



# Dudley Federation Newsletter

of Tenants and Residents Associations

October - December 2015

## DFTRA Update

Well here we are, another year almost done. As you are probably aware there will be no Christmas awards event this year, but don't be too disappointed as the majority of groups have confirmed that they would like a quiz night in the early part of next year. More information will be available on this soon.

We will be supporting Operation Santa again this year, asking our groups to donate gifts as well as food with excess being donated to the Black Country Food Bank. Let's make Christmas enjoyable for everyone this year! More information can be found at [www.operationsanta.wordpress.com](http://www.operationsanta.wordpress.com).

## ❄ Winter months ❄

Winter is most definitely upon us, and with cold weather comes many issues. We have compiled some information on how to look after yourself, your neighbours and your home in the cold weather.

### People

Winter can mean an increase in illnesses brought on or made worse by the cold.

- ❄ By keeping hydrated, warm and defending yourself against germs by washing your hands can help defend against the common cold.
- ❄ Flu may be common, but it is a major killer of vulnerable people. The best way to defend yourself is to get the flu jab, to find out if you can get this for free see the NHS website or consult your GP.
- ❄ Drink hot drinks and eat at least one hot meal a day if possible, eating regularly will keep energy levels up.
- ❄ Wrap up warm with several light layers of warm clothes and wear shoes with good grip when outside.
- ❄ Your living room should be between 18 and 21°C.
- ❄ Keep an eye on friends, relatives and neighbours who may have issues in the cold. You may feel like you're being nosey, but noticing that your neighbour hasn't been out and no one has been to visit for a while could save their life.
- ❄ Keep stocked up on store cupboard staples. If you don't fancy facing the roads or footpaths when snow and ice hit, keep a stock of rice, pasta, tinned food and anything with a long shelf life to ensure that you won't go hungry. You can offer excess to vulnerable neighbours should you have concerns.

Lots more advice on winter safety can be found online via the Dudley Council website - search 'Dudley Council winter advice.'

### Homes

Cold weather can affect your property and cause many issues.

- ❄ The biggest risk to homes in the winter is frozen pipes. If it is forecast to freeze, keep your central heating at a minimum of 12-15°C - especially if you are going away.
- ❄ Make sure that you have had your annual gas safety check. If you are a Dudley Council tenant, this is free.
- ❄ Draw your curtains when it starts to get dark and close doors to keep the heat in. Block any draughts - but keep air vents clear, fires and heaters need ventilation.
- ❄ Make sure that items in your garden are removed or put away, high winds could cause items like trampolines and garden furniture to fly around and become a danger. It is also a good idea to check for loose tiles on the roof!\*
- ❄ Loose branches from trees can also be a hazard, and falling leaves can block guttering and drains so make sure these are cleared.\*
- ❄ Make sure you have home insurance, Council tenants can call 01384 815051 to arrange cover.
- ❄ Council tenants should report repairs to the Repairs Management Centre on 0300 555 8283 as soon as possible.

\*some things are best left to a professional to ensure safety, search 'Dudley Fix-A-Home' for a list of approved traders through Dudley Trading Standards or call Dudley Council Plus on 0300 555 2345 to request a brochure.



## The Big question Budget consultation

The big question  
your services your say  
Budget consultation 2016/17

As you are probably aware, Dudley Council are having to make further cuts following reductions from national government.

Over the next three years they expect to have to reduce the controllable spend by a third, so for every £3 they spend now they will be spending £2 in 2018/19.

This means that reductions in services are inevitable.

Therefore; Dudley Council want your suggestions and ideas on how we can deliver services differently and which services the community could play a greater role in.

This is your chance to have a say on how services are run and how they are delivered.

To complete the consultation go to:

<http://goo.gl/00TXcw>

### Mayor's Civic Awards

Nominations for the Mayor's Civic Awards begin in January 2016, information will be available in the new year at [www.dudley.gov.uk/civicawards](http://www.dudley.gov.uk/civicawards)

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



**Online at** [www.dudley.gov.uk/housingalerts](http://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)



**Call** 01384 815168 to sign up to the service

And finally...

# Merry Christmas from Dudley Federation

## See you in the New Year!

## Dudley Federation of Tenants and Residents Associations

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-- [www.twitter.com/DudleyFed](https://www.twitter.com/DudleyFed) -- [www.facebook.com/dudleyfed](https://www.facebook.com/dudleyfed) --

## What's happening?

There are loads of events happening in the Borough over the next few weeks, far too many to mention them all here so keep an eye out for local events in free papers and online via TRA Facebook pages.

### Brierley Hill

Christmas light switch on in the Moor Centre - 28th November 12-5pm

Christmas Lunch at the South Street Café - 2nd December 11.30-2pm

Christmas Craft Fair - Brierley Hill Civic Hall 5th December 1-4pm

Santa Jog - The Dell Stadium, Bryce Road. Kids 10.15am, adults 6K from 11.30am. registration is from 9.30am and it is limited to 500 participants so get there early to avoid disappointment!

[www.brierleyhill-santajog.info](http://www.brierleyhill-santajog.info)

More information on events in Brierley Hill:

[www.xmasinbrierleyhill.wordpress.com](http://www.xmasinbrierleyhill.wordpress.com)

### Upper Gornal

The Christmas lights will be switched on in Upper Gornal's The Arcade on Friday 4th December. There will be family entertainment including local choirs singing carols at the event which is running from 4.30pm to 7.30pm. The Mayor of Dudley, Councillor Steve Waltho will be in attendance with the lights will be switched on at 6.30pm.

If you have an event that you would like to promote, please let us know and we will post it on our Social Media pages.

love   
your community

### Coming soon...DFTRA Quiz Night 2016

If you would like to be involved in the planning of our quiz night next year, please let us know!