

Chairman's Report 2011.

Whilst arguably one of the most challenging in a long time, 2011 has nevertheless proved to be a positive and encouraging one in the life and work of Homesdale (Woodford Baptist Homes) Ltd. Thanks to the significant care and devotion of an outstanding staff, we have continued to shield our residents from many of the turmoil's facing local communities across the country at this time.

The Committee of Management have met regularly throughout the year and have dealt with a substantial raft of routine matters as well as embracing the need for strategic training and data harvesting. They have considered papers and received training on a range of areas including Excellence in Governance; How to monitor compliance; Leadership and control; Governance; Shareholder duties and responsibilities and the new Government pension arrangements to list but a few. During the year we said farewell to Peter Drew and Paul & Christine Watkins. Their warm letters of resignation were an encouragement to us and we wish them all every success as they seek other avenues of service in their busy Church lives. Meanwhile, we have welcomed two "observers", Ed Whetham and Mark Welfare who are due to join us in 2012 as full members under our revised "Recruitment of Board Members" arrangements. The professional skill sets they bring to the Committee will be particularly welcome. I place on record my personal thanks to all of the Committee for their remarkable contribution to the governance of Homesdale.

Lisa Richardson continues to lead the Care Home with an inspirational determination and passion. She is supported by Joyce, Sheila and Tonia who equally share Lisa's desire to provide the very best for the residents. They have all enjoyed the planning stages of the new lounge which is due to commence in spring 2012. Meanwhile Julie Lewer, supported by Sandy and Vicki, leads the work in Sheltered Housing with her unique blend of enthusiasm and cheerfulness and has brought a plethora of new ideas to us. These included our first Open Day for many years and the formation of extra meetings for the blind and hard of hearing. We wished farewell to Jenny Brewster who retired to the Cotswolds and welcomed Matt & Ruth Savage as our new Pastoral Support workers. They have settled quickly into their new role and are valued highly by the residents for their one to one visiting, hospital visiting and organisation of Services. Jackie Baker, supported by Amanda and the rest of her team, provide valuable and highly appreciated support to the residents in Sheltered Housing. Sarah Walsh continues to be kept extremely busy with all aspects of the tenancy work and a myriad of building matters including detailed Fire Risk Assessment work, the new lounge project, and the installation of upgraded insulation while also managing the first rent increase of two years. Mina Sindha meanwhile continues with meticulous precision to ensure the financial aspects of the Complex operate smoothly. Sarah and Mina's work is often in the background but is crucial for the success and smooth running of the Association.

All of these remarkable people are ably led by our Chief Executive Peter Townrow who not only provides key support for the Committee but who has also overseen our exit from Supporting People; organised a financial review which has replaced three firms by one thus bringing significant cost and efficiency savings; reorganised our investment programme; negotiated energy deals; undertaken the Olympics Risk Assessment and encouraged involvement from the local community. His contribution is greatly appreciated by us all.

Finally, as a faith based organisation we thank God for all of His many blessings which have been showered on us during this year. We look forward to the challenges that next year will undoubtedly bring from new Regulators to Government austerity measures, safe in the knowledge that we will continue to seek the right path based on our Christian values and ethos.

Keith Hawkins (Chair)