



Telford Area Office Team update October 2008

- I am pleased to report that tenants in Shropshire have recently won two bids to the Tenant Project Funding panel in the region of £3000. This will enable tenants to push forward with plans to enhance their website and also to purchase some publicity material.
- I am working with the committee to stage a Christmas event combined with a tenant's surgery. The event will be publicised in the Shropshire Star and on the BVT website. We have agreed that the surgery will be themed and the first theme will be "repairs"
- I am working with a small steering group of Birmingham tenants to re visit "tenant's expenses". We have had a very valuable meeting from which will come a report for TP Panel. This report will be presented by the tenants to the panel and will ask for a recommendation to go forward to produce a menu of expenses. This work is in reaction to tenants comments that they would like more clarity on expenses. It also firms up the organisations commitment to equal opportunities in TP
- I am writing a paper for discussion by the Executive team in November to outline the procedures for use and access to the laptops available in Shropshire. The procedures will give safety to both BVT and tenants, and will clearly outline their responsibilities. This objective has been discussed with John Stevenson, head of IT who supports the initiative.
- BISTO continues to meet effectively and to update the Website with information for all tenants.
- The current chair of BISTO, Ian Waye is involved through the TP Panel in the selection of the new Tenant Participation Officer which will have taken place this week (28th October)

- I am sitting down with BISTO at their next meeting to look at some goals for 2009, the next tenant's conference and some cross visiting which they have requested.
- I have recently met with Anita Gowing to discuss the new tenant and resident database on QL.
- I am joining a steering group in November to discuss "see my data" and have set up a local steering group for Shropshire to include the Wrekin Housing Trust who already use the system.
- We continue to appeal for more TP members for BISTO but this continues to be hard work.
- By December BISTO will have completed one year as a constituted body, I am content that they are acting in accordance with their constitution. The group has worked well together for the benefit of the whole community.
- I have one funding bid outstanding to the Coop for a Shropshire Calendar
- The recent County tenants show attracted nearly 200 tenants County Wide. I am sitting with officers this month to start the analysis of the event and pre plan next year which will be the 9th Annual conference.
- I look forward to working with BISTO for the benefit of **all** Shropshire tenants and thereby strengthening Shropshire contact with Bournville.
- We now have positive contact with tenant/residents at both Lightmoor and Lawley. The inclusion of tenants onto the Lightmoor steering group will bring balance and enhance the work of the Estate Management Committee overall.