bags of litter collected by 29 volunteers from local community groups.

This superb effort involved volunteers from 1st Bromley Pensnett Beavers, High Oak Youth Club, Crestwood Park Primary School and Crestwood Community Church. The volunteers came together and collectively walked three streets of the Bromley housing estate covering paths, green spaces, alleys, bushes and communal garages to ensure the area was clear of all litter. The group also targeted an unsightly abandoned pub clearing litter and weeds from tarmacked areas and unblocking drains around the building's perimeter.

Chair Person of Corbyns Bromley TRA, and litter picking Group Leader, Cath Lloyd said: "This is a superb effort both from the number of volunteers who helped and the volume that they collected. I would like to thank everyone who volunteered for both their hard work and community spirit. This is the sort of collective community action that helps to keep Pensnett tidy and a friendly place to live". Community group litter picks take place on the Corbyns Bromley housing estates four times per year. If you are interested in getting involved with the next litter pick on 31st May then get in touch with the TRA!

The group also held a 'Big Brew' coffee morning, proving lots of information for anyone who wanted to pop in for a cuppa. The event went very well, with lots of people seeking information and guidance. If you missed it then keep an eye out for information on the next one!

The Tenants and Residents Association can be contacted at www.facebook.com/corbynsbromley.tra or visit their website www.corbynsbromley.co.uk for more details.

Saltwells Community Action Day

Saltwells TRA held a very successful Community Action Day on 8th April!

Over 150 people attended the day which offered lots of services and activities. Dudley Council officers and the Police and Fire Service were on hand to offer help and guidance and the RSPCA were offering advice and treatments, 40 cats and dogs received microchipping ensuring that they are ready for when it becomes compulsory next year.

The TRA are now planning a community litter pick, if you are interested in getting involved contact the Participation Team on 01384 815168 or email participation@dudley.gov.uk.



More Litter Pick success!

Well done to Ellowes Hall & Area TRA who also had a very successful litter pick on Saturday 25th April.

The group are also very active on social media and have a website in the pipeline which we are very excited to see.

Well done everyone!

Dudley Federation of Tenants and Residents Associations
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