

Dovecotes TMO

A message from the Board

Happy 2023 everyone! It seems strange to say now that we are well into March but this is our first newsletter of the year.

We have lots planned for 2023, but we would like to take a look back at 2022. In December last year we held our annual Christmas event with over 115 children meeting Santa with a special visit from Mayoress Councillor Sandra Samuels OBE. We hope that the vouchers delivered to all council tenants late December helped with the costs of living crisis.

We have many highlights of the winter period with the top being the performance of carols by the United Church Gospel Choir. We have also enjoyed meeting those who attended our Friendship Friday's with over 240 hot meals served to our residents this winter.



The next few months are busy but exciting. We are looking forward to the annual conference of TMO's where we will accept our Kitemark award and the summer trips and events taking place in 2023 where we get to see you, our most important members.

Thank you for your continued support.

Dovecotes Management Board

Calling Owner Occupiers Living in Dovecotes

Do you own your home and live on Dovecotes? Are you interested in finding out more about becoming a board member?

We currently have 2 vacancies on our management board for owner-occupiers. If you would like more information please contact the management board by emailing dovecotestmo1@gmail.com

OFFICE OPENING HOURS

Monday, Tuesday &
Friday

9:00 - 4:00

Closed for lunch
1:00-2:00

CONTACT US



01902 552780

WRITE TO US



Dovecotes TMO,
Ryefield, Pendeford,
WV81UD

Dovecotes.TMO@wolverhampton.gov.uk



**Dovecotes
Summer 2023
Trips**



**Get Your Free
Easter egg**



**Ian's Do's &
Don'ts**



**Dovecotes
Kitemark Award**

Celebrate Easter with Dovecotes and Claim your Free Egg

This Easter we are doing things a little differently by inviting our tenants and residents to join us in an Estate Spring Clean.

On Wednesday 12th April 2023 we will be holding an estate wide litter pick. Everyone living on the estate, all ages and abilities are invited to take part and help us to give the estate a spruce up and, as a thank you everyone taking part will receive a free Easter egg.

Wednesday 12th April 2023 11:00am meeting outside the TMO Office

All children under 16 will need to be accompanied by an adult. We will supply gloves, pickers, bags and rings with the pick expected to last 1 hour.



Easter Opening Hours

Good Friday 7th April 2023 Closed

Easter Monday 10th April 2023 Closed

Tuesday 11th April 2023 Closed

We operate an emergencies only repairs service when closed. If you experience an emergency please call 01902 552999

Household Support Officer Helps Tenant Win PIP Tribunal

Over the last 12 months Claire, our Household Support Officer has helped over 760 residents living in Dovecotes. This month she was able to support a tenant who had been denied PIP (personal independence payment) in securing an indefinite award backdating the claim and helping the tenant clear his rent arrears and safeguard his financial well-being.



‘Applying for benefits that you are entitled to is really important. I am elated that I was able to work with Welfare Rights to secure this award and ensure that the person involved now has the income they need to live. Struggling in silence is not the answer, if you need help or support please contact me’.

If you need help, advice or would like to apply for assistance through our Household Support fund contact us and make an appointment to see Claire by calling 01902 552780.



Ian's Do's and Don'ts

DO - familiarise yourself with the plumbing in your home. Knowing where your stop tap is or cut of valves can really help to limit the damage caused by flooding to your belongings

DON'T - ignore leaks or drips these can lead to bigger problems, may cause damp and mould in your home and increase your water bill

DON'T - use Mr Muscle, this actually makes blockages worse, standard bleach and hot water is a better and cheaper option

REMEMBER - Before I visit clean and tidy the area where the work is needed and, if you are happy with the work I have completed leave me a review on Google



Scan the QR with your mobile device to leave a review

The Electoral Commission

CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON COUNCIL



Voting is changing this year and you will need to present photo ID to vote. To learn more about the changes visit;

<https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/voter/voter-id/accepted-forms-photo-id>



Dovecotes TMO Awarded Kitemark

This winter Dovecotes TMO applied to the National Federation of Tenant Management Organisations (NFTMO) to be assessed for a Kitemark Award. The NFTMO facilitate networking and support TMOs in England as well as promoting community control as an option. The NFTMO, as part of their operation assess organisations for a Kitemark, a quality standard issued to TMO's in recognition of good governance.

This Kitemark certification confirms that the product or service's claim to be provided by Dovecotes TMO has been independently and repeatedly tested by experts. Meaning that you can have trust and confidence in products and services that are Kitemark certified. As Dovecotes TMO meet the British Institutes Standards (BSI) for/ in terms of product and service quality trade mark.

Much work has been done to achieve this accolade. Much more work will be required to maintain and surpass the standards that have been set. With your support we can only go from strength to strength.

Congratulations Dovecotes 'family', Dovecotes TMO staff and board members without you none of this would have been possible. With a special thank you to our hard working CO Amie Merry, whose tireless effort keeps the board and staff on their toes and ahead of the 'game'.

Dovecotes TMO Summer Trips 2023

Saturday 10th June 2023 – Llandudno, Wales



Llandudno is home to two award-winning beaches, Llandudno North Shore Beach and West Shore Beach, both of which boast stunning views overlooking the Irish sea. When visiting Llandudno, you can enjoy all the classic elements of your traditional seaside resort.

Leaving at 8:45 Depart Llandudno 6:00pm

Saturday 15th July 2023 – Weston-super-Mare

Located on the Severn Estuary, Weston-super-Mare has the second-highest tidal range in the world. Once a small village, Weston has become a popular seaside resort with distinct architecture and fascinating history. With lots to do and see Weston-Super-Mare makes for a good day out for all.



Leaving at 8:45am Depart WSM 6:00pm

Wednesday 9th August 2023 - Barmouth, Wales



Whether its a relaxing day on the beach, fresh fish and chips or a walk round the shops Barmouth gives visitors a bit of everything. A popular trip in 2022 we are returning on a weekday this year to miss the weekend day trippers. A great day for all where all you really need to bring along is your packed lunch and a bucket and spade.

Leaving at 8:45am Depart Barmouth 6:00pm

Membership and Discounted Rates

Each year we do our best to deliver 3 day trips and several community events. Each event we hold is subsidised meaning that the funding available is limited to those living at Dovecotes. We understand our members have friends and family who don't live on the estate that may want to join us on our trips. Any person not living on Dovecotes and attending our trips must pay the increased cost of £17.50PP with no concessions.

Have a Jolly Holiday

Thinking of booking your next trip away? Read on for some helpful hints and tips.

CITY OF
WOLVERHAMPTON
COUNCIL
PUBLIC PROTECTION

The Package Travel and Linked Travel Arrangements 2018 apply to all holidays which are booked in the UK.

When you book a package holiday you are entitled to receive the holiday which you agreed to purchase. It must match any description provided verbally by the Tour Operator or which is stated in a brochure or on a website. If it doesn't, you have a legal right to ask your Tour Operator to rectify this. If they can't you may be able to claim compensation. When you book your holiday, make sure the person you book it with tells you what type of holiday you are booking. It could be a package holiday, a linked travel arrangement or neither of these. A linked travel arrangement is when you buy one part of your holiday from a Travel Company and you are then prompted to buy another part of it within 24 hours of making the first booking but your personal and financial details aren't forwarded on.

Always ask if your booking is ATOL protected. ATOL stands for Air Travel Organisers Licence. You should be provided with an ATOL Certificate at the time of booking. The Certificate provides you with financial protection in the event of any insolvency. Please visit <https://caa.co.uk/atol-protection/> to check the Licence Number and ensure that you are protected.

ABTA Ltd is a Trade Association for Travel Agents and Tour Operators it provides financial bonding and an arbitration service in the event of a dispute. Look for the ABTA logo and visit <https://abta.com/abta-member-search> to verify membership.

If you are purchasing a holiday, flight or accommodation which is over £100 in value and you have a credit card, consider using this to make payment. If your Tour Operator or Agent ceases trading or there is a problem with the goods or services purchased, you can contact your Card Provider for a remedy under Section 75 of The Consumer Credit Act 1974.

Visa debit-cards, Mastercards and AMEX also offer a chargeback guarantee. Report issues as soon as possible to your Card Provider and raise a complaint with them.

SCAM ALERT- Scammers and Fraudsters may advertise bogus holidays with fake pictures of luxury accommodation at an affordable or low price, post fake reviews, feedback and Licence numbers. When booking on-line it pays to do some research and avoid payment by direct bank transfer. Remember, if something seems too good to be true it probably is.

For further advice and assistance regarding Holiday Law contact the Citizens Advice Consumer Service on 0808 223 1133.

Pendeford Seventh-day Adventist Church

Publicity Information from March 2023

- ✿ Walk and Talk - Sunday Morning local walk 6 - 7am. FREE De-stress, keep fit and socialise. All fitness levels welcome, including children. Just turn up and get involved
- ✿ Play and Stay on Thursdays 10-11.30am. FREE Children from 0-4 yrs. Socialise with other parents while children enjoy their play with a wide range of toys. TERM TIME ONLY. NO NEED TO PRE-BOOK

Cost of Living Support 2023 / 2024

The UK Government has announced that cost of living payments will continue and will be paid automatically. The approximate timeline for payments to be issued across 2023-2024 will be:

- Low-income cost of living payment will be £900 paid to those on means-tested benefits. Payments will be paid in three instalments. £301 in Spring 2023, £300 in Autumn 2023, and £299 paid in Spring 2024
- Pensioner cost of living payment will be £300 to be paid in the Winter 2023/24, this will be paid to those in receipt of Winter Fuel Payment (WFP) and likely to be paid with the WFP or around the same time.
- Disability cost of living payment will be £150 for those in receipt of a non-means tested disability benefit. This will be paid in Summer 2023.



30 HOURS
FREE CHILDCARE

Dovecotes Primary school offers Terrific for Twos and 30 hours extended childcare places
Available from January for eligible families

We offer:

- 15 hours free childcare for eligible families for 2 year olds!
- 15 hours free childcare for all 3 year olds
- 30 hours free childcare for eligible families for 3 year olds!
- Early Education for your child helping to give your child a good grounding for their future schooling.
- Fully qualified staff led by a Qualified Teacher. Your child will have activities tailored to their needs and interests!
- Support with Toilet Training, learning to talk, social skills, early reading and early number work.
- If your child attends Terrific for Twos they will have priority access to our Nursery with children moving seamlessly into the Nursery class.

Please pop into the school office or phone 01902 558284 for more information and to find out whether you are eligible!

An Update from your Local Councillors



Councillor Adam Collinge



"Despite the snow, Spring and Easter are fast approaching! There are a number of events to look forward to, including the Dovecotes TMO Easter events and hopefully plenty of local children's activities, through the Holiday Activities and Food programme over the Easter holidays. I continue to support initiatives that provide more locally and build community resilience.

Lots of work is happening and ongoing. I am pleased to see recent pavement repairs, addressing tree root damage, including on Ryefield. Work continues to tackle potholes, replace old road name signs and its good to see more parking area repairs and resurfacing works, including on Barnwood Road. I often receive concerns about car park management and fly-tipping. I have been working with the TMO to address issues with Wolverhampton Homes, who manage parking areas. We have had assurances that moving forward, all management works will be photographed and recorded, with timely reports and investigations of fly-tipping. We will keep this under review.

I am working closely with the police and ASB teams to address issues and identify where basic management, improved lighting or protective measures can help deter unwanted activities. I continue to campaign to upgrade local play areas, providing for all ages and provide equipment for those with disabilities.

Over the last 12-months, my ward funds have supported local sports teams continue to provide youth activities and have also provided additional discretionary funding for local schools and their initiatives to assist children and families with the cost of living.

Residents can always contact me for support on 07971 837234 or email adam.collinge@wolverhampton.gov.uk.

In the meantime, stay safe and I wish everyone well." *Adam*



Councillor's Susan Roberts MBE and Claire Simm



We write this spring not as an update but as a goodbye. Both Claire and I will not be standing for Oxley Ward in May's election. Claire has been representing the ward since 2018 using her knowledge of local issues to influence council policies in many areas including Corporate Parenting, Economy and Growth, and Equalities to name but a few. I hope you will all join me in wishing Claire luck and prosperity in her future endeavours.

I to have been a Councillor in the Oxley Ward since 2018 and when I look back on my time on this Ward I am filled with joy. I have met so many wonderful residents over the past 5 years and been lucky enough to have represented Dovecotes as a member of the management board. But, in recent times it has become clear that I need to be placed closer to home and so have chosen to elect for Biltson North. I hope that I have been a source of help and counsel to you and I will remember my time in Oxley very fondly.

Both Claire and I would like to thank you all for your support over the past 5 years and wish you all the best for the future. We know that we both leave you in good hands.

Claire & Sue

Dovecotes Summer Trips Booking Form

All trips booked must be paid in cash at the point of booking. No refunds. Non-members must pay the full cost of £17.50 PP, proof of ID and membership is required.

Please complete the booking form and return this to the TMO office with full payment. For more information please call 01902 552780

Name		Contact Tel	
Address		Membership No	
Please complete the below fields, include the number of tickets for adults and children for each trip			
Saturday 10th June 2023 - Llandudno, Wales			
Adult £10		Child £8 (under 11)	
Saturday 15th July 2023 – Weston Super-Mare			
Adult £10		Child £8 (under 11)	
Wednesday 9th August 2023 - Barmouth			
Adult £10		Child £8 (under 11)	
Please confirm all attendee names and address			
Name		Address (if same as above please write SAB)	

Booking Total £_____

Membership of all attendees verified (sign/date)_____

Date paid in full _____