



Issue 6, March 2007

CHAIR'S COMMENT

Welcome to Facts latest newsletter. This is our first newsletter this year. We hope to continue to keep you informed of our activities and business.

In this edition we provide information on second stage transfer, citizens advice bureau and details of our RTO group meeting. We also want to inform you of changes to our staffing structure.

REGISTERED TENANT ORGANISATION (RTO)

We are currently recruiting for our new RTO group. This will give tenants an opportunity to voice their opinions on a whole host of housing issues and the environment they live in. Tenants opinions matter a great deal and we welcome all tenants to our first meeting on Wednesday 7th March at 6pm, at the housing office where tenants will learn more about the group. There will also be an opportunity to meet Cranhills new community police officer Colin McNab who will be on hand to answer any questions you may have.

SECOND STAGE TRANSFER ... What is it?

You may be aware that in 2003 Glasgow City Council transferred the council houses to Glasgow Housing Association in a major deal that cancelled the near £1 billion debt and has allowed GHA to begin a programme of serious investment whilst keeping rent increases in line with inflation. Part of the transfer involved giving local residents a much greater say and control over their local areas. FACT was set up to act as the housing managers for Cranhill. FACT is a company run by local residents and groups with

elections taking place annually for one-third of the committee.

Part of the transfer agreement was that eventually the local residents would take over not only the management but also the OWNERSHIP of these properties - this is the Second Stage Transfer (SST).

Since the transfer we have been working with GHA to ensure that FACT will become owners of the stock, allowing us to decide on the rent charges, staffing levels and investment decisions. However, over the last year it has become more obvious that the cost to transfer could make this impossible - GHA have currently valued Cranhill properties at £14million, far in excess of FACT expectations of around £4million.

Although we will continue to explore this second transfer to local control, we have already began to discuss forming a larger group with other organisations in the north east and Easterhouse area to see if that would be more financially viable. We shall keep you informed.

If you would like to hear more about Second Stage Transfer, then please leave your details on 274 7065 and we shall either contact you or if there is enough interest we shall arrange a public meeting."Support local control"

FACT WEBSITE

We have now launched our new website at <http://fact.gha.org.uk>. The website includes plenty of information we hope will prove useful both for tenants, residents and anyone who is interested in Cranhill. We will regularly update the website and hope to receive feedback from tenants about how useful the site is and any improvements we could make. We will also advertise what is going on in Cranhill and the services we provide together with useful contacts for other agencies. The website also has links to documents and we have included committee minutes so that tenants can see what issues are discussed demonstrating that we are a clear and transparent organisation. Hopefully this will encourage more residents to consider

becoming FACT members and we have included an application form and details of how to apply in the website.

HELP IS AT HAND

We are happy to announce a new service provided by Greater Easterhouse Citizens Advice Service available every Monday in our office at 6 Crowlin Crescent. Glasgow Housing Association funds the service and a trained member of the



Citizens Advice Service holds the surgery, with 4 appointments made every week. We

are already receiving a high demand for this service so contact us as early as possible to make an appointment. Appointments can be made by contacting our staff on 274 7065. No questions will be asked why you wish to have an appointment. This free, confidential information and advice service is available to all tenants in Cranhill covering issues such as employment, housing, benefits, money advice etc.

NELLIE MCKAY 6TH SEPT 1923 TO 15TH JAN 2007

On 15 January 2007 one of our “weel kent” faces, Nellie McKay died. I knew Nellie since I was a wee lassie in Glenpark Street even then my uncle used to tell me that during the war the local “hard cases” would cross the road rather than pass her by on the street.

Nellie lived in Cranhill since 1967 when she was part of the clearance of Glenpark Street. She worked in Tennants Brewery and objected when the men came back from the war to take back the jobs from the women.

We all have memories of Nellie, but we in the Housing, we will always remember her for her kindness in making sure we were kept well fed on pies and sausage rolls. No doubt wherever she is now it won't be peaceful. Bye Nellie – we will miss you.



NEW STAFFING STRUCTURE

We have decided to create two teams in the Housing Office - one for the properties north of Bellrock Street and the other for the properties on the south. Each team will be lead by an Estate Co-ordinator and will include 2 Housing Officers and 2 Housing Assistants (one of which will be part time).

This means that you will have 2 Housing Officers for you home. We believe that this should make us more responsive and improve the service that you receive.

Detailed below are the two teams:

SOUTH CRANHILL

Estate coordinator Sharon Ohare

Housing officers Joan Shepherd, Laura Honeyman

Housing assistants Alec Burnside, Stephanie Baker

NORTH CRANHILL

Estate coordinator David Mackenzie

Housing officers Robert Macleod, Beatrice Ritchie

Housing assistants Liz Cravagan, Clare Macleod.