

# Resident Involvement News

*News from the Community Partnership Team*

*April 2015 Issue 75*

## Ways to get involved in 2015:

This year we want more people to get involved, either in their local Residents Association, or by coming along to one of our meetings or events.

**Housing Services Forum** – held every 3 months at the Civic offices. We talk about different housing issues and you can tell us what you think, and you can find out information that you want to know.

**Building Services Tenant Group** - held every 3 months at our Building Services office in Denbigh West, Bletchley. We talk about the repairs and maintenance service and gain feedback from tenants.

**Resident Involvement Review Group** - meets every month and looks more in depth at how we are involving our residents and helps to shape our services by providing a tenants voice. We focus on writing the Resident Involvement monthly newsletter, surveys and reports for tenants about the Housing Service.

**For info about these groups, contact Lizzie Bailes. The upcoming meeting dates are on the back page.**

## Tenant Scrutiny Panel:

If you want to look even closer at our services and help us improve them, you can apply to join our **Tenant Scrutiny Panel**. The panel has 8 members, but has space for 2 more. They carry out independent reviews each year on different parts of the Housing Service, giving our Managers ideas for improvement.

Last year, they completed 2 reviews, which have both been accepted by our Director of Housing and Community. This means that the work of residents has directly changed the service for you.



some of the panel members at a meeting in April

**For more info about the panel, you can contact the Chair, Janette Bobey on 676320**

## Rent Review

We are still working with our Housing Policy and Development Officer, Paul Gibson to carry out our **User Led Rent Review** with tenants, to look at the local issues around the rate of rent in Milton Keynes.

At March's RIRG, we focused on MKC Housing rent and in April, we heard from Stonewater Housing Association and how they set their rent. In May, we will hear from private landlords.

**Upcoming meeting details are on the back page.**

# Launching: £20k for Residents Associations in Milton Keynes

We are changing the way we support Residents Associations (RAs), to help them access more money, become more independent and do more in their community.

## New Health Check Form:

- From April 2015 (now!) you can get your Health Check form from the Community Partnership Team and they will award your accreditation and grant funding to you soon after. There is now more money available for each group, so look out for the form to see how it has changed and how much you could be awarded. You can apply now!
- There is now an additional grant fund to access. The Community Partnership team will be accepting applications to the Community Grants fund from Residents Associations, twice a year, in June and November. We want to make our money go further, by awarding it to the groups that need it to help them in their communities.
- There is now a Residents Association Information Pack, which contains lots of helpful information about who to contact at MKC for different specialist support and information, e.g. Housing, Environment or Planning teams. We want to make sure you have all the correct information and feel confident to tackle issues in your community.
- We are going to have more opportunities for groups to meet each other and learn from each other. We want you to tell us what different skills you have and what skills you need and we will try and find ways to help you. This will start at our Residents Association Network in April.

## New Community Partnership Officer

We are very excited to welcome our new Community Partnership Officer, Katherine Geddes, who will be starting on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> April.

Katherine has lots of experience working for Councils, with residents, and out in communities.

She will be working with our Resident Involvement Review Group and the Housing Services Forum, as well as supporting Residents Associations to access the support and funding they need. She will also be doing some focused work in our regeneration priority areas.

She will be in touch with each of your groups soon!

## Anti-Social Behaviour at our Housing Services Forum!

**On Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> May at 7:30pm in the Bronte Suite at the Civic Offices**

At this meeting we will hear an update on our User led Rent review by Housing Policy and Development Officer Paul Gibson, who will be asking for your opinions on the issues facing rent levels in Milton Keynes.

We will also hear from the Anti-Social Behaviour Housing team about what they deal with and how you can contact them.

**YOUR VOTE MATTERS**

**MAKE SURE YOU'RE IN**



## Make your voice heard on 7 May

On **Thursday, 7 May 2015** there will be a UK Parliamentary General Election and local government elections in Milton Keynes.

**UK Parliamentary General Election:** To elect a Member of Parliament (MP) for the Milton Keynes North and Milton Keynes South constituencies.

**Local Government Elections:** To elect local Councillors to represent the 19 wards across MK.

**Neighbourhood Plan Referendum:** Central MK Business Neighbourhood Plan, produced by Central MK Town Council in an alliance with local business leaders and with the involvement of Milton Keynes Council. Neighbourhood planning helps the local community play a direct role in planning the area in which they live and work by showing how they want land to be used and developed in that area. Information on this can be found at: [www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/planning-and-building/planning-policy/central-milton-keynes-neighbourhood-plan](http://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/planning-and-building/planning-policy/central-milton-keynes-neighbourhood-plan) or telephone 01908 252358.

**Parish Council Elections:** In some areas, you will be able to elect local Parish Councillor's to represent areas in your Parish.

**To vote in these elections you must be registered to vote by 20 April.**

Polling stations will be open on from 7am to 10pm on 7 May. Your vote matters so if you are going to be away on Thursday, 7 May you can apply for a postal vote. Applications for postal votes for these elections must be with us by **5pm on 21 April**.

From April, details of the candidates will be available on the Council's website – [www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/elections](http://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/elections) and you will receive further information about your polling station in early April.

### **MKC Current Consultations:**

You can find out more about consultations or submit your opinion on our consultation finder at:

[www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/mkcconsultation/](http://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/mkcconsultation/)

- Ladbroke Grove, Monkston Park Draft Development Brief:  
from 13<sup>th</sup> April to 8<sup>th</sup> June.
- CMK Primary Shopping Area Supplementary Planning Document:  
from 8<sup>th</sup> April to 2<sup>nd</sup> June

# Get Involved Calender

## April, May, June and July 2015

Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> April	Residents Association Networking Event, Room 2 @ 7-9pm
Tuesday 28 <sup>th</sup> April	Scrutiny Group meeting - For info, contact Janette Bobey on 01908 676320
Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> May	Scrutiny Group meeting - For info, contact Janette Bobey on 01908 676320
Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> May	Housing Services Forum, Bronte Suite @ 7:30pm – discussing the Rent Review
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> May	Building Services Tenant Group @10am contact Derek Beaumont 253522
Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> May	Resident Involvement Review Group Room 4 @ 10.30 – discussing the Rent Review
Tuesday 26 <sup>th</sup> May	Scrutiny Group meeting - For info, contact Janette Bobey on 01908 676320
Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> June	Scrutiny Group meeting - For info, contact Janette Bobey on 01908 676320
Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> June	Resident Involvement Review Group Room 4 @ 2.30 – discussing the Rent Review
Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> June	Scrutiny Group meeting - For info, contact Janette Bobey on 01908 676320
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> July	Resident Involvement Review Group Room 4 @ 10.30 – discussing the Rent Review

To book a place on any of these events you can contact Lizzie from the Community Partnership Team on **01908 253264** or email [lizzie.bailes@milton-keynes.gov.uk](mailto:lizzie.bailes@milton-keynes.gov.uk)

Meetings include light refreshments and we can arrange transport if you need it.

### Share your story

Do you have something to shout about?

We would like to include more things from your group in this newsletter and MK@Home.

Please contact **Lizzie** with anything you might want to share, including achievements, projects, events – it could be about individuals or whole groups.

**The Resident Involvement Newsletter** is produced by The Community Partnership Team

**Tel** 01908 253264

**E-mail** [get.involved@milton-keynes.gov.uk](mailto:get.involved@milton-keynes.gov.uk)

**Text/mobile** 07900135889

We are based at The Civic Offices,  
1 Saxon Gate East,  
Central Milton Keynes.  
MK9 3EJ

Copies are available in alternative formats on request.