

Setting up a Residents' Association



Why form a Residents' Association?

There are many reasons for setting up a Residents' Association in your community. The main benefit is that it provides you with the opportunity to influence decisions about the management and maintenance of your block or estate.

Other advantages include:

Solving local issues: residents can work with the council, other agencies and each other to resolve any issues or concerns in their community.

Staying informed: a Residents' Association helps keep residents up to date with information and news about their homes, community and local housing services.

Community spirit: having a residents' group helps to build a stronger sense of community.

Social activities: an active Residents' Association gives residents the opportunity to organise activities and events within their block, estate or in the wider community.

Participation: being a member of a recognised association gives residents access to the formal decision-making process of the council which directly affects the services provided.

Funding and training: residents can access grants and appropriate training which will assist in the running of the association.

Small Improvement Budget

Once accredited, a Residents' Association can bid for funds from this budget at their Area Panel to carry out small improvements to their estates. There are some qualifying criteria but the type of works may include new fencing, benches and gardening equipment to enhance communal entrances and facilities.

Ms D. Wilkins, Chairman, Cambalt Road Residents' Association said;

“Forming a Residents' Association allows all residents to have a collective and united voice when dealing with issues on their estates and engaging the council to address them.”

Resources for your Residents' Association

Annual Grant

The council provides accredited Residents' Associations with a yearly grant to cover running costs (for example stationery, printing newsletters, travel expenses and telephone charges).

Support

Your resident participation officer will provide general support and help you become accredited.

Training

Some residents will be given training on relevant topics and may also receive funding to go on external training courses.

Becoming accredited

There are a number of things a residents' group must do before it is recognised and is awarded accreditation by the council. The Residents' Association must:

- democratically select a; Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary
- adopt the council's model constitution and code of conduct for Residents' Associations
- achieve at least 20% membership amongst the total number of properties in the area
- provide an updated list of members each year
- be open to all residents in the represented area
- hold an annual general meeting
- provide an annual statement of accounts

Betty Georgiou, St Margaret's Sheltered Residents' Association Treasurer said;

“

Before we formed a resident's group we didn't really know each other, now we meet up regularly and socialise.

”

The consultation process

Once you have formed a Residents' Association you have the chance to become more involved in the formal consultation process. This could involve attending various meetings.



Joint Residents' Association (Wendlesworth estate and Kirton Lodge sheltered scheme) Chairman, Bernard Judges said;

“This is an ideal way for small blocks, estates and sheltered residents to become involved with their local community, make new friends and make a difference to where they live.”

Resident involvement structure

Area Panel

There are four Area Panels in Wandsworth. These are Battersea, Putney, Roehampton and Tooting. Accredited Residents' Associations can send two representatives to their relevant Area Panel. Each Area Panel holds quarterly meetings. They are chaired by councillors and attended by senior housing officers.

Each Area Panel monitors the performance and services of the housing department, for example housing repairs and cleaning.

Co-operative and Residents' Management Organisation Forum

Some blocks or estates are managed by Co-operatives (Co-ops) and Resident Management Organisations (RMOs). These are resident groups that provide services for their block or estate.

Representatives from these organisations attend this forum with senior housing officers.

Sheltered Residents' Association Focus Group

This Focus Group brings together representatives from all sheltered housing Residents' Associations to discuss issues specific to sheltered housing. A nominated member of the Sheltered Residents' Association Focus Group sits on the Borough Residents' Forum. If you are a sheltered housing resident and are interested in setting up a Residents' Association please contact your sheltered housing officer.

Borough Residents' Forum

This is the over-arching residents' forum at which issues of policy and performance are discussed. It also receives reports on wider aspects of the housing service. The Vice-Chairman of the Borough Residents' Forum (who is always a resident) attends the Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee to report and feedback on residents' views.

The forum meets six times a year at Wandsworth Town Hall. It is chaired by councillors and attended by senior housing staff.

Each Area Panel and the Co-ops and RMOs Forum can send a specified number of representatives to the Borough Residents' Forum, depending on the number of properties represented by each panel.

Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HOSC)

The committee is made up of democratically elected councillors. It is the body that scrutinises decisions about housing policy and monitors the department's service delivery. Through the consultation process shown above, the Borough Residents' Forum makes recommendations to the HOSC on behalf of all residents.

Contacts

If you would like further information about setting up a Residents' Association contact your area team and ask to speak to your Resident Participation Officer:

If you do not know your area team contact (020) 8871 6864

Central (020) 8871 5333

Eastern (020) 8871 7439

Western (020) 8871 5530

Southern (020) 8871 7482

email: hms@wandsworth.gov.uk

www.wandsworth.gov.uk/ra

This leaflet gives information about setting up a residents association in your community. If you have difficulty understanding this in English, please contact: Wandsworth Interpreting Service: (020) 8871 5751 English

هذا الكتيب يقدم معلومات حول تأسيس رابطة للسكان في المنطقة السكنية التي تتبعها. إذا واجهت صعوبة في فهمه باللغة الإنجليزية، فيرجى الاتصال بـ

Arabic

Wandsworth Interpreting Service: (020) 8871 5751

এই প্রচারপত্রে আপনার জনগোষ্ঠীতে বাসিন্দাদের সমিতি প্রতিষ্ঠা করার বিষয়ে তথ্য আছে। যদি ইংরেজিতে এটি বুঝতে আপনার সমস্যা হয়, তাহলে অনুগ্রহ করে এই নম্বরে যোগাযোগ করুন : Wandsworth Interpreting Service: (020) 8871 5751 Bengali

這份小冊子提供在您的社區建立居民協會的有關情況。如果你看不懂英文版，請聯繫：Wandsworth Interpreting Service: (020) 8871 5751 Chinese

Ce prospectus contient des informations sur la création d'une association de résidents au sein de votre communauté. Si vous avez des difficultés à comprendre ce texte en anglais, veuillez contacter: Wandsworth Interpreting Service: (020) 8871 5751 French

આ ચોપાનિષ્ટુ આપના સમુદાયમાં એક નિવાસી સંઘ (રેસીડન્ટ્સ એસોસિયેશન) ની સ્થાપના વિશે માહિતી આપે છે. અગર તમે અંગ્રેજીમાં સમજવી મુશ્કેલ લાગે તો મહેરબાની કરીને Wandsworth Interpreting Service: (020) 8871 5751 પર સંપર્ક કરો. Gujarati

Niniejsza ulotka informuje, jak założyć stowarzyszenie mieszkańców w lokalnej społeczności. W razie problemów ze zrozumieniem tekstu w języku angielskim prosimy o kontakt z: Wandsworth Interpreting Service: (020) 8871 5751 Polish

Este panfleto fornece-lhe informações sobre como criar uma associação de residentes na sua comunidade. Se tem dificuldades em compreender isto em Inglês, por favor, contacte: Wandsworth Interpreting Service: (020) 8871 5751 Portuguese

Warqaddani waxay ku siineysaa macluumaad la xiriiro ka sameynta ururka deganayaasha jaaliyaddaada gudaheeda. Hadday kugu adag tahay inaad ku fahamto Ingriis fadlan la xiriir: Wandsworth Interpreting Service: (020) 8871 5751 Somali

Este folleto le proporciona información sobre la constitución de una asociación de vecinos en su comunidad. Si tiene dificultad para entenderlo en inglés favor contactar a: Wandsworth Interpreting Service: (020) 8871 5751 Spanish

இந்தத் தகவலேடு உங்கள் சமூகத்தில் ஒரு வசிப்பாளர் சங்கத்தை அமைப்பது பற்றிய தகவல்களை அளிக்கிறது. இதை ஆங்கிலத்தில் புரிந்துகொள்வதில் சிரமம் இருந்தால் நீங்கள் தொடர்புகொள்ள வேண்டியது: Wandsworth Interpreting Service: (020) 8871 5751 Tamil

یہ کتابچہ آپ کی کمیونٹی میں کینوں کی انجمن قائم کرنے کے بارے میں معلومات فراہم کرتا ہے۔ اگر آپ کو انگریزی میں اسے سمجھنے میں دشواری کا سامنا ہو تو براہ کرم رابطہ کریں: Wandsworth Interpreting Service: (020) 8871 5751 Urdu

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