

Case Study

Godwin and Crowndale

Tenant Management Co-operative (TMC)



In the late eighties and early nineties, the Godwin and Crowndale estate was regularly patrolled by police on horseback. Residents were terrorised by drug dealers and gangs of youths setting fire to cars. Fed up that things had got so out of hand, one resident, Helen, began researching how the community could take control of their environment.

She heard of an estate nearby where residents were setting up a co-operative to take management into their own hands and invited them down to speak to her neighbours in Godwin and Crowndale Courts. In 1992 the Godwin and Crowndale Tenant Management Co-operative (TMC) Board was formed and, after several rounds of door knocking and a ballot of residents, took over the management and maintenance of their estates from the council in 1994, the same year that legislation passed

“We took control where there was no control before.”

“We took control where there was no control before”, says Lola, current Chair. “And it worked.” As of 2019, Godwin and Crowndale is a thriving multicultural community, managed by a Board of residents as diverse as their neighbours and with staff on site who know and understand the community and buildings they work in. When anti-social behaviour threatened to rear its ugly head again in 2018, the community had the powers and the budget to prevent it quickly and effectively.

Meet The Team

Chair

Name: Lola

Volunteer hours per week: 14

Super powers: Getting things done!

Treasurer

Name: Omari

Volunteer hours per week: 4

Super powers: Listening and being hands-on

What made you want to be on the Board of your TMO?

Lola: I was approached by the Chair at the time to join the committee and I went, 'I haven't got time'. Twelve years later, I'm still here!

We go the extra mile, we're the voice of the people on the estate. And it's important that we speak up and get the best for residents. The council listen to me in my position as Chair, and that helps get things done.

Omari: Where I used to live in Afghanistan we do the same thing. People control the environment and we work together like a family to make it cleaner. We treat the whole neighbourhood as our home.

What's your favourite part of being on the Board?

Omari: We take tenants on a trip to Brighton in the summertime every year, and we have a fun day which brings together all the kids to come and play – it feels like a festival.

Lola: It's quite challenging. I think it's made me stronger. I never used to be vocal the way I am but it made me want to achieve something for my community.

What are you most proud of?

Lola: We're incredibly proud that we are so multicultural – we have every nationality on the Board, different languages, different cultures and we all get on.