

Case Study: Tom

Housing Hartlepool Tenants Consultation Panel

Tom is involved with:

Housing Hartlepool Tenants Consultation Panel
Committee of the Kickstart Group
Chair of the Rossmere Residents Group
Chair of a Neighbourhood Action Plan Group

Why did you decide to get involved with Housing Hartlepool Tenants Consultation Panel?

I live in Rossmere in the sheltered accommodation and if we can improve the living standard then I want to do that for everyone. It's not just for my benefit but for everyone because in the long run if we can keep people in their own homes and in a good standard it's a win all round.

How did you get involved with the Housing Hartlepool Tenants Consultation Panel?

Quite a few years ago I was the secretary for the Brougham Residents Group.

When I went into sheltered accommodation, I found there were no residents group. It was a lovely place and building but it wasn't used to its full benefit. This annoyed me because when I

lived in Brougham there was no where to have meetings or to do anything.

So talking to other people in the area we thought we would try to form a group and with Mick Thompson's (Housing Hartlepool) help we formed the Rossmere Resident's Group in August 2007 which I now chair.

What does your role include on a day to day basis?

Being on the Panel and a Resident Representative is a day to day thing as I get stopped on a regular basis by people and asked things. I represent them (the people in our sheltered accommodation), so on a day to day basis I try to keep up to date with what is happening for the elderly people.

Coming to these Tenants Consultation Panel meetings allows you talk to service providers, such as Housing Hartlepool, to get them to specify what they mean and what they will be doing for the area.

What have you achieved?

Since 2007 we have gone from strength to strength. We got a grant from the Big Lottery Fund for £9,750 which we have been able to put on painting and craft

classes, social and games afternoon on a Tuesday in the centre. On top of that the bingo is run on a Thursday and a Saturday night, we also have a hairdresser.

From not much getting done in the centre we now have a very active centre and people are using it a lot more, which is a big achievement for everyone.

We work hard together with other Resident Representatives in Rossmere to get things done and that is the main thing- it is not for one person, it's for all of us.

Do you enjoy it?

I love it, and it has a really social aspect. I love my games afternoon and carpet bowls. We have even had Iain Wright, the local MP, coming to join in so there is a great social aspect to it.

To find out more about being involved with Housing Hartlepool visit our Housing Hartlepool [Tenant Consultation Panel Profile page](#).