

# NEWSLETTER



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## Federation's Annual General Meeting



*Pictured (right): Rhona Gudgin, Street Wardens Manager & Andrew Derry, previous CTRF Vice-chair.*



*Pictured above: various group members enjoying the evening*

### Head of Housing and Street Wardens' Manager in attendance at CTRF's Annual General Meeting

The Federation held its Annual General Meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> January 2009, guests attending were members from most Affiliated Groups, Belinda Wildey, Cannock Council's Estate Management Team Leader.

Guest Speakers were Ian Tennant, Head of Housing at Cannock Council and Rhona Gudgin (*pictured above*), the new Street Wardens Manager also from the Council, Rhona talked about the role of Street Wardens, a service available Monday to Friday, 9am to 9pm, they work in the community to highlight and resolve environmental issues, offer a signposting service for information, to the community, about other statutory or community agencies, work with young people both in and out of school raising awareness of their responsibility to be good citizens, work with local community groups and other agencies

helping resolve problems such as nuisance, anti-social behaviour, litter, fly-tipping, graffiti, abandoned vehicles and offer support to elderly, vulnerable people or victims of crime. Wardens wear a blue uniform, carrying out high visibility patrols in areas that are experiencing problems, aiming to deter anti-social behaviour and reduce the fear of crime. You can contact the Street Wardens on telephone number 01543 437430.

**Officers elected at the AGM were;** Anne Ames as Chairperson, Janette Stevenson as Vice-chair replacing Andrew Derry who stood down, Guy Waddell as Secretary and Hazel Heath as Treasurer. The formalities of the evening were concluded quickly, allowing time for guests to socialise and network with other members which they all seemed to enjoy.

# Affiliated Group News



**ATRC - Area Tenants' and Residents' Collective**

This group was set up for tenants and residents of the Cannock Chase District that do not live in the catchment area of a Residents' Association, members of the group have access to all training opportunities through their affiliation to the CTRF and can attend many meetings both with the council and other agencies in the area. The group can also take up any issues that members may have with the council, if you would like to join the ATRC or find out more about them please contact the Federation (contact details on back page). Pictured above is David Stagg, the group's Chairperson, who has, through taking part in his local estate walk organised by the council, alerted them to the need for dropped kerbs on his estate, see below for David's story. Dates for the next estate walks taking place in the Johnson Road area (no.7) are: - **8<sup>th</sup> April, 7<sup>th</sup> July and 1<sup>st</sup> October**, all residents are invited to join in. To find out the location and start time of walks, please contact the Estate Management Team at the council on 01543 462621.

*"Through taking part in my local estate walk and mentioning to the estate management officer, of no provision of dropped kerbs for disabled scooter users, arrangements were made for a site visit with myself and a local highways officer from Staffordshire County Council. Promises were not made but the news was good when I heard, dropped kerbs have now been laid at corners across Shakespeare Grove, 3 other corner locations in Garrick Road, 2 in Boswell Road, 3 locations in Johnson Road, with 2 more pending across entrances to garage areas of Johnson Road. These dropped kerbs have aided mobility scooter users a safer way to cross roads and connect with the highways for social and domestic freedom"*

*David Stagg*

## Bevan Lee Estate

The Association held a successful AGM on 18<sup>th</sup> February 2009. Officers elected were:-

**Chairperson – Anne Higgs**

**Vice-chairperson – Lorraine Plant**

**Secretary – Dawn Gosling**

**Treasurer – Sam Devey**

The committee always welcome new members and urge council tenants in particular, who are under represented on the committee at the moment, to come forward and join them to ensure your voices are heard as well as owner occupiers and Housing Association tenants. If interested, please contact a committee member or telephone the Federation for further information.

## Rumer Hill

### Garage Site Clean Up

All the garage sites on the estate have recently been cleared of rubbish by Street Wardens from Cannock Council, there was quite a lot of rubbish which had accumulated over a period of time, and the Association would like to say a big thank you to the Street Wardens, especially AJ, for carrying out the clean up operation.

## Springfields

The Association will be taking part in the annual Charter Fair on 6<sup>th</sup> June in Rugeley and will have a stall at the event, the committee are requesting donations of items for their Tombola, if you can help with this please contact a committee member.

## Towers

The Association held a successful AGM on 27<sup>th</sup> January, since then Jean Hollingmode, Chair, Barbara Brindley, Treasurer and Mandy Jones, Committee Member have stood down from their positions, at a meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> February the Officer positions were taken up by the following:-

**Acting Chairperson – Mandy Howells**

**Acting Vice-chairperson – Michelle Edwards**

**Acting Treasurer – Sharon Crutchley**

**Secretary – Bill Rogers**

On behalf of all Towers Residents, the Federation would like to say a big 'thank you' to the people who have stood down, for all their hard work & commitment to the group over many years, they have worked tirelessly organizing many events including trips to Blackpool for residents. We hope the new committee will follow in their footsteps and continue with the good work of bringing the community together.

# Estate Walks Feedback & Information for Future Walks

All Associations have a regular Estate Walk with their Estate Manager to highlight any estate problems. Groups with an Estate Agreement in place include these walks as part of the process of their Agreement. Problems picked up on the walks are shown below; unresolved issues are in the hands of the council. Residents are invited to join their estate walks and each estate is then given a score rating. Dates of the walks are shown below each Association's report but they will inform their Residents of the start time and meeting location, prior to their own walk taking place.

**Score Ratings are: -**

**A = Excellent, B = Good,**

**C = Average and D = Below Average.**

## Bevan Lee Estate

**Next walk – 26<sup>th</sup> May 2009**

## Circle of Residents (CORA) – 13<sup>th</sup> March

- St. Bernards Close – Pot holes
- Danby Drive – Pot holes and uneven footpath

**Score = A**

**Next walk – 15<sup>th</sup> June 2009**

## Cornish Houses – 19<sup>th</sup> February

- Rowley Close - Rubbish/blocked drain/uneven pathway due to tree roots-trip hazard

**Score = B**

**Next walk – 15<sup>th</sup> June 2009**

## Longford & Avon – 16<sup>th</sup> February

- Avon Road – Bump in road allegedly causing vibration to some properties/crossing timing issues/trees cut at side of crystal fountain pub/potholes/overgrown land
- Longford Green – Trees to be removed as lifting flagstones
- Dee Grove/Don Grove/Tame Grove– Potholes
- Avon Road Garage Site – Floor sinking in garage area and pathway to garage area

**Score = A**

**Next walk – 25<sup>th</sup> June 2009**

## Pine View

**Next walk – 24<sup>th</sup> June 2009.**



## Rumer Hill – 21<sup>st</sup> January

- Salop Drive – Lock changed but no keys issued to residents
- Worcester Close – Uneven tarmac and moss
- Oxford Green area of land – Untidy area needs returfing
- Corner Worcester Close Green – Untidy thorn bush
- By pull up in Salop Drive – Churned up grass from a car
- Gate at top Devon Green – Key stuck in lock
- Gate Devon Green – Damaged lock
- Oxford Road – Trees close to properties
- Salop Drive – Pot hole in road
- Devon Green – Gaps along footpath need repairing
- Oxford Road – overflowing recycling boxes
- All over estate – Connaught's workmen parking on verges churning grassed areas
- Devon Road island – Overgrown bushes

**Score = B**

**Next walk – 19<sup>th</sup> May 2009**

## Springfields – 15<sup>th</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> January

- **Area 1A** – By Grindcobbe Grove – Overgrown Shrubs
- Wat Tyler Close – Dirty communal area
- By Harney Court – Hanging string
- Harney Court/William Morris Court – Rubbish

**Area 1a Score = B**

**(From April 2009 now Area 1)**

**Next walk – 27<sup>th</sup> April 2009**

- **Area 1B** - Winstanley Place – Rubbish
- Lovett Court – Uneven paving/trip hazard/ rubbish
- By Winstanley Place – Water from guttering going into communal area
- By Arthur Wood Place – Broken electricity box
- Winstanley Place – Abandoned property

**Area 1b Score = B**

**(From April 2009 now Area 2)**

**Next walk – 26<sup>th</sup> May 2009**

## Towers – 5<sup>th</sup> March

- Uneven footpaths and road surfaces – All around Clarks Avenue, Croft Avenue and Cotton Grove

**Score = A**

**Next walk – 25<sup>th</sup> June 2009**

### DISCLAIMER

**This newsletter is produced by Chase Tenants & Residents Federation independently of Cannock Chase Council**

**Cannock Chase Council is posting a £100 “reward” to help catch illegal dumpers of rubbish.**

Fly tipping has been on the increase, particularly since the introduction of new controls on waste to protect our health and environment. The Council is determined to crack down on this anti-social practice in the district, by working with the Street Wardens and Police Community Support Officers.

**If you see anyone dumping waste or rubbish where they shouldn't, report it to the Council on 01543 462621 or email:**

**EMteam@cannockchasecouncil.gov.uk**

Information will be treated in the strictest confidence.

The £100 reward will be paid if the information leads to a successful prosecution of an offender.

**Just as a warning to would-be fly tippers: you can now be fined up to £1,000 for a single offence.**

- An excessive number of complaints have been received about rubbish being dumped in the communal areas of Council-owned flats. Estate Caretakers will be making regular inspections of these areas with a view to tackling those responsible for the problems.



**Tenants, who won't look after their gardens, spoiling the look of the neighbourhood, could end up being taken to court.**

*Cannock Chase Housing chiefs are taking a tougher stance in responding to complaints from neighbours and reports from Estate Walks about overgrown and neglected gardens.*

*When a report is received, the property will be viewed and if necessary, the householder will be sent a letter reminding them that neglecting their garden is a breach of the Tenancy Agreement.*

*A period of 28 days will be given for the garden to be tidied up, when a second inspection will be made. If nothing satisfactory has been done, a further seven days grace will be allowed, followed by a final warning of legal proceedings.*

*If it gets that far, uncooperative tenants will be landed with a £219 bill for legal costs.*



*Belinda Wildey, Team Leader for Estate Management, said: “No-one expects a garden to be up to show standard, just kept reasonably tidy.”*

**This newsletter is also available in large print and on tape in spoken word formats for visually impaired readers. Please contact us on telephone number 01543 502905 to request a copy.**

### CONTACT DETAILS

Chase Tenants & Residents Federation  
29/31 Park Road  
Cannock  
Staffs WS11 1JN

Tel/Fax No: 01543 502905 (24hr answer phone available)

Open: Tuesday to Friday (9.45am to 2.45pm)

E-mail: [user @chasetenants.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:user@chasetenants.fsnet.co.uk)

Website: [www.ctrf.org.uk](http://www.ctrf.org.uk)

**PLEASE NOTE: TUESDAYS AND THURSDAYS ARE RESERVED FOR ANY ASSOCIATION WORK REQUIRED**