

Houses in Multiple Occupation

We are facing a housing crisis in this country. In Northampton we are feeling the effect. With acute housing shortages, there are a growing number of houses in multiple occupation (HIMOs) in the Saint Edmunds area. Many excellent landlords who work through the Landlords Federation provide a good service to local people. But there is an increase in the number of unregulated HIMOs, with unregistered landlords letting rooms and even cellars. HIMOs put services under pressure and affect things like rubbish collection. Some landlords do not provide external rubbish bins. The temptation for tenants is to put their bagged rubbish out. Rubbish attracts rats. Residents have noticed an increase in rats in the neighbourhood recently.

Your local councillors have worked with the residents to find out which properties are HIMOs. We have quite a list. Why is it important to know?

Housing needs to be safe, protected against the risk of fire and suitable for the needs of the tenants.

Services such as the local Sure Start Centre and the school need to know how many children and how many families to plan for. The same goes for the local GPs and dentists. We have also started a local empty house watch. This is because the Local Authority has the power to work with absentee landlords to bring houses back into residential use.



Cllr. Stone with local residents

Changes to Social Housing

There is the misery of long waiting lists for social housing. The borough has just 12,000 social housing units and 9000 on the waiting list! There is also the misery of people unable to transfer to a bigger house/flat or a smaller house/flat when their needs change.

Changes to the benefit system, the bedroom tax and changes to tenancies for new tenants are going to make this worse.

In these hard times it is important we all work together to do the best we can for local people.

And the Good News is.....



- ✓ There has been general agreement that Palmerston Road Churchyard will be opened up for public use. Negotiations are under way to look at all the practical issues.
- ✓ The Edith Street developer has offered the Residents Association a contribution towards play in the area and the Play Development team have agreed to deliver a play project locally.



Useful Contacts

Saint Edmund Residents Association

01604 634417

SERA blog

<http://stedmundsra.blogspot.co.uk>

facebook page

<http://www.facebook.com/groups/181811315262835>

The great British Property Scandal

<http://tinyurl.com/ckygra7>

Local Organisations

Victoria Road Church -

vicarioroadchurch@gmail.com

Neighbourhood Warden -

alangton@northampton.gov.uk

Vernon Terrace School and Sure Start Centre

01604 633894

Services

Police, Fire, Ambulance 999

Non-emergency Police 101

Electricity 08000280247

Gas 0800111999

Water 08457145145

Northampton Hospital 01604 634 700

GP out of hours 03336 664 664

N Borough 0300 330 7000

Street Doctor 0845 601 113

Ward Councillors

Danielle Stone 01604 632016

Winston Strachan 01604 470395

Aziz Rahman 07737545236