



## 2021 AGM – 29<sup>th</sup> September 2021

**Almshouse Association CEO, Nick Phillips presented his reflection on 2020 and the magnificent response of the staff, trustees in the almshouse movement in responding to challenge.**

**Nick made a special reference to the TAA staff who responded so positively during the pandemic and showed exceptional enthusiasm and enterprise in solving problems and focusing on supporting members with all issues.**

### **Key points:**

- During the year the team have been proactive and focused on assessing the trusted source of information, interpreting for our members and distributing quickly.
- Taking time to solve problems and share learning. Over 2,250 queries.
- Helping support members who despite the turmoil continued with plans to improve/expand etc.
- Supporting members with complex and challenging negotiation with local government, planners, MP's and many others.
- Wrote to and communicated with every MP and often engaging on behalf of members.
- The finance team led by Mike and supported by the Finance and General Purpose sub-committee - showed excellent planning and guidance in keeping the finances of the association robust and on budgets.
- Nick thanks the support of ambassadors, champions, advisors all giving their time generously to support the mission.
- The team for delivering valuable webinars
- Developing on line offers and webinars often with over 100 attendees.
- Raising profile continued during 2020 - helped by our Royal Patrons HRH The Prince of Wales and HRH The Duke of Gloucester.
- PR was supported by trade press and national press. Our ambassadors, Dan Cruickshank, Joan Bakewell, and Archbishop of Canterbury all added to the awareness.
- Jack was able to raise significant issues with local and national Government and the association was able to engage with forward with MPs and reviewing white papers, strategic funding from Government issues and in 2020 establishing the next stage of the APPG
- Work with the church and coming home report developed and a working group was established.
- TAA awarded Grants and loans over £1m – and established a new emergency fund.
- 2020 could have been a year of standing still and waiting for the storm to pass. But it was far from it. Where action could take place it did, where the team could not move forward they either delivered projects in a different way
- Nick and the team would like to thanks to the board for their encouragement, guidance and support. Particularly Chairman - for forward thinking, constantly working to protect, strengthen and share the values of the movement. Speaking at events and lectures and leading the board through the strategy and beyond.

### **Nick referenced plans for the future that would include.**

- Increased support for trustees.
- Raise the profile and value of the movement focusing on the difference that almshouses make to the lives of residents. The compassion, and companionship that make the movement so different and valued.
- To engage with all members and ensure all members are aware of the service and support offered by the association.
- Nick finished by thanking to member charities, trustees, and staff who are leading the sector with a great sense of personal responsibility. Their care for residence, great professionalism in leading warm, secure safe homes for those who need them today and leaving the almshouses in a better state to the next generation.