

News from the Wivenhoe Housing Trust - Spring 2006

After Colchester Borough Council, we are presently the second largest provider of social homes in Wivenhoe with 13 properties, being the almshouses in Rebow Road and at Jonathan Feedham Court, off Vanessa Drive.

Each year we spend substantial sums of money making renovations and improvements to them for the benefit of our residents.

We are very conscious that from time to time a Wivenhoe person, or family, finds themselves no longer having a home to live here for a variety of reasons. And Wivenhoe's young people too, how can they afford anything in Wivenhoe? We believe in



looking after Wivenhoe people whenever possible.

For this reason, we would like to acquire another property. Of course one more property won't make a big difference to the potential demand but it could make a big difference to someone's life.

To accomplish this objective, we would have to borrow the money which is too big a step for us to take if on commercial terms. Let me leave the thought with you that the reason we have 13 properties today is because of the generosity of Jonathan Feedham in 1718 and Mary Ann Sanford in 1873.

How many people have been helped by their legacy?

If you are thinking about your will, and also about Inheritance Tax, let me ask if you would help make a difference to someone's life in Wivenhoe by a bequest to the Wivenhoe Housing Trust. As we are a registered charity, your bequest reduces your estate's Inheritance Tax liability. Now there's another thought.

Peter Hill
Chairman

A Trustee Vacancy

After 22 years of trusteeship, Don Hirst retired in January as a trustee of the Wivenhoe Housing Trust and one of its two predecessor almshouse charities, May Ann Sanford Charity. Don has worked hard over these years in the interests of the residents, particularly at Rebow Road. We hope and feel sure he will retain his interest in their welfare.

The Trustees want to recruit a replacement with skills that might be relevant to the Housing Trust, or to our residents and those in the future. There is no financial reward, only that of knowing you are doing something worthwhile to help people.

The good news for us is that three people have already put themselves forward for consideration for this position. They are all people with relevant skills and connections, making this a difficult decision the Trustees must soon make.

Betty Selley. Very sadly, one of our residents, Betty Selley passed away on Wednesday 1st March 2006 after a short illness. Betty had been a resident at Feedham Court for many years. She was born in Wivenhoe 83 years ago and had an extensive family here. She was always cheerful and much loved by everyone. She will be missed at Feedham Court as well as by her many friends and family.

The Jonathan Feedham Charity

Each year the Housing Trust puts money into a fund, which we call the Jonathan Feedham Charity, to help Wivenhoe people in financial distress.

Over the years we have helped many people with things like the cost of a funeral of a partner, house repairs and replacement of essential household items. Where there is genuine financial hardship, then we can help.

We are also now able to help Wivenhoe organisations with a project, or a purchase of an item, where people are clearly and directly benefiting.

If you know of a deserving cause, please give us the details. Please contact any of the trustees: Peter Hill, Charles Scofield, Tony Forsgate, Jeff Whaley, Anne Horner, Karl Douzier, Janet Turner and Jan Richardson.

Improvements at Feedham Court and Rebow Road

Over ten years ago, the Trustees spent a large sum of money to replace all the front and rear doors at Feedham with more secure and maintenance uPVC ones. A few years later we replaced the white wood gable ends with uPVC. Now that we have saved up some more money, and rather than paint the white wood soffits and bargeboards again, we are going to spend £7,500 on replacing them all with uPVC. Hopefully this work will be completed very soon.



The Trustees have also been doing work at the Rebow Road properties to try and improve the problems of damp and condensation that seem to be a never-ending saga. Hopefully though, we are winning!

Trustees Corner

The almshouse movement has a history of long-serving trustees. The Mary Ann Sanford Charity, which has managed the almshouses in Rebow Road since founded by Mary Ann Sanford, is no exception. Les Kemble served as a Trustee for 40 years and the Worsp family for a similar period. The Trustees want to turn a corner of the garden at Rebow Road into a special place where we can mark the extensive contribution of such people in some way. It will comprise seating and a pergola to become a nice place for residents to sit when warm enough to be outside. It will be known as Trustees Corner.