

New homes at Lawley

Bournville Village Trust has been selected, in partnership with Beth Johnson Housing Group, to play a major part in providing affordable new homes at Lawley, in Telford.

Once finalised, it will mean a total of 3,300 new homes in Lawley with a range of employment, community and leisure facilities. Of these, 400 will be for rent or shared ownership from BVT.

This exciting opportunity further consolidates BVT's growth in Telford, where we already own or manage 500 homes. After the completion of Lightmoor Village, this figure will rise to over 1,300. This opportunity was secured in competition against other affordable housing providers in the region and we will be working alongside Beth Johnson, as well as established private sector developers like Barratts, Persimmon Homes and George Wimpey - all under the watchful eye and control of the landowners English Partnerships, who are our joint venture partners at Lightmoor.

The Trust has a first class reputation for the quality of estate management at Bournville and we are committed to the same type of role at Lightmoor and in the future, Lawley. We are delighted to have come successfully through a tough selection process and we are looking forward to making our own unique contribution to help ensure that Lawley will indeed be an attractive place to live.

Change to Trustees

Goodbye to Veronica...

Bournville Village Trust wished a fond farewell to Veronica Wootten who retired in July following 38 years of dedicated service as a Trustee.

Veronica was welcomed to her first Trustee meeting on 11 March 1968 by her father, Laurence Cadbury, who was then Chairman of Trustees. As grand-daughter of the founder, Veronica always had a strong commitment to the ethos of the Trust and, when appointed, was one of just two female Trustees. During her time at BVT she has worked on several committees and undertook many roles including 14 years as Chairman of Trustees.



• Veronica Wootten

She presided over many important changes to the structure and management of the Trust, including resident involvement, the setting up of service companies, and the new venture into Telford, where BVT now has a thriving presence.

Veronica's achievements include publishing the first formal BVT Annual Report and Accounts and playing a key role in developments at Rowheath Solar Village, Laurence Court, Meadow Rise and Harvey Mews. Fellow Trustees would like to thank Veronica for her outstanding contribution to the development of the Trust, and offer their warmest wishes to her and her husband Richard for a long and happy retirement.

Hello to Paul...

Paul Sabapathy, is the new Trustee who has been appointed to succeed Veronica and brings with him a wealth of experience.

Paul has worked for 30 years in finance and human resources and draws upon varied experience in voluntary work across several sectors such as health, education, business and development.

This family man is a well-known local figure as a previous board member of Heartlands and Black Country Development



• Paul Sabapathy

Corporations, and past president of Birmingham Chamber of Commerce. During his time at Heartlands, Paul also worked alongside BVT on the Bordesley and Nechells inner city regeneration schemes in Birmingham. He is currently Pro-Chancellor and Chairman of the Board of Governors of the University of Central England, and Chairman of the Eastern Birmingham Primary Care Trust. Paul, who joins 11 other Trustees on the board, said: "I'm looking forward to learning more about the Trust, and playing an active part in helping BVT to flourish."

Apprentice scheme gathering pace

The BVT Apprentice Scheme is going from strength to strength after one student won a national award for 'First Year Best Apprentice.'

Nineteen-year-old Thomas Davidson won the award after starting the course at Bournville Propertycare Services, part of BVT, on their ongoing apprenticeship scheme which was set up seven years ago.

Bournville Propertycare Services (BPS) has 35 members of staff and provides on-site training and college education for plumbers, joiners and painters.

Rodney Smith, Director of Contracting Services, said: "We give apprentices on-site training and an agreed wage and they also go to South Birmingham College for one day a week for two or three years.

"When we offer apprenticeships, we don't guarantee them a job at the end of the training, but so far all have now gone on to become fully qualified tradesmen with us at BPS.



• *Apprentices are all smiles*

"Because the Trust offers good working conditions, sick pay, good holidays and a company pension scheme, we also have good retention rates. Six of the 35 trades-people we employ have been with us for over 25 years, and the average is almost 17 years' service."

Event Alert!

This year's Shropshire tenant conference will be held at The Holiday Inn, Telford, on Saturday October 14. The 'Homes for Life' event has been organised by tenants and members of the Shropshire Tenant Participation Working Group. A range of workshops will be available to give tenants the opportunity to find out more about choice-based letting, home ownership options, sustainable working communities and various tenant groups and community projects. Furthermore, there are three forthcoming training

sessions for Telford tenants covering topics such as equality and diversity, funding and communication skills. For those in attendance at these events, reasonable travel and childcare costs incurred will be refunded. **Places are limited and as the events are extremely popular, you are advised to book early to avoid disappointment. Please register your interest by emailing zoeystanton@bvt.org.uk or by telephone on 0121 415 6416/8.**

Derek becomes newest member of committee

A man who has lived on the estate for 47 years has become the newest member of the Estate Management and Scheme Committee.

Derek Hammond, an ex-commando, won a closely-fought contest to represent the Shenley Court area.

The committee determines all matters of "appearance and amenity" on the estate, such as approval for external alterations and management of BVT's open spaces. It also recommends an annual budget and monitors performance against that budget.

The committee is made up of four trustees and four elected residents. The residents represent each of the four designated resident associations, and each resident sits for an initial four-year period with one retiring each year.

Derek, who brings a wealth of management experience to the committee, is also co-ordinator of the Long Mynd West Neighbourhood Watch.

Along with a keen interest in estate management and the environment, Derek is a family man with four daughters and 20 grandchildren!

