

New Website

TANT has been working hard on our new website which is a great improvement on our old one.

It's also easier to remember the name and can be found at www.tantuk.org

We have added new features, a revised message board and we will be able to update it more frequently.

If you have any comments or suggestions about the new website please do contact us.

Financial Help

In these credit tight times if you have debt problems you can approach Payplan. IT COSTS YOU NOTHING. They are used by the Citizens Advice Bureau & Trade Unions so please do not feel afraid to contact them www.payplan.com or 0800 280 2816

A LETTER TO ALL "TENANT CUSTODIANS"

As a Tenant Custodian of the National Trust you may already have paid for a £10 annual subscription/donation for which we are grateful.

If you have not yet paid your subscription we urge you to do so. Remember, for every £1 donated by you the NT will match fund.

TANT wish to contact the Tenant Custodians of the 5,000 homes that are owned and managed by the NT directly. We require your contact details in order to build up our tenant database and the funds to pay for printing and postage.

Despite numerous requests to the NT, they have refused TANT – the body that constitutes our members - access to a full list of addresses of Tenant-Custodians.

The NT does fund some TANT activities, although this is not by direct payment to TANT. If we want to pursue an activity that the NT does not agree with, they will not fund us. This is perfectly understandable,

but totally unworkable as it limits what we are able to do.

Members of the TANT committee spend many hours working and travelling on the membership's behalf on a voluntary basis.

We are moving into a new phase with the TANT Committee and seeking new members - we are looking for your skills as we need to extend our available skills base, We are looking for lawyers, media resource people, IT experts, researchers and people well versed in community and sustainability issues.

We aim to develop a database of skills held by our Tenant-Custodians who would be willing to give their expertise to the benefit of other Tenant Custodians. If you feel that you can work with us we ask that you initially contact our Chairman Andrew Turner-Cross on 07741 053764 or atc121@msn.com

You may be aware that TANT has negotiated or is negotiating the following on your behalf:

- The publication of the Tenants' Handbook.
- An agreement in principle allowing tenant-custodians to move to different properties across the National Trust estates should their circumstances change
- An agreement allowing Tenant Custodians to be "honorary" NT members

At the recent National Trust AGM on 7 November 2009, Sir Simon Jenkins said: "We are determined to recognise and promote the uniqueness of each Trust property and its relationship with its local community."

We hope that these sentiments extend towards its Tenant Custodians.

We hope you will feel able to send us a subscription together with comments, suggestions and nominations for the committee. And that you will let us know if you think you have a skill that might be used to the benefit of TANT.

QUESTIONS FOR THE NATIONAL TRUST CHAIRMAN— ANSWERS FROM THE DIRECTOR GENERAL

Committee members Andrew Turner-Cross, Alan Yates and Peter Bate arranged to attend a meeting with the Trust's chairman Sir Simon Jenkins and Director General Dame Fiona Reynolds in October.

Unfortunately Sir Simon was taken ill on the day and was unable to attend although we did have the opportunity to meet with Dame Fiona Reynolds. Another meeting is being arranged with Sir Simon.

We had received some excellent questions from NT tenants and put these to Dame Fiona Reynolds in Sir Simon Jenkins absence. Here are the responses:-

House Swaps – several tenants asked if they could be considered for moves to NT houses in different parts of the country.

NT response: *This can be complicated when moving between different Managers' properties but now that most NT lettings are available on 'Right Move' it should be easier for tenants to look for possibilities.*

High Rents – A tenant from Slindon raised concern about high rents destroying the balance of local communities and creating elitist NT communities.

NT response: *The NT policy was clear and had been established with wide con-*

sultation. The NT is not a social service and the Trustees are expecting our let estate to work harder in economic, social and environmental terms. It will be up to local managers to decide how best to achieve this.

Recording outcomes of meetings - a tenant from Kingston Lacy had asked if the outcomes of discussions and meetings with local staff could be recorded in writing, which did not always happen at present.

NT response: *It was agreed that this was best practice.*



TANT SUSTAINABLE RURAL COMMUNITIES STRATEGY 2010

TANT represents the tenants of **5,000 National Trust houses and cottages** and believes that our members should be valued for the contribution that they can make to mixed, sustainable rural communities as **Tenant Custodians**, not merely as a source of revenue income.

Our **six key priorities** for 2010 are as follows:-

1. To campaign nationally and locally for the fair application of the National Trust Rent Setting Policy with a particular emphasis on limiting significant annual rent increases and the setting of sub-market rents in villages/estates where the National Trust is the predominant landlord
2. To secure full National Trust membership with voting rights for all tenants of National Trust properties on the basis of Tenant Custodian status.
3. To secure a dedicated, devolved budget for TANT sufficient to enable us to service the needs of our members including our role as mediators.
4. To negotiate performance targets with the National Trust for the completion of repairs by category and timescale.
5. To undertake an independent survey of National Trust tenants along with mystery customer exercises to evaluate the quality of service provided to tenants.
6. To secure National Trust support for the provision of a National Tenants Resource Centre.

We urge the many local Tenants Associations that TANT has helped to establish to work with us to achieve these challenging priorities.

To assist us in our work we would encourage all TANT tenants to subscribe to TANT—details below. We have had a good response to date (many thanks!) but remember — the more money we raise, the more the NT will match.

TANT Membership application

Name: _____ Address: _____

Post code: _____ Email : _____ Telephone: _____ Date: _____

I enclose my cheque for £10 (£5 concessions) for 12 months membership of TANT.

For BACS, automated or other direct payments through the banking system:

Account name: TANT **Branch:** Oxted **Sort Code:** 60-16-09 **Account number:** 75514834

Please send this slip and your cheque which should be payable to "TANT" (or slip only if paying by direct payment) to:-

Linda Baharier, TANT Treasurer, 1 Castlehill Cottages, Outwood Lane, Bletchingley, Surrey, RH1 4LR.

lbaharier@yahoo.co.uk telephone 07815842133

I authorise TANT to retain my details on their electronic database. These details will not be disclosed to third parties.

Signed: _____