



### Find your voice – set up a tenants association

#### What is a tenants association?

It is a group that meets regularly to discuss housing, community or environmental matters that affect their home whether it be a block of flats, estate or group of houses. Recognised tenants associations are eligible to apply for a share of £35,000 each year to assist in improving the quality of life in their community.

#### What can a tenants association do for you?

A tenants association can raise issues which affect all tenants such as car parking, noise nuisance, repairs, security, improvement plans, street lighting, environmental issues etc. They can also help facilitate activities, fund raise to encourage a sense of community and build more harmonious relationships with neighbours through group initiatives. You can have a say in the decisions taken by your landlord concerning your homes

If you want to campaign for any kind of change or improvement to where you live, as a group you carry more weight and can build closer more productive relationships with your landlord, after all many voices are better than one. We, your landlord, also benefit from a central point of contact with the community and have a quick and easy route for informing tenants of news and obtaining feedback. You can work with us to guarantee consultation and involvement and ensure we listen to your ideas.

#### How do I get things started?

The first thing to do is to try to get support – talk to your neighbours. Get together with other tenants and identify the common problems and concerns. Then plan an open meeting for all tenants to agree to the setting up of an association. At the meeting let people speak and air their views and decide what will be the main aims of the association and agree on a constitution (a simple set of rules governing your group) and, if you want, a Code of Conduct.

Work out who will chair the meeting, how it should be run and what you want out of it. Decide if you want a Housing Officer to attend your meetings and elect a committee and essential officer posts e.g. Chairperson, Secretary and Treasurer.

#### How can Newydd help?

- Give advice and support
- Send officers to the meetings – on request or regularly
- Provide a small set-up grant to cover printing and stationery etc
- Assist with publicity, printing and distribution
- Pay for room hire, baby-sitting fees, transport costs
- Provide training

For further information or assistance, please contact your Community Involvement Officer, or for independent advice you can also contact Tenant Participation Advisory Service (TPAS Cymru) on 029 2023 7303 or the Welsh Tenants Federation on 01656 665195.

### What's happening in the world of Community Involvement?

- The Aberaman Community Flat was officially opened on 3 April 2008
- Annual funding of tenants groups completed
- Working with support providers to promote Financial Inclusion
- Introduction of a pilot Time Banking Scheme
- Introduction of an pilot Advocacy Project
- Big Night Out – helping co-ordinate a night out for residents of our sheltered schemes with Chair of Gwyn James Court Social Club
- Sponsored an Award for Women of the Year Award 2007
- Gardening and Good Neighbour competitions
- Helping facilitate training for tenants groups
- Reading Panel reviewed the latest In View magazine





## Tenant survey – win £100!!

You will shortly be contacted by your Housing Officer to complete a tenants survey – the survey is an opportunity for you to get your voice across about the likes and dislikes of the service you receive from Newydd. You can get hold of the survey by ringing your local Newydd office, contacting your Housing Officer or by going to Newydd's website at [www.newydd.co.uk](http://www.newydd.co.uk) and clicking on the survey link. You can also fill out the survey at the roadshows.

There are ten prizes of £100 to be won, so get your survey back as soon as possible!

If you have any problems filling your survey out, contact your local Newydd office who will be able to help you.

## Tenants elected Board Members

Enclosed with this newsletter are details of the forthcoming tenant elections. This is an opportunity for you to get elected to the Newydd Board. Please read the enclosed letter for details. If you have any questions or need help completing the nomination form, please contact your local Newydd office who will be able to help you.

## Calling all budding photographers

We are looking for photos to be used in future publications. Please feel free to send us photos that you have taken of events that have been held by us in the past e.g. festivals, your property or garden, your family, or anything related to Newydd Housing. Rewards will be given for any pictures printed.

## Become an estate champion

If there is not enough interest in your area to form a tenants association, you could always opt to become an estate champion.

## The Silent Minority

We are looking for volunteers from under-represented groups to join our advisory groups. Involvement from ethnic minorities, youth, disabled, gay, lesbian and bisexual residents and various religions to date has been very limited and we would like to further discuss any issues which affect the delivery of our housing services to them.

If you require translation facilities or information in other languages or formats, including Welsh, Braille, large font or on CD or tape then this is available on request. You are also able to use our Language Line service to speak to someone in your preferred language. Please ask for details.



## Festival fun!

Following the huge success of last year's festival, we are planning to host another one for tenants who live in the Vale and Valleys this coming August. If anyone would like to be involved and help arrange the event, please contact us.

## Let's get this show on the road!

Newydd will be holding a number of estate road-shows in the first two weeks of July. One of the main aims of the road-shows will be to complete this year's tenant's survey. We need your input so that we can improve the service we provide to you and find out your opinions on what you would like to see us do differently. You will also have the chance to win a £100 prize if you complete a survey! So why not come along to a road-show near you and join in the fun!

When are we coming to your estate?	Morning	Afternoon
30 June	Thompson St, Barry	Thompson St, Barry
1 July	Ffordd Elin, Barry & Heritage	Maes yr Ysgol Drive, Barry
2 July	Columbus Close & Magellan Close, Barry	Clos Llawhaden, Barry
3 July	Penarth	Penarth
4 July	Ely	Tongwynlais
7 July	Rhydyfelin	Rhydyfelin
8 July	Aberaman, Aberdare	Rhiw Ceris, Aberdare
9 July	Glynneath	
10 July	Newtown	Newtown
11 July	Gilfach Goch	Newpark Talbot Green

## Local Offices

If you would like any further information on any of the above, please contact your Community Involvement Officer, Keiron or Tracy at:

Vale of Glamorgan: 121 Broad Street, Barry CF62 7AL – Tel: 01446 701501

Valleys: Trem-y-Cwm, Masefield Way, Rhydyfelin, Pontypridd CF37 5HQ – Tel: 01443 408080

Newtown: St David's House, New Church Street, Newtown, Powys SY16 1RB – Tel: 01686 621965