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# ARCH

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It's been quite a busy time for ARCH with the commencement of the two-year tenure of the Current ARCH Tenants Group representatives (with a couple of new members – which is always good news).

The membership as a whole, bemoans the effect Brexit has had on the progress of the Social Housing Green paper – mention Social Housing to any MP or other government officer and you are hit the 6-fingered monster that is BREXIT!

Despite all this who-ha other issues have been discussed, including the effects of Universal Credit, pros and cons of Right to Buy and Modular Housing as one of the solutions to the housing crisis.

The group worked on and had produced, a leaflet on What is ARCH all about – this, amongst other things will help members spread the news while networking at various events up and down the country.

ARCH's Annual Conference took place on Thursday 3rd October 2019 in the coastal town of Bridlington – East Yorkshire. Although delegate numbers were low, compared to previous years it was packed with quite informative sessions – quite glad that Croydon Council had a good representation there Petra Johnson, Ishia Beckford, Sandra O'Connor and, Jacqueline Duffus – the latter two being Council Officers.

There was a welcome address by Councillor Pat Smith, Chairman, East Riding of Yorkshire Council. Two group members *Dennis Smith, ARCH Tenants' Group Member, Tendring District Council, Stella Parkin, ARCH Tenants' Group Member, Rotherham Federation* gave a joint 'reflective presentation celebrating the Addison Act - 100 years of Council Housing. There were 2 workshops :

At the Opening Plenary Session : Keeping your home safe there was a joint presentation from *William Davidson, Fire Risk Assessor, HFR Solutions CIC and Fire Protection Association*

And *Marc Cross, Managing Director with Robert Welsh and Graham - Campbell Wilson, The Gas Company*

Workshop 1: The future of Sheltered Housing where tenants were able to learn new ideas and best practice that they can take back and discuss with their own council about sheltered housing in their area. Speakers were *Helen McEgan, Principal Asset Officer and John Marginson, Development and Implementation Lead , East Riding of Yorkshire Council*

Workshop 2: Housing complaints – what can we expect? This workshop will explore what the new system will look like and what it will mean for tenants and residents.

There was a call for offers to host for the next ARCH Conference(around September 2020) – Ironically Croydon was mentioned by a couple of long-standing members – No Pressure!!

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## SEE the PERSON

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We recently election of Chair and Vice-chair confirmed, this brought us that needed stability/certainty to Campaign. The campaign has not escaped the 6-fingered monster that is BREXIT! Nevertheless, members are being encouraged to soldier on, regardless – thinking outside the box in arranging local initiatives, less dependent on MP's & Parliament for their entire survival and being proactive in other ways of reaching the public with the message of See the Person. This is beginning to be reported with great success stories. There have been several Campaign meetings around the country with some joint events with National Housing Federation(NHF)

The campaign is working on new branding(from Benefit to Society to See the Person) and needless to say, more sponsor funding is also welcome/encouraged.