

# Houses in Multiple Occupation

We are facing a housing crisis in this country. In Northampton we are already feeling the effect. With acute housing shortages, there are a growing number of houses in multiple occupation (HIMOs) in the Mounts area. There are many excellent landlords who work through the Landlords Federation and who provide a good service to local people. However, there is growing concern among local residents about the increase in the number of unregulated HIMOs, with 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 and the temptation for tenants is to put their bagged rubbish out on the street. Rubbish attracts rats. Residents have noticed an increase in rats in the neighbourhood recently. Your local councillors are interested in working with the residents to find out which properties are HIMOs.

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 GP surgeries and dentists.

We would also like to start 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.

## 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.

This is going to be made more difficult by changes to the benefit system, the bedroom tax and changes to tenancies. New tenants will be offered 5 year tenancies in future.



*Guerilla gardens brighten up the neighbourhood*

*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.....



A new scheme called the **William Street Community Partnership** is working to tidy and improve the area round the industrial units on William Street. Local Businesses, the Hope Centre, the church are working with borough councillors and officers to make this area more resident and worker friendly.



## Useful Local Contacts

### Residents Associations

Double H [rufus\\_57@hotmail.com](mailto:rufus_57@hotmail.com)

Colwyn Road [colwyroad@googlemail.com](mailto:colwyroad@googlemail.com)

### The Great British Property Scandal is at

<http://tinyurl.com/ckygra7>

### Local Organisations

Open Door Centre 01604 516809

Polish Church 01604 631623

Duke Stree Evangelical Church  
01604 635535

### 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