



## **ARCH TENANTS' GROUP**

### **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Monday 22 June 2015

#### **Report from Chairman Jenny Hill**

Firstly, I would like to thank the tenant group members for their hard work and support since the last AGM. I would also like to thank Carole for her continued support.

Our conference in Birmingham was a success with 120 tenants attending. It was decided that we would have an exercise involving all the tenants at the same time and, bearing in mind that an election was being held in 2015, ask tenants what they would like to see in a manifesto. This session worked really well. Following the conference we worked on the production of the tenants' manifesto which originally was to stand alone.

The Group and I were disappointed that it wasn't a standalone ARCH manifesto but understand that a joint one with the NFA may hold more weight and have a stronger voice. Some of you attended the launch of the manifesto at the House of Commons. The Tenants Group was pleased that the outputs from the manifesto exercise at the conference were published.

Also, since the last AGM the Executive undertook a review and consulted with all member councils on how they thought the Company was working. This resulted in changes being made including the appointment of a Chief Executive Officer, John Bibby. John, as you may be aware, retired as Director of Housing & Community Services at the City of Lincoln Council and was a founder member of the ARCH Executive. His role is to promote ARCH and liaise with the Tenants Group.

The Tenants Group welcomed this as they felt that there was a lack of communication and understanding between the two.

The ARCH blog has been replaced with a bi-weekly e-bulletin which is proving to be popular.

This year's conference is being hosted by Croydon Council on Wednesday 23 September and you will be given and update on the preparation for the conference later on.

The Tenants' conference is an ideal opportunity of networking with other tenants and obtaining their views on matters that concern them.

Your councils should by now have received the email regarding the booking of your places at the conference. Just to remind you up to five tenants can go free but that does not include your right to go to the conference.

As members of the Tenants Group you will have access to the ARCH website via a password and if you wish to use this site a password can be given to you.

The Chairman and Vice Chairman (who are or who will be Directors) attend the ARCH Executive meetings and report to them on what the Tenants Group have been doing. These reports will be circulated for information prior to the Executive meetings so that you are aware of what is being said on your behalf. Similarly, a report will be given to the Tenants Group at their next meeting relating to the Executive meeting.

As a result of the work carried out regarding the manifesto we have not been able to produce a new leaflet but we will be discussing the topic for one later on.



TPAS are holding their conference on 9-10 July and two members of the Tenants Group are holding a workshop and is listed in the programme as follows:

### **Association of Retained Council Housing (ARCH) Tenants Group**

**Manifesto time: Jenny Hill & Martyn Lund**, Tenant Group members of the Association of Retained Council Housing (ARCH)

The warts and all story of how the ARCH Tenants Group were involved in an exercise to develop tenants' priorities which influenced the content of the ARCH and National Federation of ALMO's manifesto which was launched at House of Commons earlier this year and what has happened since.

What are our aims for the year ahead?

- To have a very successful conference in Croydon
- To be consulted by the Executive on any proposed responses to government consultation
- To have a higher profile and be proactive in promoting ARCH by seeking meetings with the local tenants group of those councils that are not yet members of ARCH
- Continue to advise and inform the Executive of tenants' aspirations.