

GET INVOLVED

Your community

Tenants and Residents Associations (TRAs)

To have a feeling of pride in your local community, you need to invest in it. Having a strong and organised resident voice is very important.



THE BENEFITS AND CHALLENGES OF RUNNING A TRA

By Chris Took
Chair of Charecroft TRA

Charecroft Estate contains 430 properties in four 20 storey tower blocks overlooking Shepherds Bush Green. We also have a small community hall. The biggest problem any TRA faces is how to get residents to engage.

Recently, we have stepped up our communications. We haven't had very encouraging results with digital media, so we have gone back to doing a full leaflet drop ahead of our open meetings. We are planning to knock on doors as well, to show that the TRA is about real people.

It helps to have controversial issues (such as lift breakdowns!) to boost attendance at meetings, but active TRAs can also publicise improvements in infrastructure and services. In recent years we have been awarded funds to improve the amenity decks, install a gate



to control a notorious shortcut and open cycle sheds. It is well worth applying for funding improvements.

We have recently been making use of the training offered to TRAs by the Housing Department. This helps develop personal skills, leads to networking with other TRAs and encourages fuller participation from committee members.

Being involved with a TRA is always challenging, but it is also rewarding and a great way to make a difference to your estate and neighbourhood.

Key Facts



Frequency of meetings and events is down to individual TRAs, but at least quarterly committee meetings are generally the norm



In your community



TRAs are made up of an elected committee member and the local community.



Time commitments vary based on your position on the TRA and the aims and activities that the TRA is involved in

It's time for you to make a difference



Approved
by residents
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Set up a new Tenants and Residents Association (TRA), or join an existing TRA where you live. TRAs work hard to represent their local area and work on ways to develop their local communities.

By joining, or setting up a TRA you can:

- Invite members of the LBHF senior management team to site visits and meetings
- Meet with your local ward councillor
- Access a variety of funding opportunities to improve your local area
- Develop a stronger sense of community and get to know your neighbours better
- Have access to community facilities to hold meetings and events
- Attend training and mentoring events with other TRAs
- Hold local events in your area

An annual grant is available to registered TRAs to cover annual running costs and the purchase or equipment.

What will I do as a member of a TRA?

- Meet key staff from the Housing Team, Caretaking Team, Repairs, and Grounds Maintenance
- Seek to represent resident's views on key issues in your community
- Maybe undertake a role on the elected committee as the Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer, or Secretary
- Maybe help to run a community facility in your neighbourhood

What will be the result of my involvement?

- A stronger voice for your community
- A chance to get to know and work with your neighbours
- Access to communal facilities (a number of our TRAs run halls and rooms)
- Have a say in the things that matter in your neighbourhood
- Identify community improvements projects



For more information on joining or forming a TRA, please contact your Community Engagement Officer and see our **TRA handbook**:

Your Community Engagement Officer can be contacted:

By email: **GetInvolved@lbhf.gov.uk**

By web: **www.lbhf.gov.uk/residentinvolvement**

By phone: **020 8753 6652**

In writing: **3rd Floor, Town Hall Extension, King Street, W6 9JU**