

# NEWS RELEASE

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## WHAT MAKES A GREAT NEIGHBOUR?

The search is on to find England's best neighbour. Housing associations and their residents are being asked to nominate unsung local heroes, as part of the National Housing Federation's Neighbourhood Awards 2006.

The Neighbourhood Awards 2006 - hosted by TV personality **Eamonn Holmes** and sponsored by RSM Robson Rhodes - celebrates the ways in which housing associations make their local communities a better place to live.

5 million people in England live in homes provided by not-for-profit housing associations.

The Best Neighbour Award is for the resident who has made the most outstanding contribution to their neighbourhood.

60 housing association residents will judge 10 award categories with a panel of experts choosing an overall winner from the winners of each individual category.

Last year's winner was Roy Litherland, from the Moss Bank estate in St Helen's. His tireless campaigning raised £32,000 for a new skate park for local children and he arranged daytrips for older people.

One colleague said of Roy: "Everyone knows who Roy is and respects and trusts him. This is why we consider him to be an ideal Best Neighbour."

**David Orr, chief executive, National Housing Federation said:**  
*"The Best Neighbour Award is there to say thank you to people who put their neighbours and local community first."*

*"One person really can make a difference to a whole neighbourhood."*

The Neighborhood Awards ceremony will take place at the National Housing Federation's Annual Conference and Social Housing Exhibition in Birmingham on Thursday 21 September 2006.

The opening date for entries is Friday 31 March, closing on Friday 19 May, with a short list announced on Friday 7 July. All housing association members of the National Housing Federation are eligible to enter.

More information on the awards criteria and how to apply is available at [www.neighbourhoodawards.org.uk](http://www.neighbourhoodawards.org.uk) or from Tessa Williams on 020 7067 1173 or [neighbourhoodawards@housing.org.uk](mailto:neighbourhoodawards@housing.org.uk)

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For more information on sponsoring an individual awards, contact Julian Hurst at Foremarke Exhibitions on 020 8877 8898 or [julian.hurst@foremarke.uk.com](mailto:julian.hurst@foremarke.uk.com)

## Notes to editors

The **National Housing Federation** represents 1400 independent, not-for-profit housing associations in England. Together, our members provide 2 million affordable homes for around 5 million people. [www.housing.org.uk](http://www.housing.org.uk)

**iN business for neighbourhoods** is a long-term project to improve the performance of housing associations and challenge negative perceptions of the sector and its customers. [www.iNbiz.org](http://www.iNbiz.org)

**Neighbourhood Awards 2006** – formerly the iNbiz Awards.

For more details, awards categories and criteria and including results from 2005, please visit [www.neighbourhoodawards.org.uk](http://www.neighbourhoodawards.org.uk)

The full Neighbourhood Awards 2006 categories are:

- **Best Neighbour** *sponsored by Keynote/Prime Focus*
- **Customer Frontline Award** *sponsored by Northern Counties Housing Association*
- **Local Engagement and Involvement Award**
- **Peaceful & Better Neighbourhood Award**
- **Leader of Tomorrow Award** *sponsored by Inside Housing*
- **Communications Award** *sponsored by Cisco Systems*
- **Partner of Choice Award** *sponsored by The Riverside Group*
- **Employer of Choice Award** *sponsored by Trinity Public Sector*
- **Independent Living & Older People Award**
- **Diversity & Race Award**
- **Overall winner** *sponsored by Aareon*

The overall winner for the 2006 Awards will be selected from the other category winners by a panel of invited judges.