

Working Towards Tenant Management....

In July 2007 with the support of residents on the Roman Way Estate we were able to progress to the final stage of the Right to Manage Process, The Development Study

The main aim of the Development Study is to create a competent Tenant Management Organisation (TMO) with a Board who has the skills and knowledge required to carry out the work as a representative of Birmingham City Council under the Right to Manage.

So what has been happening?

- A Community Interest Company has been set up – **the Roman Way Estate CIC** to continue the Right to Manage Work leading to the formation of a Tenant Management Organisation (TMO)
- The Board have been busy attending training in all aspects of Housing Management functions and management skills
- A stage 2 assessment has been successfully carried out by an outside organisation to determine the groups capability to manage services on behalf of the Housing Department
- A business Plan is being prepared
- Negotiations are taking place to determine the services the TMO wish to manage.

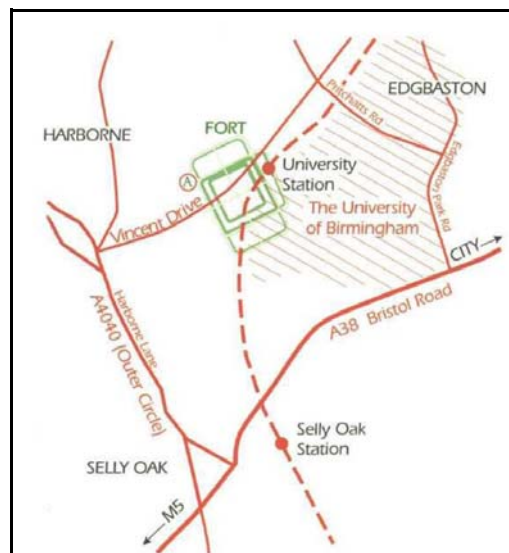
We want to hear your thoughts regarding the Development Study and want to talk to you about the work we have done and the work still to be done.

Shortly we will be sending out to all households on the estate a Frequently asked questions booklet, which will address question such as:

- What is a Tenant Management Organisation?
- Who will be my Landlord?
- What does the Roman Way Estate CIC Board do?
- What services do we want to manage?
- What are the benefits for residents?

We will be out and about, following this up during the weeks beginning April 20th and 27th in a bid to answer any questions you may have. We will also be offering the opportunity to visit a live TMO

We want to encourage as many residents as possible to become involved, either by voicing your ideas, signing up to be a member of the CIC or becoming a board member. So do get in touch!



Want More Information?

If you would like any more information about any of the articles in this newsletter or to get involved, you can contact us:

By phone: 0800 0234 807 (ask for Daphne)
 By e-mail: romanwayresidentsgroup@msn.com
 By post: RWRG, PO Box 13667, Birmingham, B16 6DU

Alternatively, have a look at our website: www.romanwayestate.com

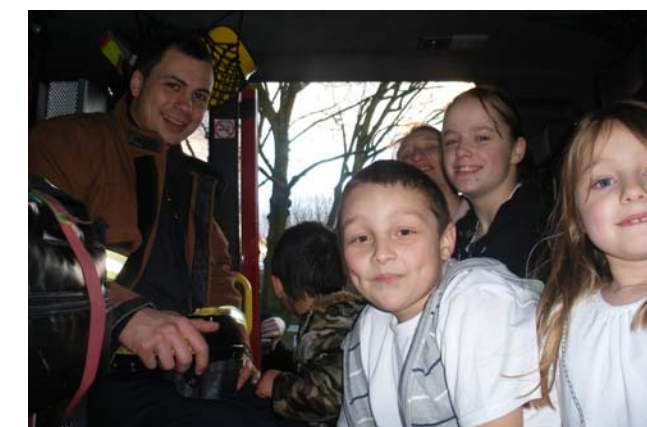


This newsletter was compiled by Nick Reynolds and edited by Sophia Mannan: local residents.

Celebrating Success!!

Roman Way Residents Group has been established for 4 years now, with just a few members we now have over 100!, all residents who care about the area we all live in! In 2008 we established a Community Interest Company (Roman Way Estate CIC), which will be the management arm of the organisation following a successful vote this summer. The CIC has over 70 members but we need more!

Here we have a look at some of the success stories for the estate:



Windermere House

- BrumCan Recycling Bins
- Landing floors stripped and polished
- Walls and ceilings painted
- Cross hatching at rear of block
- Handrail installed for safety
- Negotiated for revenue from mobile phone masts
- 'Residents Only' parking signs
- Replacing 40 year old landing and stairwell lights
- Liaison with police and anti social behaviour team regarding youths in and outside the block (followed by a survey by West Midlands Police)
- Parking bays marked
- Freesat boxes installed Jan/Feb 2008
- New notice board in foyer

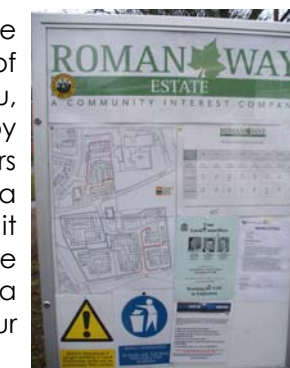
Thirlmere House

- BrumCan Recycling Bins
- CCTV camera signs
- Landing floors stripped and polished
- Cross hatching at rear of block
- Replacing landing and stairwell lights
- Freesat boxes installed Jan/Feb 2008

The Whole of Roman Way Estate

- Establishment of Neighbourhood Watch
- 'No Dumping' and 'Anti-social behaviour' signs
- Gardening equipment purchased
- Notice Boards across the estate
- Regular Estate Walkabouts with Council
- 7 Community days, including clean up days, Christmas events, bulb planting days
- Zebra Crossing on Vincent Drive
- Litterbins across the estate
- New gates for low rise blocks
- Bollards installed in Underwood Close
- Trip Rails
- Established a group office
- Successful negotiations on behalf of residents with poor TV reception

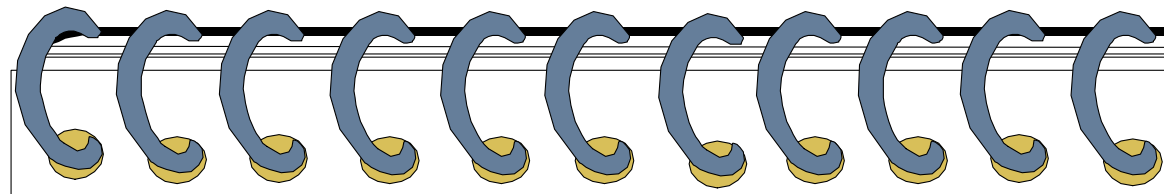
All of these successes have taken place as a result of residents, just like you, joining together to lobby the city council and others to help us improve the area where we live and make it a wonderful estate to live in. To all of you we send a very big thank you for your support!



Also in this issue:

Neighbourhood Updates; Police Surgeries Launched and the latest on Tenant Management

Neighbourhood Updates

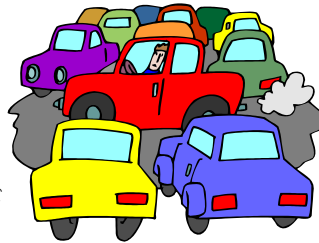


The latest news from your local neighbourhood.....

Parking

Are you concerned about parking across the estate?

The Transportation Department at the City Council will be undertaking a consultation exercise with residents prior to the down grading of Vincent Drive next year, as part of the consultation, representatives from Transportation will be at the next residents group meeting on Wednesday 22nd April 2009 starting at 6:30 pm. The meeting is held in the BNHJV site and is accessible from Gate 3 on Vincent Drive, refreshments provided.



This is your chance to let the City Council know your views. If you feel the estate may become a massive car park once the new QE Hospital is opened now is the time to have your say!



Housing

Many residents have expressed concern that the Housing Dept no longer attend meetings, therefore on Wednesday 22nd April 2009, Housing Mangers will be attending the Residents Group meeting to advise all residents how they can continue to share their concerns with the housing dept! The Residents group believe we have effective communication strategies in place with the housing dept (your landlord) and would like all residents to understand how they can continue to be heard.

If you would like to come along to the meeting on 22nd April 2009 but have mobility issues you feel may prevent you attending, please contact us on 0800 0234 807 or 07507878681- we may be able to help.

Congratulations to Nick Reynolds who has completed a course of study in The Local Authority Tenant Leadership Award- Nick was presented with his award at a ceremony in the Council House hosted by Cllr John Lines and Elaine Elkington



A Message From Your Local Police Team



On Tuesday 17th March the Roman Way Estate police surgery was launched. These will run every two weeks on a Tuesday.

The surgery times are **11am to 1pm**. They take place in the office on the ground floor of Thirlmere House, Roman Way. Times and dates of the surgeries will be published on the estate notice boards and are as follows:

31st March, 14th April, 28th April, 12th May, 26th May, 9th June, 23rd June

The surgery gives local residents the opportunity to meet their local police officers.

Residents can report crime, receive crime prevention advice or discuss any local

issues, which need resolving. Matters can be discussed in confidence.

The surgery does have some crime prevention merchandise available to residents free of charge.

We want to make the police more visible and approachable to the local community so you can tell us what really matters to you. The surgery gives you access to discuss things in confidence directly with the police. We hope you will find this useful and visit us.

Sgt Helen Lenihan

Meet a Board Member: Sally Weston

We moved to the estate on St Patrick's Day 1997 and met our neighbours who were very welcoming. They are still the loveliest helpful and kindest people to live next door to. They told us about the estate from the time it was built and the changes that have occurred since then (1960's).

As I work full-time it has always been difficult to find time to meet and socialise with the neighbours, but from the time we moved in we felt that this estate was a good place to live. Over the years we have seen changes - some for the better and some not so good. I wanted to be involved with the estate and went to a resident's group meeting. I went, I saw, I listened and decided that I wanted to be part of the group that wanted to make this estate not only a good place to live, but a great place! I was persuaded to join the committee and subsequently became the Treasurer. We continued to hold regular meetings and then we evolved into a company. I am now the Finance Officer for the Roman Way Estate CIC.



We are hoping to take over the housing management role on the estate and to do that we need your support to take us forward to the final vote.

I strongly believe that we all as residents can make a difference in the estate where we live, no matter what our commitments.