



news**in**brief

TPAS meeting

In January this year Winchester TACT hosted the London & South East Tenant Participatory and Advisory Service (TPAS) committee meeting. Speakers included Linda Collier, who spoke on the Housing Ombudsman Service and Jane Eyles, who talked about Impact Assessments and Landlord Accreditation.

Your views matter

TACT has been active finding out tenants' thoughts on retaining our council homes. There is no change their answer is still the same – tenants are happy with the Council.

Don't forget to feedback

Don't forget when you have had a repair job done in your home, send back your green

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Defending our homes at Parliament

TACT chair Alan Rickman received a rousing applause when he took the campaign against Negative Subsidy to the House of Commons.



Alan Rickman

He was giving evidence to the Commons Housing Group, together with Cllr Tony Coates, Richard Boardman and other tenants and councillors from across the country.

Austin Mitchell MP and Alan Walter, from Defend Council Housing, chaired the meeting.

Cllr Tony Coates, Portfolio Holder for Housing and Communities, outlined the problems Winchester faced.

"The future was not bright and retaining the stock could not be guaranteed, unless the Government could in some way help the situation," he said.

Alan Rickman then spoke. "The problems started when council homes were allowed to be sold off and since then Governments seem to think everyone aspires to being a home owner," he said, to loud applause.

"They do not. Many people are just above the threshold of receiving benefits and struggle to pay their way, with ever increasing bills."

The rest of his evidence was well received with more loud applause at the end. Several people asked for copies of his report.

He added: "What was great though was so many other Councils are on our wave length and I will be in contact with them.

"The pressure needs to be kept up, as I said at the meeting, TACT does not sit on its backside doing nothing and will continue to play its part. The media is showing an interest in our case and want more information.

"I would like to thank Cllr Tony Coates and Richard Boardman for presenting evidence on behalf of Winchester City Council. It shows they are fighting our cause as best they can."

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Green trip around waste plants

A group from TACT set off early on a wet December morning to visit three waste recycling plant sites in Hampshire.

After public consultation in 1993 an ambitious strategy was formed, which led in 1995 to the most progressive integrated waste management scheme in Britain. It provides sustainable waste management for all the domestic waste across Hampshire.

The guide for the day was Mathew Barton, the City Council's Environment Team Leader, and Keely Gallagher from Veolia Environmental Services Hampshire Ltd who showed the group round the first site. Alan Rickman said: "The management and staff of Integra North Energy Recovery Facility are among the most highly qualified and experienced in the sector.

"From then on, the visit was one of utter amazement at the efficiency and brilliance of the whole site. The procedures used were complex and mind boggling – I expected James Bond 007 to come bursting out around the corner! It was that type of building."

The group moved on to Little Bushywarren Copse Composting Site and the final visit was to the Alton Materials Recovery Facility, where the group donned yellow hard hats and high visibility jackets and toured the site.

Alan said: "Again it was very interesting and Keely gave us the benefit of her knowledge on the subject of waste disposal."



The team on location at the recycling plant.

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card and comments. This helps the Council give the service you would like.

What would you like to see?

Send us your suggestions regarding future items for Tenant News, there must be some interesting stories to tell us about.

Visit TACT online

TACT's web pages have been updated and include information about opportunities to get involved, training, a Who's Who and details of all meeting dates. Why not have a look at the site at – www.winchester.gov.uk/TACT.

Look out for your AGM invitation

All tenants will be receiving a personal invitation to this year's TACT AGM, which takes place at the Guildhall on Wednesday 21st May. It's an entertaining and informative evening and we look forward to seeing you all there!

TACT Annual General Meeting

Wednesday 21st May 2008

7pm coffee on arrival, 7.30pm AGM

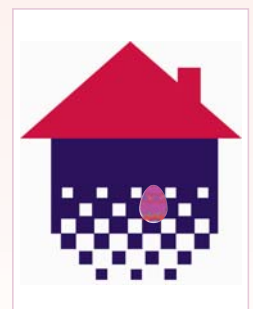
The Saxon Suite, Winchester Guildhall, Broadway, Winchester

Guest Speakers: **Alan Walter**, Chair, Defend Council Housing,
and **Simon Eden**, Chief Executive, Winchester City Council

followed by light refreshments

wheelchair access

For more information call **Glynis Cole** or **David Lumby**
on FREEPHONE **0800 716 987** or
email tenantinvolvement@winchester.gov.uk



Winchester's **new** Tenant Inspectors

In November 2007, TACT member Paul Bungey was part of an inspection team reviewing methods used by a Kent-based Housing Association for combating Anti Social Behaviour.

Paul, who is also Chairman of the Worthy's Tenant and Leaseholder Association, is one of four Winchester tenants who have become Tenant Inspectors after undergoing two days training.

Here is Paul's report:

"It was with some trepidation that I agreed to be a Tenant Inspector

when asked by Glynis Cole back in early October.

So fellow tenants Gillian Ford, Beryl White, Susen Harding and I found ourselves on the M27 with Glynis Cole, our Tenant Involvement Manager, in the driving seat. We were heading for the Discovery Centre, Gosport, for two enlightening days about Anti-social Behaviour.



Paul Bungey, second from right, with fellow Inspectors

Gosport Borough Council hosted the training, which was carried out by Kim Carron and was very comprehensive and interesting.

Four landlords and their nominated Tenant Inspectors were taking part – Portsmouth Housing Association, Gosport Borough Council, Winchester City Council and Kelsey Housing Association (KHA), a member of the Dominion Housing Group.

We were all put into our elected Inspection Groups – I went to KHA, Gillian inspected Winchester while Beryl and Susen inspected Gosport.

The KHA inspection took place on Thursday 1st November, and the day dawned bright and clear as I headed for the satellite office in Chichester.

The actual inspection was carried out mostly in the neighbouring Community Centre, due to the tight office space.

We met members of staff involved in the various aspects of the Anti-social Behaviour service and were able to ask questions freely. Two Community Wardens from Chichester District Council also called in during the day.

In the afternoon we had a walkabout in Swanfield Estate.

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TACT Meeting Dates



Meetings are held on a Wednesday Afternoon at Makins Court, Alresford from 2.00-4.00pm, and in the Evening at The Common Room, Godson House, Central Winchester from 7.30-9.30pm unless otherwise stated.

16 April (2.00pm and 7.30pm)

21 May - *Joint Meeting* - (7.30pm - 9.30pm)

Annual General Meeting (AGM)

Saxon Suite, The Winchester Guildhall

18 June (2.00pm and 7.30pm)

16 July (2.00pm and 7.30pm)

20 August (2.00pm and 7.30pm)

17 September - *Joint Meeting* - (7.30pm - 9.30pm)

15 October (2.00pm and 7.30pm)

19 November (2.00pm and 7.30pm)

17 December (2.00pm and 7.30pm)

All tenants and leaseholders welcome

For further information contact Glynis Cole or David Lumby on Freephone 0800 716 987.

Tenant power paves the way

A one-mile stretch of pavement between Denmead and Waterlooville has been resurfaced thanks to tenants who live on the Denmead estate.

The residents complained to local councillors and officers last year that the pavement was difficult for people using motorised scooters.

A few months later, contractors arrived at the scene and the pavement was resurfaced.

Joan Downing said: "Sandy Comlay came to the meeting and said she had difficulties using her scooter because the pavement was cracked and uneven.

"Our councillors were at the meeting and a few months later the work was carried out."

She added: "The public meetings are really useful. We have two each year and they are very well attended."

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What an estate! It is home to 238 households and is a regenerative estate completed three years ago. The old concrete prefab houses were demolished and replaced with modern bungalows, houses and flats. All parties were involved in the planning stages including the tenants, most of whom elected to move back into the new estate now one of the most popular.

Swanfield has large green areas, three landscaped gardens with seats and four fully equipped children's play grounds.

The afternoon was rounded off with Q&As based on the Key Lines of Enquiries (KLOEs) which were recorded, and have been included in a comprehensive report on all four inspections.

The Focus Group/Wash-up day took place in November. There was feedback from all Inspectors involved in the four inspections and the training days.

Over all four days we were all looked after, fed and watered very well indeed. Thank you to all concerned."

Extending the hand of friendship

Members of Compton Tenants Association (TA) have invited Otterbourne tenants to join them in a one-year trial.

If successful, the two neighbouring villages will form a combined Tenants Association to represent the views of all residents.

TA Chair Susen Harding explained: "I thought it would be a good idea. They have got nobody and it would also help us."

Compton Tenants Association has grown quickly over the last few years and attracts a large audience to its four meetings each year.

The group will continue to meet at Compton Scouts Hall.

If the one-year trial is successful, a full merger will take place next year.

Many thanks to all of you for taking part in the joint *on the house* and *Tenant News* survey in the last issue.

The response was good and it was interesting to see your comments on both publications.

Tenant News really is an independent publication and we hope you enjoy the range of subjects covered in this issue.

As always, we would still welcome your comments and views on tenant-related matters as well as the content of Tenant News.

Contact the TACT Chairmen Alan Rickman or David Cruden if you want to find out more about TACT or want to raise any issues. You can call them on Freephone 0800 716 987 and leave a message, or write to them at: ● Alan Rickman, 101 Taplings Road, Winchester SO22 6HG
● David Cruden, 16 Doctors Lane, West Meon GU32 1LR

This edition of Tenant News has been produced by a Tenant team including Alan Rickman, David Cruden, Sheila Greaves, Brian Hayes, Ken Gore, Joan Downing, Angela Stevenson and Susen Harding

Now turn the magazine over to read

