

Terry Edis MBE



Tributes have been pouring in from all parts of the country following the news that Terry Edis MBE has passed away after a period of illness. He was 66 years old.

Terry was loved and respected for his tireless voluntary work in his own community and at a regional and national level. He was the chair of the Burrowes Street Tenant Management Organisation (TMO), WATMOS Community Homes and the National Federation of Tenant Management Organisations (NFTMO). His warmth and interest in people made him a respected and popular figure, not just in his local community, but in his dealings with other community organisations, government agencies and successive housing ministers. His voluntary work was acknowledged in 2008 when he

was awarded the MBE in the New Year's Honours List.

Roy Read MBE, the Deputy Chair of the NFTMO, says that Terry changed the lives of those around him for the better. "Terry not only helped to improve the lives of people in Walsall. He shared his knowledge and experience with hundreds of communities around the country. Many will tell you that progress they have made was inspired by a meeting with Terry or a visit to Burrowes Street. His friendship, support, and leadership will be irreplaceable."

Terry became involved in tenant management in the early 1990's – concerned about the housing conditions in which he and his neighbours lived and about the general decline in his neighbourhood. Terry was a founder member of the successful Burrowes Street TMO which was established to help reverse that decline. He was later a key figure in the creation of WATMOS, a unique tenant led housing association made up of eight Walsall TMOs, and led a new and successful phase in the development of the NFTMO. Terry also became a key figure in the leadership of the national tenants' movement, helping to bring national tenants bodies together in order to promote the interests of tenants with government.

Ursula Barrington, Chief Executive of WATMOS Community Homes; " Terry's tireless energy and commitment to improving conditions for Tenants had a lasting impact on hundreds if not thousands of people. He ensured people were empowered to drive services and take control of their communities to develop sustainable, safe places in which people wish to live. We will ensure his work is continued and he will be greatly missed by us all, a truly inspirational person to have known."

Len Duckhouse, Vice –Chair of WATMOS added;" Whilst Terry may have died, his ideas that have inspired me and countless other tenants up and own the Country will live on. The best tribute we can give Terry is his own lasting legacy, Burrowes Street, WATMOS and tenant control".

Terry's wife Joan worked alongside him at Burrowes Street and there is widespread and deep sympathy for her and other members of Terry's family at this time of their great loss.