

# Your Local Housing Team

Article written by Hilary Parker, Birmingham City Council

My name is Hilary Parker and I am the Local Housing Manager for the Edgbaston District Housing Team, managing Estate Management and Anti-Social Behaviour. I have been working in the Edgbaston constituency for the last ten years and am familiar with the needs of the area.

To contact the Edgbaston Housing team an Options phone System is in place with the following telephone numbers and options:

<b>Rent Enquiries</b>	303 5951 (Option 1)
<b>Anti-Social Behaviour</b>	303 9728 / 303 5248 (Option 2)
<b>Void Properties</b>	303 6716 (Option 3)
<b>Applications/ Transfers</b>	303 5245 (Option 4)
<b>Estate Management</b>	303 9724 (Option 5)

As part of their work, two officers have been assigned to Roman Way and they are Karen Bailey, for Estate Management, and Stephen Smith for Anti-Social Behaviour. Additionally, we have a support team who assist the Housing

Officers and it is usually this team who you will initially have contact with. If there were a problem that the support team are unable to resolve, then the relevant Housing Officers would become involved.

We are also able to call up the Estate Assistant, Ron Bowley, and the Environmental Cleaning Gang, who assist with environmental issues; for example, such as dumped rubbish. If an issue has been identified that cannot be resolved by the Housing Team we look to work in partnership with other City Council departments or, if required, outside contractors.

I would hope that you do receive a good service from all members of my team but if this is not the case then please do not hesitate to contact me. If my officers or I are not available at the time, please leave a message and someone will get back to you.



From left to right: Ian Shorthouse, New Hospital Project; Karen Bailey, Housing Officer



The Ring of Sound choir

## Thank you! (continued from first page)

A huge thank you to everyone who took part in the Community Clean-up Day on 29th April. It was great to see so many people from the local area who came out in support. In addition to local residents, we'd like to say thank you to the following:

- For entertainment** Witton Lodge Intergenerational Choir: 'Ring of Sound'
- The Baba Mundi Drummers
- For refreshments** Louise at the Golden Cross Pub and Sainsburys
- Raffle Prizes** Louise at the Golden Cross Pub and Bobby's News
- For Support** Sgt Osborne, PC Thompson and PC Steve Sherry
- All three local councillors
- Ward Support Officer – Tony Bailey
- Local Housing Officer - Karen Bailey
- Ian Shorthouse – New Hospital Project



# ROMAN WAY RESIDENTS' GROUP

## Neighbourhood News Issue 3

**"What a day** our first Community Clean Up Day was!

The day was a result of funding secured through the Community Chest to purchase litterbins and cleaning equipment for the estate. We thought it would be a nice idea to test out the cleaning equipment so the day on Saturday 29th April was arranged.



What can I say: 'Thank you' to everybody who made it such an outstanding day. The estate looked a real treat after the big clean and we should all be very proud. It would be impossible to name everybody who took part, but I would like to say a special thank you to all the children, you were brilliant. You can also see a list of special thank you's on the back page of this newsletter as we ran out of room here! I am looking forward to the next event and once again thank you to everybody for making it such a memorable day." Best wishes, Allan Bennett, Chair



## Our Council Homes...

Since our last newsletter, at the General Meeting held on the 20th February, members voted unanimously to serve a 'Right to Manage Notice' on the Council declaring the Groups intention to look into setting up a Tenant Management Organisation. The Council accepted the notice and Roman Way Residents Group is now moving into the Feasibility Stage of the 'Right to manage' process.

### So, what is a Tenant Management Organisation (TMO)?

TMOs come in various types and sizes and is a form of participation in which the tenants and lessees in an area take on the responsibility of providing some or all-housing management tasks on behalf of the Council. The council continues to be the landlord, it still owns the properties and tenants remain secure tenants

of the Council.

### What happens next?

Now that the Right to Manage notice has been served and accepted by the Council, we will concentrate on increasing tenant involvement and exploring further the possibility of setting up a Tenant Management Organisation for the estate. You can find more information on the work we're going to be doing over the summer with our independent advisers, Daphne and Kate of Anthony Collins Solicitors, on the inside pages.



## Tenant Management: The Next Steps

In the article on the front page of this newsletter, we explained that the next step for the Roman Way estate to take whilst considering setting up a Tenant Management Organisation (TMO) is to undertake a 'feasibility study'. This will result in a report setting out what sort of services the tenant management organisation should consider taking on, and will have a statement from our independent advisers, Anthony Collins Solicitors, saying whether or not we have the capacity within the group and support from the council to go ahead. There will also be a 'test of opinion'; giving every council tenant in the area a chance to say whether they're happy to go forward. We can only go onto the next step if tenants want to. To get there, there's quite a bit of work to do over the summer, including:



- talking to as many people as possible about a possible TMO and what services it could deliver, gathering views and questions;
- receiving training on how to run a TMO, including skills on running organisations and making decisions;
- encouraging as many residents as possible to visit existing TMOs, talk to the residents who sit on TMO boards and get lots of information on what is possible; and
- increasing the membership of the Committee and opportunities for residents to have their say.

Members of the Committee will be out and about with our advisers, Kate and Daphne, over the summer months to talk to as many people as possible. Watch this space for news of events in your road! In the meantime, if you have any questions on the process, do get in touch with Daphne on 0121 212 7457.

## Meet a Committee Member



"Hello, my name is Nick Reynolds and I was elected Secretary of the Roman Way Residents Group in December 2005. Many of you will probably remember me more when I used to walk my dog Penny. I have lived on the Roman Way estate for 12 years now and have noticed a slow decline of the area. I have always loved living in the area and that is why I am so keen to help the group move towards a better neighbourhood for us all to

live in.

I am currently a final year part time student of Criminology and Policing Studies; I therefore especially welcome the contribution of our Neighbourhood Police Officers within the group. If you see me around, please say hello and feel free to ask me about the group. I am happy to speak to you and give information."

## Want More Information?

If you would like any more information about any of the articles in this newsletter or to get involved with the Roman Way Residents' Group, you can contact us:

By post:  
**Roman Way Residents' Group**  
**FREEPOST NAT8955**  
**BIRMINGHAM B2 5BR**

By phone: **0121 212 7457** (ask for Kate or Daphne)

By e-mail:  
**romanwayresidentsgroup1@active**  
**mail.co.uk**

## Abandoned Cars

Article written by Martyn Smith, Birmingham City Council

There is a very serious side to the growing problem of abandoned, nuisance and untaxed vehicles. The presence of abandoned vehicles devalues an area, promotes crime and generally causes a nuisance. The Police have the legal power to remove vehicles in some circumstances, including where the vehicle is illegally parked. Below are a couple of frequently asked questions which outline some of the main issues relating to abandoned vehicles.



**Who is responsible for dealing with abandoned vehicles?** The City Council is responsible for dealing with abandoned vehicles and is under a legal duty to do so. The Police also have

authority to do so, but will ONLY do so if it is causing a dangerous obstruction on the public highway or is a danger to other road users as a result of its condition or circumstances.

**I think a vehicle has been abandoned in our road. What should I do?** The City Council has a dedicated telephone to allow anyone to report an abandoned vehicle. The abandoned vehicle hotline number is 0121 303 1112 (open 8 am – 8pm Monday to Friday) or email [RefuseCollection@Birmingham.gov.uk](mailto:RefuseCollection@Birmingham.gov.uk)

If you want to make a report please tell us the following details:

- Has the vehicle got a valid tax disc?
- The exact location of the vehicle
- The vehicle make, model and colour
- The vehicle registration number

## Bournville Lane Neighbourhood Policing

Bournville Lane Operational Command Unit (OCU) covers the area of Bournville, Northfield, Edgbaston, Selly Oak, Bartley Green, Longbridge and Weoley Castle. The OCU has recently undergone significant changes in introducing "neighbourhood policing" which is driven by the Home Office police reform agenda. Neighbourhood Policing focuses on local issues that matter to you, issues such as parking, litter and anti-social behaviour. The OCU is divided into three sectors, each of which is under the command of an inspector who heads a team of officers responsible for policing your neighbourhood. The Roman Way estate comes under North sector, which is headed by Inspector Liam Brennan. The team of officers who have specific responsibility for the Roman Way estate are Sergeant Philomena Osborne, PC Sally Thompson, PC Steve Little, PC Julie Roberts, PC Terry Wetton, PC Vicki Green and PC Liz Mitchell.

One of the team regularly attends the monthly committee meetings of the Roman Way Residents' Group and recently officers have actively participated in the "clean-up" day, which was a great success. A partnership walk through of the estate has also taken place including the police, committee members, project manager, ward support officer, housing officer, anti-social behaviour officer and hospital community relations manager. The start of this working partnership has been positive and we hope to build on this success in the future. If you wish to discuss any local issues of concern please e-mail Sgt "Phil" Osborne or Wpc Sally Thompson at: - [Osborne\\_5629@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk](mailto:Osborne_5629@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk) or [Thompson\\_4427@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk](mailto:Thompson_4427@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk). You can also contact us by telephone: 0845 1135000, extension 7822 6530

