

# TENANT VOICE @ROTHERFED

Newsletter of RotherFed Tenant Voice  
ISSUE 7

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[www.rotherhamfederation.org](http://www.rotherhamfederation.org)

Rotherham Federation (RotherFed) is a local, community led charity that helps to strengthen communities. We work in partnership with Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council to ensure local people are represented, have a voice and make a difference.

## Meet the RotherFed Staff .....



Hi. I'm Jane and I work for RotherFed as a Volunteer Coordinator. I have been with RotherFed since August 2020, and started working on the Friendship Calls Project, which was set up in response to the first Covid lockdown in April 2020 to try and alleviate social isolation and loneliness for those living in Rotherham. It was my role to

recruit, train and manage a team of volunteers who were willing to offer a friendly voice on the phone.

I also work closely with council tenants to support them in getting their voices heard about what they want to see in their communities and how they want to see improvements carried out in the homes that they live in. Another part of my role is working on the Better Mental Health Fund which primarily is to support the residents of Rotherham in the next steps post Covid. So this may be signposting to events and groups or signposting them for advice for the energy bills of money management. I also set up, and facilitate events across all of the projects that I work on to provide a relaxing and friendly environment for the residents of Rotherham to attend where they can get the chance to meet other residents, form friendships and chat to the staff and other professionals.

If anyone would like a chat to gain more information on the projects mentioned here, please so get in touch with me and I will be only to happy to help in any way I can.

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## Upcoming Events

**Pizza Night**  
**Springwell Gardens**  
**Wednesday 16th**  
**February**  
**6pm until 8pm**

**Coffee Morning**  
**Springwell Gardens**  
**Tuesday 8th March**  
**10am until 12pm**



**If you are a current Tenant Voice volunteer or a Council tenant who would like to get involved? Come along and see what Tenant Voice is all about. (all events are free of charge but booking is essential) Book via [info@rotherfed.org](mailto:info@rotherfed.org)**

## You said the Council Listened!



### The tenant scrutiny panel said

Improve IT systems to help with record-keeping and to allow sharing across teams



### The Council responded

A new IT system is to be implemented to help with the sharing of information and for better record-keeping.

# Volunteers - In Their Own Words

Hi I'm Winston the chair of Swinburn Social club.

We enjoy meeting people chatting and finding out about people. I enjoy meeting new people and seeing how I can help somebody, even just to come out their shell a bit. We love hosting lunches and breakfasts to see people smile as they sit down, chat and tell a story, and I enjoy finding out how we can help someone and how they help us. We always have time for somebody.



## Spotlight on ..... From Volunteer to Community Project Worker



My name is Sam Dixon, I am an RMBC tenant, I have been active within the voluntary sector for the last decade and I have been part of the team at RotherFed as a community organiser since January 2021.

My journey to being part of the Voices and Choices project started with helping my friend to start a parents drop in group in 2016. A Reason to Like Mondays started as a result of my friend moving back to East Dene after living away from the area for a number of years, she wanted something within the area that she could go to with other parents and just sit, natter, and generally put the world to rights. I had already been a part of coffee morning project at the Chislett Centre in Kimberworth Park, so said that I could help her to start something that could fulfil the need within the community.

I turned to RotherFed as I found out that they were offering training for people starting new community groups. I quickly found out that with my experience working alongside Kimberworth Park Community Partnership and my volunteer experience at the Chislett, I had picked up more knowledge than I realised and the training I received from RotherFed helped me to gain the confidence to use that experience to start the group.

Over the years we have both been supported by RotherFed and local Neighbourhood Coordinators to ensure that the group met its aims and became sustainable. We always had someone to turn to if we were struggling with any aspect of running our community group.

When I saw that there was an opportunity to become a full time member of the RotherFed team at the end of 2020, I jumped at the chance. I had already been working part time and had been working as part of the Rotherham Heroes project in the position I had, but I was ready to finally bite the bullet and get back into full time employment.

I can't thank RotherFed enough for giving me this opportunity! The team that I work with, the volunteers that I offer support to, each and every day is a new learning experience, and I love the difference that we are making to community life within Rotherham.

if you are interested in volunteering with RotherFed, please get in touch with Jane (details on first page).

