



A year in the making

2006 was a year of real progress - here we look at some of the many highlights.

Landscape masterplan

The environment in which we live, work and play is an increasingly important part of all our lives.

The Trust commissioned the Bournville Landscape Masterplan, the purpose of which was to determine what might be done to help revitalise some of our open spaces. Residents expressed their views and fed into the process, although this is a long-term project over many years. Next steps are continued consultation and the development of a set of priorities.

Plastic windows

The issue of PVC-u windows and their impact on the environment prompted a policy review by the Trust in 2006. We commissioned a report which concluded that PVC-u has a much greater impact on the environment than timber.

The key points of our review concluded that:

- For our own housing stock and for new developments PVC-u will not be used.
- PVC-u will be allowed in most areas, although a strong preference is expressed for timber on environmental and aesthetic grounds.
- There are a number of areas on the Estate where applications to use PVC-u will not be supported, including Bournville Village Conservation Area, Bournville Tenants Conservation Area, Bournville Works Housing Society Area, Meadow Rise/Harvey Mews and Laurence Court.

We will continue to work with residents, manufacturers, architects and others to preserve the overall integrity of the Estate.

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Get Hooked On Fishing

The lovely setting of Rowheath Pool is the venue for a ground-breaking project helping to improve the quality of life for youngsters in South Birmingham.

The project - backed by Lottery funding - engages those at risk of social exclusion by using angling to help improve their lives.

During 2006 the pool was cleared, an aeration system fitted, better access established and fish stocks replenished.

Tree wardens

The environment was certainly “at the forefront” when two Bournville Schools celebrated the 30th anniversary of National Tree Week.

Under the supervision of BVT tree wardens, youngsters from St Francis School and St Laurence Junior School planted trees in their grounds to help create a greener environment. The wardens are helping maintain the trees until they are established.

Tenant participation

We are committed to tenant participation, which is at the heart of all that BVT does.

The Trust has worked closely with landlords in Birmingham and Shropshire to achieve cost-savings, hold joint events, attract external funding and share information and best practice.

We also have a very high level of tenant satisfaction in terms of participation, the Trust being in the top 25 per cent of housing associations nationally, and the third best performer in our peer group in the West Midlands.

Tenant conference

The annual tenant conference took place at The Beeches Management Centre in April.

The event promoted tenant participation and raised awareness of the many different ways tenants can get involved and make a difference.

Tenants were involved in helping organise the event and setting the format. A wide variety of workshops took place during the day-long proceedings.