

**“My worry is it will just go back to how it was. I really think that. It's already having an impact; it's going backwards.”**

*Irene Travis, a retired machine operator, has received a great deal of support from SALT. They have helped her secure development grants for the local bowling club and for a carer's drop-in group she has established. Irene, who is a carer herself, looks after her brother Peter, who has learning difficulties.*

*In addition, in 2009, SALT helped Irene challenge her employers and win the £21,000 redundancy money she was entitled to. Her company was initially only willing to offer her £5,000.*

“I worked for a company for ten years and unfortunately I was retired on ill health. And they sent me a form to accept the redundancy, and then they tried to give me a severance pay instead of the redundancy. And my union weren't doing anything, and I couldn't understand why nobody seemed to be listening to me.

One day I went into Seedley and Langworthy Trust (SALT), they give me some advocacy and they represented me, and within a week, I got what I should have got over nine months before that time. The difference was £17,000.

They also helped me get a grant for the local bowling club, we had a community day, and they also helped me get a grant towards room hire for where we do tai chi at the cornerstone. We have a member who's 92 who goes to that, so it's all different ages. It's not limited.

We've had lots of problems in the past; people was frightened to walk down the streets. In 1999 to 2000 I was frightened to walk down the streets because there was not nice things going on and they managed to get the area going. And with the help of SALT, the In Bloom's been very good for us, and got loads of awards. It's looking better than it was; they've got the house prices back up. So they've done a lot.

My worry is it will just go back to how it was. I really think that. It's already having an impact; it's going backwards. Nobody seems to be bothering. Joyce (one of the SALT workers) used to go on a walk and pick up on things, fly tipping and things like that. Now it's just gone back. So quick.

There's nowhere to go if they want an alley key, or if they had a problem with the housing association or with noisy nuisance. They helped everybody in different areas, not just one area. There's nowhere to go now.

I think it's awful; I don't think it's right myself. All this hard work they've built up over the last ten years. I think they need help; I don't know who's going to give it to them, but I think they should be helped along the line, somewhere.

Because they've (tax avoiders) been highlighted lately in the press, they have stopped doing what they've been doing. It took one, so hopefully it might urge a few others to stop doing it. But me personally, I think some people are only just after what they can get and what they can do. Not everybody's the same.”