



Dudley Federation



of Tenants and Residents Associations

Autumn newsletter 2024

Dudley Federation update

We ended August with sad news, Dudley Federation Board member Elaine Lloyd unfortunately passed away. Elaine joined the DFTRA board in 2018 and was a joyful and reliable addition to the organisation. She was on the TRA at Ellowes Hall for many years as their Treasurer and recently joined Butterfield Court TRA too. She will be sadly missed here at Dudley Federation and by all who had the pleasure of knowing her.



Following several issues being raised with us, members of Dudley Federation will meet with Cllr Damian Corfield to discuss Greencare/Street Scene in October and has asked members to send in their issues so that they can be discussed. We will update on the outcomes of the meeting as soon as we can. Make sure you're signed up to our [mailing list](#) to keep up to date.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns please let us know and we will do our best to assist.

Your Home, Your Forum meetings

Dudley forum: Monday 7th October at [The Savoy Centre](#)

Brierley Hill forum: Wednesday 9th October at [Brierley Hill Methodist Church](#)

Dudley North forum: Thursday 24th October at [Lower Gornal Royal British Legion](#)

Halesowen forum: Monday 28th October at [Halesowen Town Hall](#)

Stourbridge forum: Wednesday 30th October at [Wollaston Village Hall](#)

[All information on Your Home, Your Forum meetings can be found here.](#)

Information and accountability – a residents' guide

Four Million Homes have published a guide which aims to help residents understand the changes that came into effect in April this year to improve landlord accountability and enhance resident services in England.

The guide contains three main sections: The Transparency, Influence and Accountability Standard 2024, The Tenant Satisfaction Measures and Resident panels. [You can view the guide here.](#)

Cost of Living Support

A wide range of support can be found on the [Cost of Living page](#) of the Dudley Council website, from national initiatives to help with pets.

Energy Advice

As bills continue to rise, it's a good idea to ensure that you are heating your home as efficiently as possible. Advice can be found via the [Dudley Energy Advice Line](#) by calling 01384 817086 or emailing winterwarmth@dudley.gov.uk where you will receive free, confidential, independent and impartial advice and support. They can also provide support if you can't afford your energy bills.

Scams

Dudley Council have recently had reports of scam calls to some residents from an unknown number asking them to apply for a "Household Support Fund Loan". Dudley Council will not contact you and ask you to make a claim for the Household Support Fund in Dudley.

Loan Sharks

The Illegal Money Lending Team are running a campaign to raise awareness of the dangers of borrowing from illegal lenders (also known as loan sharks) to people aged 55 and over. In an Age UK Report (2023) they have found that millions of older people are borrowing money, using credit and not able to pay bills due to the cost-of-living crisis.

The warning signs of an illegal lender include:

- Giving you no paperwork or agreement on a loan
- Refusing to give you information about the loan
- Keeping items until the debt is paid such as your bank card or passport
- Taking things from you if you do not pay on time
- Adding more interest or charges so the debt never goes down
- Using intimidation or violence if you do not pay

Anyone who has been affected by illegal money lending should call the Stop Loan Sharks 24/7 Helpline on 0300 555 2222 or access support online at www.stoploansharks.co.uk. Live Chat is available on the website from 9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday.

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