

Village Letter Box

Two Bournville tenants wrote to BVT recently to voice their concerns about litter and what they perceive to be a general decline in the Estate. Here we publish those letters, and BVT's response. Don't forget - we pay £10 for each letter from residents published in Outlook - so get writing!



BVT Community Services Director, Gloria Gain, responds

Tenants keen we clean up our act

Dear Editor,

"I have lived on the Trust for over 30 years and have noticed, much to my dismay, that litter and graffiti are now very widespread problems which detract from the beauty of the Estate.

As a family, we all enjoy walking and cycling through the many lovely 'green' spaces and feel it a shame they are spoilt by this eyesore. I would therefore like to propose that we have a 'clean up' team funded, if need be, by residents.

Perhaps BVT could bill cable TV companies, Centro (bus shelters) and the Royal Mail (post boxes), if they do not keep their apparatus clean? The whole Estate, and those who reside here, would feel more pride in their area and much less intimidated if they felt the Trust was sympathetic to this issue.

I would, if necessary, be willing to assist - I therefore hope you will seriously consider my proposal!"

A Resident from the Bournville Estate

Dear Editor,

"I have lived on Bournville for 35 years and I have been proud to be part of the Bournville community. As I am now a senior citizen, I cannot help compare life on Bournville as it was when I first came here and now. I live in a preservation area and fear that standards are slowly going down. Some tenants don't tend their gardens, litter is left lying about, black bags of rubbish are left in front gardens for weeks. Leaves from last autumn have not been swept up. Bournville Village Trust can only do so much. They have rules to preserve our Estate, but some people do what they like regardless.

It is up to those who live here to make our area the beautiful place that George Cadbury dreamed of. So it is up to us, young and old to be responsible. Come on Bournvillions, let's do our bit and make our village a place to be proud to live in".

From Mrs June Wright of Bournville

Litter and graffiti seem to be a national disease, affecting many residential areas throughout the country. If only everyone would pick up one piece of litter each day then areas would reap the benefit enormously.

BVT maintains all Trust areas, but as far as cable network and other third party ownerships are concerned, we have no power to force them to clean up their equipment nor, for legal reasons, can we do it for them - it is up to the individual or company concerned.

Local youngsters and BVT staff carry out 'litter picks' on a regular basis. However, I would be delighted to organise whole community clean-ups. Please contact me and I can arrange black bags, litter pickers, gloves, etc. as well as black bag collection and incineration.

I agree everyone should play their part - so come on the people of Bournville, let's make our Estate the best in Birmingham!

Selly Manor saves the day



After a series of setbacks and problems trying to organise their 'big day', Bournville couple Becca Leaver and Howard Smith turned to Selly Manor for help ... and they were not disappointed! In thanking Selly Manor Heritage Manager, Gillian Ellis, the couple wrote:

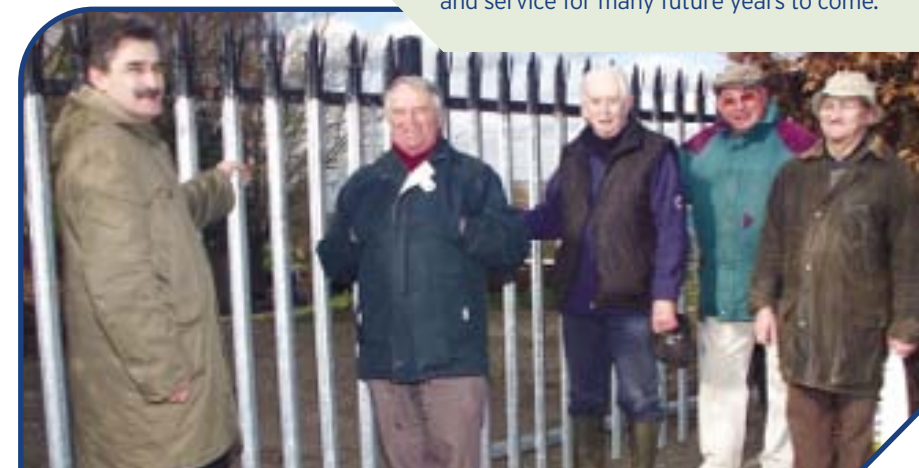
"We felt we had to write and say thank you for the help you gave us in making our wedding happen. As you know,

during the run-up, we met with all sorts of difficulties, and ended up sorting the whole thing from start to finish in seven weeks! It is purely due to the support, flexibility and professionalism of those involved, including yourselves, that we managed to achieve such a fabulous day.

"In the weeks before the wedding, we were hugely impressed by both the venue itself and by the attitude of your staff. There were never any problems or difficulties and any worries that crossed our minds were immediately allayed - normally by virtue of YOU having previously thought of and sorted them! We were consistently given more than we asked or hoped for, even down to the fact that you delayed your Christmas closing to accommodate us.

"On our wedding day, everything was perfect and things went better than we could have hoped. We must concur with all of those who commented that our forced change of plan actually resulted in a much more special and memorable day in a much more special and memorable setting. Many thanks for all that you did!"

Gloria helps make an entrance



In a letter to BVT Community Director, Gloria Gain, Anne and Roger Prior of Birch Close, Bournville wrote:

"Thank you for a very enjoyable Garden Competition Presentation Evening, when we were amazed and thrilled to receive first prize in Class 4.

We would also like to express our gratitude for your suggestion of the availability of Community Scheme funding.

Following your suggestion - as you will see from the enclosed photo - fencing and gates were erected at our allotment site. We feel sure these will provide excellent security and service for many future years to come."

An ode to Bournville Village Trust...

BVT received the following 'ode of thanks' - penned by Mr. J. Weston of Oakengates, Telford - after he received a grant from the Trust's Community Fund.

Bournville make chocolate, as you may be aware.

But they also supply flats to the community, that you and your partner can share.

When you've hardly got no cash and you need an item fast.

And you can't afford to buy and you have to rely on BVT, get an estimate today that's a must.

Send it away, to the Bournville Village Trust committee, a grant of up to £250 could be yours if they relent.

But if they have their meeting on the 1st of every month, £100 will be sent.

Bournville also give grants as I did not know at all.

They give it for cookers, fridges and washers galore!

All I wanted was a cooker for Christmas day, I wanted to cook turkey and potatoes, carrots and sprouts in the old fashioned way.

But BVT has come up trumps and have pulled out all the stumps so I can have my cooker on Christmas Day (Three cheers, hip-hip/hip-hip/hip-hip hooray! You have saved my day!

So when I tuck into my Christmas pud with lust.

And have all my relations round as well - that's a must.

I shall tell them it's nice to be a tenant of the Trust!

Editors Note:

For more information, or to apply to the Trust's Community Fund, please contact Jackie Edwards, telephone:

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