

# Tenant News



Produced by Tenants for Tenants

issue 1 October 2007

## Welcome to the all-new

## TENANT NEWS

TACT's editorial committee had some hard choices to make about future tenant publications. The council is trying to make savings across the board and in particular has been looking at printing costs and newsletters.

At the same time, tenants had been saying the title CONTACT did not give the impression of an independent tenant production.



TACT chairs, David Cruden and Alan Rickman

For these reasons we have changed the title to Tenant News. We have liaised with the Council's Design & Print section, which produces all council literature, and have come up with the new name and style!

The need for savings presented us with a challenge! We believe we have risen to this challenge and trust you will support us

We really do value your views and would like to know what interests you. So we would ask you to complete and return the enclosed questionnaire for a chance to win £25 worth of vouchers.

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- Over the fence: tales from two tenants!
- Press and Media reaction to the PM letter.

### An Appeal to ALL Dog Owners

**Bag it and  
bin it!**



An important point was raised at the recent Worthy's Tenant Association meeting, which we feel is very relevant to ALL areas of the Winchester district.

The subject was Dog Fouling.

Whilst most dog owners take their responsibilities seriously, could we ask everyone to clear up after their pets.

People's gateways, footpaths, and public grassed areas are NOT designed as 'dog loos'. Dog faeces poses a serious health hazard, particularly to young children.

Winchester City Council does provide many 'doggy bins' throughout the district, but if your particular area does not have one, approach the Council's Dog Warden, or Area Housing Manager, or local Councillor for help to remedy this.

## Did you know? Dogs and the law

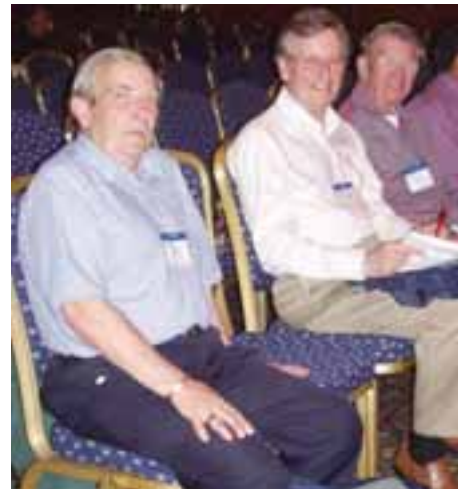
The Dogs (Fouling of Land) Act 1996 requires that persons in charge of a dog must clean up after it has fouled on all land within the district of Winchester City Council which is open to the air and which the public are allowed to have access. These include pavements; parks; open spaces; amenity areas; grass verges and playing fields. Failure to clean up after your dog may result in a fixed penalty fine of £50 or prosecution in a magistrate's court where the maximum fine is up to £1,000.



**Remember to Bag  
and Bin it!**

## Putting Winchester on the map at national tenants' conference

Winchester has been put on the map for its work in council housing and communities. TACT chairs Alan Rickman and David Cruden, together with fellow tenant John Bond, attended the annual Tenant Participation Advisory Service (TPAS) conference in August. "Delegates from other areas were very impressed with our set up and our council publications, which we shared with fellow tenants at every opportunity," said Alan. People are now very aware of Winchester's tenants and what we are fighting for.



From left to right: David Cruden, Alan Rickman and John Bond

## Selling off of Council Homes



Eastgate Street


Winchester's three oldest council homes could be sold for well over £1 million. The story appeared on TV, in the Press and on other media outlets. The council says the Grade II Listed homes are too expensive to repair and maintain and claims the sell off will benefit existing tenants. TACT has asked: "Where will this all end and how will the money be spent?" TACT will be keeping a close watch on this.

## Tenants Walkabouts

These are proving popular in getting views from all residents on our estates. We all have a responsibility to work as a community and we look forward to working with fellow and former tenants to create better communities across the Winchester district! If you are interested in finding out more about estate walkabouts or are interested in being involved in one in your area, please give the Tenant Involvement team a ring on freephone 0800 716 987.

# Over the Fence

This new feature aims to give a flavour of what residents from different parts of the district think about their local area. Here, city resident Ken Gore compares life at Winnall with Joan Downing who lives at Denmead. If you would like to feature in "Over the Fence" in the March issue of Tenant News, give the Tenant Involvement Section a ring on freephone 0800 716 987 or send your answers to these questions to Tenant News, c/o Tenant Involvement at Winchester City Council (address on page 4).

<b>Ken Gore</b>	<b>Name?</b>	<b>Joan Downing</b>
<b>Full time carer</b>	<b>Occupation?</b>	<b>Retired</b>
<b>Winnall</b>	<b>Where do you live?</b>	<b>Denmead</b>
<b>22 years</b>	<b>How long have you lived there?</b>	<b>19 years</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>It's Self Contained - Very Good Community Facilities</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Community Centre with Social Club</li> <li>● Launderette</li> <li>● One stop shop</li> <li>● Hairdressers</li> <li>● Chinese; Chippie and kebab shop</li> <li>● School</li> <li>● Scout Hut</li> <li>● 2 play areas</li> <li>● Winnall Community Forum involving residents; tenants Housing Association tenants Councillors; officers of City Council</li> <li>● Good bus service</li> <li>● 10 minutes walk to the City Offices</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><b>What is the best thing about the area you live in?</b></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Good Community Spirit and Facilities</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Very friendly - always say hello</li> <li>● General food store</li> <li>● Post Office, Greengrocers &amp; News Agent</li> <li>● Chinese; Chip shop</li> <li>● Ironmongers</li> <li>● Banks and a Cash machine</li> <li>● Play and adventure area</li> <li>● Mini bus to Waterlooville &amp; Fareham twice a week</li> <li>● Scouts</li> <li>● Community Centre and WI</li> </ul> </li> <li>● <b>Location good - short distance to the countryside; town; sea</b></li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Youths causing a nuisance</b></li> <li>● <b>Drugs</b></li> <li>● <b>Speed of traffic on the estate especially buses and coaches</b></li> <li>● <b>Tesco trolleys being dumped on the estate instead of being returned</b></li> </ul>	<p><b>What are your main concerns?</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Evening and weekend bus service being reduced</b></li> <li>● <b>No direct route to train service</b></li> <li>● <b>Traffic speed along the main road</b></li> <li>● <b>Dog fouling</b></li> <li>● <b>Drugs</b></li> <li>● <b>Parking in the village centre on the main road</b></li> </ul>

# TACT Chairs' letter to the Prime Minister Gordon Brown

TACT is very pleased to say that our letter to the Prime Minister, and indeed his reply has raised the profile of the plight of council tenants all over the country.

We have made it plain we will not be blackmailed into giving up our homes and transferring to Housing Associations.

We are more than prepared to work along side them, if given an even playing field – to have our negative subsidy cancelled so we don't have to give £8 million a year to the Government and the chance to spend the money on building our own affordable council homes.

TACT will have many challenges ahead, but you can be sure we will not give way. All we ask is your continued support.

# Defend Council Housing Conference London

This proved to be well worth the effort of an early morning start at the railway station.

Many speakers held our attention, taking us through how much progress had been made over the last few months. More importantly, the right noises seemed to be coming from the new Prime Minister Gordon Brown who at least was listening to council tenants.

Far more than the former, Prime Minister Tony Blair ever seemed to. The proof is in the pudding though. You can be sure however TACT will not give up on the case. So it is a case of watch this space.

## MEETING DATES

Meetings of the TACT Afternoon Group are held on a Wednesday at Makins Court, Alresford, from 2.00-4.00pm, and of the Evening Group at Godson House, Lawn Street, Winchester, from 7.30-9.30pm unless otherwise stated below:

17 October 2007 (2.00pm and 7.30pm)

21 November 2007 (2.00pm and 7.30pm)

5 December 2007 (7.30pm-9.30pm)  
to be confirmed, Rent Setting

16 January 2008 (2.00pm and 7.30pm)

20 February 2008 (2.00pm and 7.30pm)

19 March 2008 - Joint Meeting (7.30pm - 9.30pm)  
Saxon Suite, The Winchester Guildhall

**All tenants and leaseholders welcome**

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

This edition of CONTACT has been produced by a Tenant team including Alan Rickman, David Cruden, Sheila Greaves, Brian Hayes, Cyril Gilbert-Wood BEM, Ken Gore, Joan Downing, Angela Stevenson and Sue Harding

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

