

# Wolverhampton Federation of Tenants Associations



## Annual Report 2010/11

*Pictured above from left to right at the launch of our lottery project 'Tenant for tenants—a voice for all' held on 10th January 2011 are the previous major of Wolverhampton, Councillor John Gwinnett, Ann Guest our chair and long standing member Rose Leaver.*

## Message from the Chair

*I would like to start off by thanking all the members of the Fed who have supported me throughout the last 12 months.*

*There have been quite a few changes over the last year with the newly appointed government and proposed cuts to services that will affect us all. As you know I am passionate about supporting all tenants across the City and it is more important than ever that the Federation is here to represent the tenants and make sure their voices are heard.*

*I was very pleased that the Federation was awarded a BIG Lottery Grant to carry out the 'Tenant for Tenants - a voice for all' project which aims to provide information for tenants and leaseholders to enable them to make a difference on their estates and within their communities. I am sure we can all agree that bringing estates and communities together in these difficult times is both positive and empowering.*

*I would also like to congratulate Wolverhampton Homes on the 3 stars awarded by the Audit Commission and the successful bid for the continuation of the Decent Homes Programme. It is important that the Federation, the Council, Wolverhampton Homes and the contractors involved work together for all our tenants.*

*The next year is going to be very challenging with the proposed changes being introduced by the Coalition Government that will affect tenants, particularly as regards benefits and the security of tenure. It is vital that we keep abreast of local, regional and national issues and update you on a regular basis.*

*I will continue to work on your behalf and thank you again for all your support.*

*Ann Quest MBE*



### **Who are we?**

- We are the recognised representative body for all Council tenants and leaseholders in the City and we are widening our membership to include all public sector tenants in Wolverhampton

### **What are our aims?**

- To promote the interests of tenants on all issues that affect their homes and estates
- To advise, support and where possible give practical help to all tenants groups, to new groups starting up, and individual tenants
- To work with the City Council and other service providers to ensure that tenants are able to have a say in how their homes and estates are run
- To consult and negotiate with the Council and other service providers in order to improve facilities for tenants
- To represent the views of tenants on issues arising with the Council and other service providers
- To facilitate training and to provide information to tenants to assist them and their organisations to be more effective.

### **Membership**

Membership is open to:

- all Tenants and Residents Associations
- all Tenant Management Organisations
- informal tenants groups
- individual tenants and leaseholders
- associate members who support the aims and objectives of the Fed **(There is no membership fee).**

Informal groups, individuals and associates have no voting rights.

### **How to join**

To join or if you wish to know more about the Federation contact the office base at:

**142a, Chetton Green,  
Wolverhampton  
WV10 6ER**

or telephone **01902 55 6816** or e.mail **WFTA@live.co.uk**

### **Meetings**

We hold monthly meetings, (except for August and December), on the 2nd Monday of the month. These are held at Coven Lodge, on the Spring Valley estate (off the Cannock Road). Groups may nominate 2 delegates to attend meetings and transport costs may be reimbursed in accordance with our transport policy.

***We will be happy to meet with you and your group, if you have one in your area, to offer you advice and support where needed.***

## Our achievements over the last 12 months:

### **We have ...**

- 41 group members, and we also have 36 individual members
- Produced a quarterly newsletter that is widely distributed
- Updated our leaflets
- Promoted ourselves and what we do in other newsletters and at various exhibitions and events
- Been successful in obtaining a grant from the BIG lottery
- Appointed a Project Officer
- Carried out a review of the Fed
- Secured new office premises
- Negotiated a service level agreement with Wolverhampton Homes
- Held training sessions on equalities and on anti-social behaviour
- Attended training facilitated by the Wolverhampton Network Consortium, WVSC and Wolverhampton Homes
- Produced our Annual Report
- Attended Delivery Plan meetings with the City and Wolverhampton Homes. This is a strategic housing meeting.
- Attended the Equalities and Diversity Steering Group, the Affordable Warmth Action Group, meetings on the Decent Homes programme and on the City wide Compact
- Developed links with other organisations to promote and encourage wider involvement on all issues that affect tenants
- Started sessions on 'A chance to make a difference' under the lottery project
- Visited groups in the community
- Offered general advice and support to groups and individuals
- Met regularly with senior officers from Wolverhampton Homes (WHs)
- Set up a mentoring arrangement with New Park Village Co-op
- Carried out actions under last years Business Plan
- Developed our Business plan for this year
- Attended the Get Togethers that are organised by Wolverhampton Homes
- Continued working on the Breaking down the Barriers project, in partnership with Wolverhampton Homes and All Cultures One Voice
- Campaigned at a national level on issues affecting tenants in the City
- Met with other service providers to see how we can represent interests of all public sector tenants in Wolverhampton
- Organised training for the Exec



## In 2011/12 we will:

- Carry out the actions within our business plan
- Establish a Community Interest Company
- Continue to promote ourselves as the recognised tenant representative body in Wolverhampton via newsletters, exhibitions, leaflets, and articles in various publications etc
- Look to increase our membership to include tenants of Housing Associations
- Continue to support and promote the interests of tenants locally, at a regional level and nationally
- Provide new and existing tenants groups and individual tenants with support and advice
- Explore working on other projects to promote the Fed
- Promote our Code of Conduct for tenants
- Work with the City Council, other landlords, managing agents and other service providers in order to improve the quality of services to tenants and leaseholders in the City
- Look at ways to work with service providers at a strategic level
- Monitor the delivery of the Decent Homes Programme
- Work in partnership with other organisations across the City to ensure that tenants have a say over all services they receive
- Encourage tenants to get involved at a neighbourhood level
- Link to wider community initiatives to promote community cohesion
- Organise events to celebrate diversity and to encourage the wider community to get involved
- Promote ourselves nationally so we are heard at a Government and central policy making level
- Continue to campaign and lobby Government to promote tenants interests
- Promote regional tenants panels or partnerships
- Continue to promote the City wide Compact
- Develop the lottery project
- Hold local events to encourage greater tenant involvement
- Develop our web site
- Identify and introduce new ways to enable tenants to influence the services that they receive
- Provide training for tenants.

*The picture opposite left and the one to the right are from the launch of our lottery project. On the right June Grashion, who is our secretary, is seen with our special celebrity guest local darts champion Wayne Jones.*



## Our Committee for 2011/12

At our Annual General Meeting on 11th April 2011 the following members were elected onto the Committee:

Chair	Ann Guest MBE	Spring Valley
Vice chair	Stuart Clarke	Poets Corner
Secretary	June Grashion	Hugh Gaitskell Court, Stowlawn
Treasurer	John Pemberton	Springfield Horseshoe
Custodian	Tom Paterson	Bradley
Committee member	Maureen Smith	Perry Hall
Committee member	Gladys Pearson	Lanesfield
Committee member	Mr M. Motawalla	Tong Court, Boscobel
Committee member	Barrie Ward	Moathouse
Committee member	Bob Deacon	Heath Town
Committee member	Megan FitzGerald Plummer	Bilston

### Community Interest Company

In accordance with the wishes of the membership we are setting up a community interest company. Hopefully our newly elected committee will sign up as directors of the company.

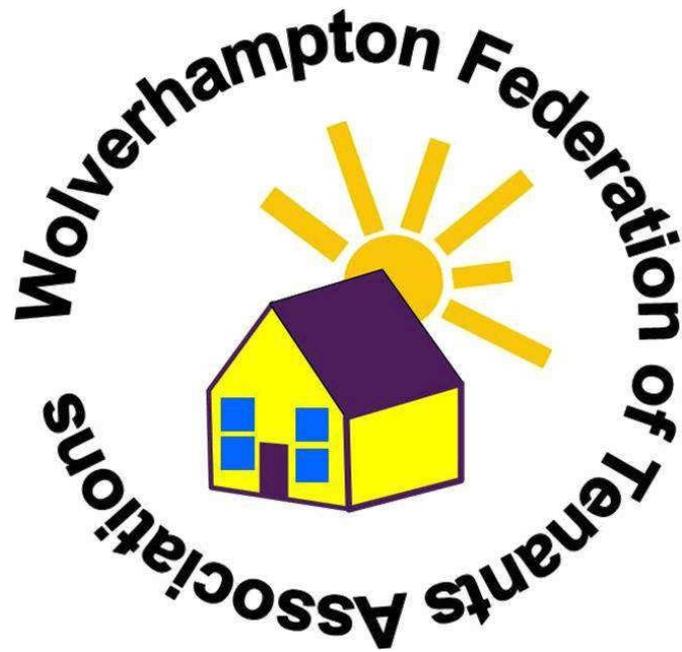
The future running of the organisation will be in accordance with company regulations.

We would like to thank the committee for all their hard work last year and a special thanks goes to Les Buckingham, who due to other commitments, did not stand for re-election. We are however pleased to welcome Megan FitzGerald Plummer onto the Exec. (Seen here pictured right.)



## Statement of Accounts April 2010 to March 2011

Receipts	Lottery	Other	Total
WHs salary		28270. 27	28270. 27
WHs running costs		3400. 00	3400. 00
Review fee		4000. 00	4000. 00
Membership		300. 00	300. 00
Misc		729. 73	729. 73
Lottery	20364. 00		20364. 00
<b>Total</b>	<b>20364. 00</b>	<b>36700. 00</b>	<b>57064. 00</b>
<b>Payments</b>			
Salary	4818. 38	28270. 27	33088. 65
Recruitment	432. 40		432. 40
Transport	35. 70	1062. 16	1097. 86
Events	567. 50		567. 50
Running costs	166. 24		166. 24
Review		4000. 00	4000. 00
Copier		848. 97	848. 97
Newsletters/annual report		675. 00	675. 00
Insurance		224. 77	224. 77
Membership		280. 00	280. 00
Postage, stationery		616. 67	616. 67
Printing		259. 44	259. 44
Training	805. 20	71. 00	876. 20
Sundries		265. 60	265. 60
Equipment	875. 02	102. 00	977. 02
Total	7700. 44	36675. 88	44376. 32
Surplus for the year	12663. 56	24. 12	12687. 68
Opening balances			
Bank		7671. 70	
Cash		120. 88	
Total			7792. 58
Surplus for the year			12687. 68
Closing balances			
Bank		7,340. 73	
Bank Lt		12,944. 36	
Cash		195. 17	
Total			20480. 26



*Together we stand  
campaigning for a  
better future*

**pace**  
*practical Award in Community Excellence*



**LOTTERY FUNDED**