

18 August 2011

NEIGHBOURHOOD EVENT BOOSTS COMMUNITY SPIRIT

Residents from a local housing association organised an event for all of their neighbours to help encourage community cohesion and promote volunteering on their estates.



Their annual 'Meet the Neighbours' event enables residents to meet and socialise with each other, making new friends in their local area as well as learning about ways they can become more involved locally within their own housing estates or as part of the WATMOS Community Homes Group.

WATMOS is a resident led organisation, whose success is down to the vital part its residents play in setting its aims and priorities. This event enables residents who are not currently involved to learn from other resident volunteers about the opportunities available; whether they wish to become part of an estate committee, become a tenant inspector or help organise social events for the other residents on their estates.

Louise Walker, one of the organisers of the event said; "there has been a wonderful turn out of residents from

across the Group who ordinarily would not have the opportunity to meet, share ideas and socialise together".

There were numerous fun activities to keep residents and children of all ages entertained, from Sumo Suits to face painting and giant garden games such as Connect Four and giant dominoes. Pictured next to the stocks with wet sponges are Chief Executive Ursula Barrington, Housing Services Director Yusef Masih and children Chloe Spink aged 7 (in sumo suit) and Sam Jarvis aged 6.

A barbeque followed by karaoke ended this year's successful event. Ursula Barrington, Chief Executive stated; "this event is an excellent way to promote the WATMOS principles of community involvement and resident empowerment where we value everyone's individual and collective contribution to their community. This year's event has been our largest to date with more of our residents meeting, getting involved and helping to create a real sense of community spirit".

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