

New joint initiative ends in fun

Housing associations from across Birmingham have got together to work on joint initiatives that will enable them to more effectively engage and work with their residents.

The first thing the new group (called Birmingham Network for Resident Involvement) did was to organise a residents' carnival.

Opened by Birmingham Lord Mayor, Councillor John Hood, the October event featured an *It's a Knockout*-style competition between teams of staff and residents from the member housing associations.



"'Bournville Bears', the BVT team, took part in a number of mental and physical challenges... and came fourth," BVT Tenant Participation Officer, Zoey Stanton, told Outlook. All of the member housing associations had stands at the carnival, there was face painting and a bouncy castle for the kids and a free prize draw for Argos vouchers.

"The aim of this fun event was to achieve greater participation, to help the housing associations inform residents, to assist in empowering and building capacity amongst residents and to facilitate more ways of participating," Zoey added.

"We were awarded £4,950 of external funding by *Awards for All* and we are extremely grateful to Cadbury World, Pizza Hut and Network Recruitment Partnership, who sponsored the carnival."



Zoey presents Barbara Connell with £25 worth of gift vouchers for Debenhams. Barbara was one of five winners of a prize draw.

Meet your local Team

There have been quite a few staff changes at the BVT Shenley and Bournville Area Housing offices over recent months, so staff there asked Outlook to put some names to faces.



SHENLEY AREA OFFICE STAFF

Area Office staff take care of all rented properties in Northfield, Bournville, Selly Oak, Redditch, Bordesley and Bloomsbury.

If you are not sure which office takes care of your property give the office a call on 0121-472 3831 or drop by at either office and staff will be happy to advise you.

Bournville Area Office - 27 Sycamore Road, Bournville, B30 2AA.

Shenley Area Office - 10 Shenley Green, Selly Oak, B29 4HH.

Shenley Area Office staff (front row, left to right) are:

Daniel Lewis (Housing Assistant), Karen Perrin (Housing Assistant).

(back row, left to right) are:

Elaine Blackburn (Area Housing Manager), Penny Gorajczyk (Housing Officer), Sally Rock (Housing Officer). Housing Officer Prospects, Gillian Figures and Housing Officer Julie Brown are not in our picture.



BOURNVILLE AREA OFFICE STAFF

Bournville Area Office staff

(front row, left to right) are:

Judy Pentney (Administration Assistant), Ann Ryan (Area Housing Manager).

(back row, left to right) are:

David Morgan (Housing Assistant), Jean Kettle (Housing Assistant), Sheila Eustace (Housing Assistant), Tracey Whitehouse (Housing Officer), John Lynock (Resident Neighbourhood Officer), Ruth Cutler (Housing Officer), Winston White (Housing Officer), Joanne Fellows (Housing Officer).

Last year, in conjunction with research consultants CWA, BVT conducted a demographic survey to establish just who its tenants are, what their current needs are ... and what they are likely to be in the future.

"All our tenants received a questionnaire and we conducted a great many follow-up interviews door-to-door, BVT Research & Performance Manager, Becci Jones, told Outlook.

"A whopping 74% of tenants replied to the survey, which has provided us with really valuable information. I would like to thank all those who replied, or took the time to talk to one of our

Good to hear from you!

interviewers."

The first of its kind in the Trust's history, the survey has provided BVT with a very good picture of its tenants, their current and future needs.

"We will use the information we have collected to make a wide range of assessments that, in future, could lead to significant improvements in the

range of properties and services we offer," Becci added.

If you would like more information on the results of BVT's demographic survey or information on how to get involved in other research projects you can contact Becci on

0121-415 6524