

# Tenant News



Produced by Tenants for Tenants

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## Cyril Gilbert-Wood BEM

Former TACT chair Cyril Gilbert-Wood died peacefully in May after a short illness.

Cyril, who was 85, was a long serving and respected member of Tenants and Council Together (TACT) and was instrumental in making it the force it is today.

He became involved in The Worthys' Tenants Association in 1998 and before long was elected Chair of TACT.

He was renowned for his attention to detail but always



wielded his red pen with accuracy and humour! He was never afraid to challenge the Council on matters of concern to tenants in a fair and constructive manner.

Accuracy was one of Cyril's many strengths in a distinguished military career spanning 26 years. He was a non-commissioned officer, with expertise in small and full bore shooting, and teaching. He was

based in both the UK and Malta and was awarded the British Empire Medal.

Cyril was also a highly accomplished swimmer and represented the Navy at water polo – as his father had done before him.

After leaving the Navy, Cyril worked for Hampshire Police as a driver and later as the Lost, Found and Crime Property Officer at North Walls.

Cyril will be fondly remembered by both tenants and council officers, and we offer our condolences to his beloved wife Olive, sons Colin and Chris, and their families.

## TENANTS JOIN THE KINETICS MONITORING GROUP



Long serving TACT members David Cruden and Paul Bungey have joined the Council's bi-monthly Operational Meetings with Kinetics.

Council officers invited TACT to join the group at April's Property and Contracts meeting.

TACT aims to see that tenants get Value for Money and this is just one way we do that.

Kinetics had only been in its current offices at Langstone Technology Park, (an ex IBM office complex) for approximately six weeks at the time of our first visit in April.

The engineers are out on the road all day and stay in contact with the office by mobile phone and GPS tracking. After a few hiccups with computers and printers, which will be fixed by the time you read this, we will be looking for on target performance in the future.

Watch out for more information in future editions of Tenant News.

*Paul Bungey, TACT.*

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# New Pilot Scheme In Hampshire Takes Off!



Nearly 200 residents and officers from across Hampshire have celebrated the launch of a unique pilot scheme that changes the way they work together to raise housing standards across the county.

The Hampshire and Districts Residents' Forum is the biggest, and only county-wide scheme in England and represents 100,000 tenants from 10 social housing landlords.

The scheme is one of 39 pilots supported by the Tenants Services Authority (TSA), which regulates social housing.

TSA chief executive Peter Marsh, who came to the launch in Southampton in March, praised Hampshire for getting together in this novel way.

"I am most proud of creating an environment of empowerment and involvement. To have brought landlords and tenants together has been a remarkable achievement!" he said.

The new Forum aims to make residents and landlords equal partners in delivering excellence in services.

Beryl White, joint TACT chair, said: "We are all working together as partners in the forum and we have an equal say in what goes on. Landlords who fall behind will be encouraged to come up to standard."

# TACT Training Launched



The first ever Training Programme organised by the new TACT Training Group has been launched.

Many tenants have booked places on the eight training courses that have been arranged.

In-house subjects included The work of Property and Contract Services.

The Training Group have also included Assertiveness Skills, Presentation Skills and Energy Efficiency in the programme as well as some courses aimed at those tenants who are involved with Tenants and Residents Groups. All the training courses ran during late May and early June both afternoon and evenings to give everyone an opportunity to take part

David Cruden, Chair of the TACT Training Group said: "We are pleased with the initial take up on these courses and if they prove successful we shall consider another programme of courses for all City Council tenants in the autumn."

## South Coast Training Conference Novotel, Southampton

*Report by David Cruden* TACT Representative

Eight tenants from Winchester joined peers from four other Councils and three Housing Associations for the South Coast Training conference in April.

The five workshops were:

- The Role of the Resident Representative
- Inspecting your Landlord
- Getting your act together
- Dealing with difficult situations
- Anti-Social Behaviour - What can residents do?

I chose "Inspecting Your Landlord", which was extremely interesting and thought provoking.

During the coming months there will be a lot of consultation and discussion with Winchester City Council and TACT relating to new standards set by the Tenant Services Authority.

It was an intense, but enjoyable day.

## Tenants Association Surgery & Information Sessions.

In January this year The Worthys Tenants Association started a series of Saturday Drop In Surgeries and Information Sessions in the Common Room at Harwood Place, Kings Worthy.

We are open on the last Saturday of the month from 10am to 12noon and welcome you with a cup of tea or coffee.

Our Area Housing Manager, Maria Dore, is often joined by a City Councillor or County Councillor and by the Tenants Association Committee.

We are open to tenants and leaseholders with any problems or queries and to other residents with Estate problems.

**Our next surgery is on Saturday 31 July** so if you want to talk about an issue pop in and have a chat to us over a cuppa!

**Paul Bungey,**  
Tenants Association Chair.



## Later Life Exercise Group

The Worthys' Tenants Association (TA) have set up regular Tuesday afternoon over 50s Later Life Fitness and Movement Classes.

The TA had help from Tenant Participation Officer David Lumby and Gilly Ostler from Get Fit 1-2-1.

Each class is 45 minutes and exercises are carried out sitting down and are within the capabilities of most

people. If you cannot manage one part it does not matter because Gilly is an excellent and friendly instructor.

Sessions are open to all tenants and residents over 50 within the Worthys and are held in the Common Room at Harwood Place, Kings Worthy on the Springvale Estate, every Tuesday afternoon from 2.30 to 3.15pm.

The cost is £1.50 for tenants and £2.50 for other residents.

Sessions are followed with a cup of tea or coffee and a chat if you so wish to help wind down.

So if you live in the Worthys area come on down and join in the fun!

**Paul Bungey,**  
Tenants Association Chair.



## Five-a-Side Football For Youngsters

Children from Stanmore took part in a series of Five-a-Side coaching sessions over the Easter holidays finishing with a mini tournament on the final day.

The sessions were organised by the Council and sponsored by both the North Stanmore and Lower Stanmore Residents Associations who promoted the event through their newsletters.

Twelve children between the age of seven and twelve signed up

for two days of coaching sessions which took place at the Kings' School Astroturf. On the final day, Michaela Knowles Area Housing Manager for Stanmore presented certificates to the children who took part in the mini tournament.

It is hoped to run a similar scheme in the autumn and get sufficient children interested to have a team from North Stanmore and Lower Stanmore.





A new councillor is now responsible for housing following the city council elections in May. Cllr Lucille Thompson.

She is very impressed by the work of TACT: "It's great there is a body set up by the tenants and I think we do work very closely with them and I want to continue that."

## CALLING ALL LEASEHOLDERS

The leaseholder forum invite you to attend their **Annual General Meeting on Tuesday 21 September 2010** in the Common Room at Godson House, Central Winchester, starting at 7.30pm.

The new committee consisting of Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary for the coming year will be elected at this meeting.

If you find it difficult to attend meetings, but would like to be kept updated by email, please call the Tenant Involvement Team on **Freephone 0800 716 987**. All email addresses will be kept confidential in accordance with the Councils data protection policy.

## New Horizons?

**We all know now there is a new coalition government, it is often said two heads are better than one.**

TACT looks forward to working with the new government, and challenging when needed.

The previous government started at the very last moment, to come up with ideas and answers to negative subsidy, and self financing.

"The question left unanswered is why leave it so late in the term of office?"

TACT looks forward to the future however, and will work with our new council, and together do the best for the council tenants of Winchester.

*Alan Rickman* joint TACT Chair

This edition of Tenant News has been produced by a team including Alan Rickman, David Cruden, Paul Bungey, Joan Downing, Angela Stevenson and Susen Harding.



## TACT Tenants & Council Together Meeting Dates 2010



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

21 July

18 August

15 September – Joint Meeting (7.30pm-9.30pm)

20 October

**All tenants and leaseholders welcome**

Contact the TACT chairs Alan Rickman or Beryl White if you want to find out more about TACT, their meeting dates, 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

● **Beryl White,**

2 Pine Road, Bishop's Waltham, Nr Southampton, SO23 1EH

Alternatively go to [www.winchester.gov.uk/TACT](http://www.winchester.gov.uk/TACT)

**Now turn the magazine over to read**

