

How Trustees provide a first rate service

Bournville Village Trust celebrated its centenary in 2000 as one of the oldest housing organisations in Britain.

Over the next few editions of Outlook, we plan to focus on the work of some of the committees which deal with the policies and business of BVT.

To begin our first profile, we take a look at the Housing Services Committees:

One of the main purposes of BVT is to provide and maintain a wide range of good quality rented housing for people in need. The main task of the Housing Services Committee (HSC) is to oversee the management and maintenance of the Trust's housing in every area where the Trust operates.

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• Clive Wilkinson

• Trustee Clive Wilkinson served as Chairman of the HSC from its inception in 1983 until earlier this year. His achievements were remarkable, particularly in ensuring the best interests of tenants were always represented.

The current Trustees are Duncan Cadbury, who has recently been appointed

Chairman of the committee, Bronwen Lilley, Roger Wilson, Paul Sabapathy and Candia Carolan. Two other Trustees - Jim Wilson and Nigel Cadbury - are co-opted as non-voting members on the committee. The tenant reps are Paul Banner from Shenley Manor Tenants Association, Mike McIntosh from Shenley



• Clive Wilkinson was presented with a Birmingham City FC shirt to mark his 24 years' service as Chairman of the Housing Services Committee. Duncan Cadbury (left) was appointed Chairman of the committee in April 2007. Bob Stanton (right) is the Trust's Head of Housing.

Court Tenants Association, and Ian Wayne from Shropshire Tenants. There are currently two vacancies - from Woodlands and Park Tenants Associations.



• Duncan Cadbury

• Duncan Cadbury has served as a Trustee for over 20 years and is also a qualified social worker, with valuable experience in senior posts in Social Services Departments and at the Leonard Cheshire Foundation.

Duncan is also a founder member of the Trust's Equality and Diversity

Steering Group and, since 2006, has chaired the Shropshire Advisory Committee, the fore-runner of the recently-formed Shropshire Housing Services Committee.

The committee membership comprises two Trustees, one visiting Trustee and six Shropshire tenant representatives. Duncan is chairman, and is joined by Martin Snaith and the visiting Trustee.

At present the tenant members are Michael Genockey, Dorothy Humphries, Doreen Ledbury, Ian Wayne and Kath Wayne. Among its other functions, this committee recommends an annual budget and business plan to the Housing Services Committee.

Down memory lane

Do you remember seeing the iron railings being removed from the Quadrangle in Mary Vale Road during the Second World War?

If so, please contact us as your memories might help support a project that could lead to their replacement.

Call Bob Stanton on 0121 415 6562.

Open house at Selly Wood reaps some great rewards

It can be difficult to recruit and retain good staff to work in care homes. So in March we decided to try something different, to publicise the vacancies in Selly Wood House. This is a home for 44 frail older people, which is owned and managed by Bournville Village Trust. Many of the residents have lived in or near Bournville during their working lives. An Open Day was held because of the large number of vacancies, and it was advertised on posters around Bournville; flyers which were pushed through the doors of local people, and by one big advert in the Birmingham Mail.



• Sue Lowe from HR with Renny Wodynska, Director of Supported Housing

Recruitment packs were prepared, with details of each vacant post; staff came in during their own free time to show interested applicants around and to talk to them about what it is like to work at the home; exhibitions showed the different activities that take place, including the outings, parties and so on. The HR team was also present to talk to applicants about the benefits of working for the Trust such as good training and staff support. The doors opened to applicants at 2pm but some keen folk turned up well before this. There was an excellent turnout during the two open sessions held, with many of those attending saying they had been unaware of Selly Wood House, despite being in the middle of the Bournville estate! As a result of the open day, many applications for the vacant posts were received. Interviews have taken place and all vacancies have now been filled.



• Janet Mawson (L) with a prospective applicant

Selly Wood House is part of the Supported Housing Department, which also manages small homes for people with learning disabilities, a young care leavers' project, sheltered housing schemes and the Central Control service which provides 24hr assistance to anyone who has our pendant alarm system. Over the next few months a similar Open Day will be held, advertising all the vacancies across the department.

If you are interested in working for us and would like to be informed about any future vacancies, please contact the HR Department on 0121 415 6442.

Training proves a huge hit as tenants are ever-more involved

The Trust is continuing to provide a wide range of resources to support tenant involvement as well as offering high quality, free training for tenants who are already involved or who might wish to participate.

Training sessions arranged for tenants during 2007 include:

- Confident committees
- Confidence building
- Resolving conflict
- Newsletters and publicity
- Tenant information
- Recruiting contractors
- Effective meetings

BVT Tenant Participation Officer Zoey Stanton said: "We use professional trainers to deliver these sessions. Some of our tenants have also taken part in training which is held in conjunction with other landlords or provided by other organisations."



• Quality training sessions cover a host of subject matter

If you are interested in getting involved then contact Zoey on 0121 415 6516/8 or zoeystanton@bvt.org.uk