**Information about shortlisted nominees and winner of the 2017 ARCH Community Champion Award**

**Pamela Pamment.-Ipswich Borough Council**

Pamela is not in the best of health but that does not stop her, even attending a meeting after a fall.  She actually door knocks so that she can engage fully with her community.  On one such visit when asking tenants what she can do to help them and the answer was: can you do some ironing for me.  She declined to do this.  Well wouldn’t you?

She donates her time and money to buy raffle prizes for the annual community event.  We all know how difficult it can be to find buildings on estates and Pamela has actively visited one such site when drivers could not find where to deliver their packages and suggested the most suitable places for signposts.

Apart from all the committee and area meetings which makes a difference to how Ipswich run their services she also used to volunteer at her local school’s swimming lessons and also looks after her great-grandson on a regular basis.

**Sheila Watkinson- Lincoln City Council**

Sheila engaged with the residents of a particular estate and discovered the loneliness that many residents of our estates suffer from.  We will all remember the days when we will knew our neighbours, we all talked to our neighbours, we all helped our neighbours, we chastised our neighbours children and as children we knew that if we did wrong and our neighbour saw it what would happen when we got home.  We all know this does not happen today, many tenants do not know their neighbours. This candidate lives on this estate and yes would have seen the changes.  This estate, like a number that we can think of, have a high level of deprivation so consequently families cannot afford any recreational activities.  Having to think of what can she do to get tenants out and be together and came up with the idea of having bingo sessions.This started from absolutely nothing, saving money to get the equipment, finding a low-cost venue, letting residents know and then setting up rules for the sessions.  This is now a well-attended, sustainable, community run, inexpensive evening of entertainment with a weekly attendance of 40-50 residents which has made a big difference to many of the older residents.

Sheila had many obstacles in setting this up, with room bookings being cancelled, being asked to change dates.There was a glowing testimonial of one resident who on being discharged from hospital and so fed up that they couldn’t get out of the house.   When Sheila heard of this, she arranged for transport so that the resident can attend the bingo session.  This may have led to some therapeutic healing.

Sheila also attends various Council meetings and is an active member of the Tenants Panel and assists by carrying out inspections of vacant properties to ensure that they meet lettings standards. A particular  thank you Sheila or your commitment to ensuring that your fellow tenants are no longer lonely in their homes – at least they have 1 evening a week that they can have a bit of low cost entertainment.

**Jackie Hacker- Stevenage Borough Council   - 2017 winner of the ARCH Community Champion Award**

Jackie’s first task was to campaign when their local bus service was going to be cut.  We all know that in some areas how important it is to have some form of public transport vital to any community as a number of residents cannot always afford to get taxis or afford cars for simple things like shopping, hospital visits, going to see their families etc.  In many areas without the local bus services, which incidentally may run infrequently, means just how isolated it leaves the Residents.  Jackie now campaigns against bus closures in other parts of the town.

As a friend pf the Town Centre Garden she helped to drive the regeneration of the local Town Garden.  Through being involved in this she worked hard with them to gain some funding for a piece of greenery on her estate.  This piece of land is surrounded by high rise blocks.  This is now a garden where Jackie helps plan and run events. The gardens have adult apparatus and a sensory garden.  This does not even end there as litter picks and a range of activities happens through the year: fun days, park runs and school holiday activities etc

Stevenage Council is amazed how Jackie helps to persuade people to work together to improve their local facilities, she even helps groups with their funding bids and runs local quiz nights.  She’s also a member of various committees and a Resident Housing Inspector also highlighting such issues as broken pavements, fly tipping, manholes in need of attention.