



Dudley Federation Newsletter

of Tenants and Residents Associations

August - September 2015

"If we do not act as a community, we will not survive"

So says Councillor Gaye Partridge, lead member for Housing in a recent discussion with us. At the start of the discussion Gaye told us about her early life. Now 57 she was one of the last children born at Waste Bank, Lye.

Her first job was at the Midlands Electricity Board where she started at the bottom, in the Mailing Office, and rose to be Head of Secretarial Purchasing before being made redundant. The next step in her career was a move to the iconoclastic internet banking company Egg. Here she was originally a mortgage advisor, and was then involved in debt collection.

Whilst at Egg Gaye was elected to Dudley Council, following in the family tradition of volunteering and community activism. Surrounded by a sister who was a radical midwife, another sister who worked with profoundly disabled people and a father who was an active trade unionist it seems that this path was destined for her. At the root of her beliefs is that 'there is no need for poverty' Gaye's Mom is a volunteer at a local hospice, something she has done for over twenty years. If this is not enough she ventured to Romania during the eighties, travelling across Europe delivering aid and providing help to people living in truly terrible conditions.

Gaye has now been a Councillor in Dudley for fourteen years. She has a profound belief that 'politics is about providing solutions'. A large percentage of her casework centred around housing so becoming lead member for Housing in June 2014 seemed like a natural progression.

The area Gaye is responsible for has experienced a lot of change in the last twelve months, which is to enable it to deal with what is coming in the future. The Council has experienced significant reductions in funding with more to come. Dramatic changes in the way that welfare benefits are handled will have to be dealt with in the near future.

'The Council provides accommodation but people make homes and communities'. A vibrant healthy community is, in Gaye's opinion one of the most important things in life. Everyone should have access to good quality housing with clean streets, and access to activities so as people really feel part of where they are living.

Gaye reiterated the theme of our discussion that Dudley MBC is a Community Council who will engage in dialogue with people, and decisions will be made reflecting what people of the Borough have said.

'If we do not act as a community we will not survive'. Gaye finished our discussion by saying that being lead member of Housing is hard work, time consuming, often frustrating but something that is absolutely definitely worth doing and worth doing well.

John Doughty

DFTRA Update

It's been another busy, challenging but altogether rewarding year for Dudley Federation. As a board we continue to take up issues on behalf of tenants and residents, assist TRA groups in their ventures and campaign for change to make living in the Dudley Borough as easy and enjoyable as possible.

We have gone back to the bi-monthly format for these newsletters, aiming to get more information out to members via email and social media in-between. If you have any suggestions for articles or information that you think needs to be promoted please let us know.



Wollaston Farm TRA event Thursday 20th August 2015



www.facebook.com/WollastonFarm
[www.twitter.com/WollastonFarm](https://twitter.com/WollastonFarm)

Wollaston Farm TRA held a successful information Day in August. The day was centred around 'Bite Back Week' which raises the awareness of loan sharks. As well as information on finances from the Illegal Money Lending Team and Castle and Crystal there were several other organisations providing information on Anti Social Behaviour, Housing Support, Telecare, Keepmoat updating on the progress of the New Build project, plus many more.

The Tenants and Residents Association had done an excellent job alongside the Participation Development team of getting the event up and running.

For more information on Loan Sharks and what to do if you encounter one go to dfta.org.uk/stop-loan-sharks or visit our social media pages where you will find links to the article.

0300 555 2222

Text 'loan shark + your message' to 60003



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



Online 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 Call 01384 815168 to sign up to the service

Chapel Street TRA 50th Anniversary Fun Day Saturday 5th September 2015

The TRA on the Chapel Street Estate put a lot of effort into their Anniversary Fun Day, assisted by the Participation Development Team and DFTRA, even Peppa Pig made an appearance!

↓ Here's Jayne, the Chair of the TRA with Peppa.



As you can see, faces were painted, and so was a mural representing the Estate and its' 50 year history.

Here's the Mayor Cllr. Steve Waltho adding his contribution →

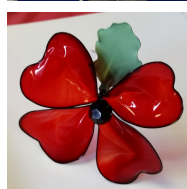


Photos were on display showing the estate throughout the years, these were kindly contributed by Brian Marsh, a resident of the estate (pictured ↙) As well as fun and games including hook a duck and a tombola there was information on healthy eating with some very tasty samples available →



The mural wasn't the only creative activity on offer, there was poppy making for a commemorative mural with Adult and Community

← Learning and flower planting and 'seed doughnut' ↓ making with the Royal Horticultural Society! Well done to everyone involved in the day!



More photos at www.facebook.com/ChapelStreetEstateTRA

Corbyns Bromley TRA clean up

20th September 2015

Well done to Corbyns Bromley TRA and their volunteers once again as they successfully cleaned up the High Oak green area. The dedicated bunch were up and about on a Sunday making the area look lovely!

Their next project will be at Pony Bank on Sunday 11th October.



More photos and info at www.facebook.com/corbynsbromley.tra

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