

NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL TENANTS' AND LEASEHOLDERS' CONSULTATION FORUM MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 26th SEPTEMBER 2011

Present

Bob Dawe - (Chair), Linford & Verdon Tenants' & Leaseholders' Association (BD)
 Pat Guymer – Linford & Verdon Tenants' & Leaseholders' Association (PG)
 Joan Cox - Linford & Verdon Tenants' & Leaseholders' Association (JC)
 Gloria Richardson – Greenhill Tenants' and Residents' Association (GR)
 Jeanette Collins - Greenhill Tenants' and Residents' Association (JC)
 Kate Nicholls – (vice Chair) Riverview Tenants and Residents Association (KN)
 Carole Whitfield – Linford & Verdon (CW)
 Jennifer Ferguson - Measham Tenant (JF)
 Roger Ludgate - Willesley Tenants and Resident Association (RL)
 Kath Whitaker - Tenants and Resident Association (KW)
 Isaac Foy - Whitwick Tenant (IF)
 Tricia Reynolds – Voluntary Action Leicestershire (TR)
 Cllr Roger Bayliss - Portfolio Holder for Housing (RB)
 Chris Lambert – Head of Housing and Customer Service (CL)
 Amanda Harper –Housing Management Team Leader, NWLDC, (AH)
 Beverley Curry - Resident Involvement Officer, NWLDC, (BC)

1.	APOLOGIES	Lead/Action
	John Baggaley – Tenant (JB) Tara Stanley – Tenant (TS) Val Potter – Tenant (VP) George Potter – Tenant (GP) Nick Jones – Resident Involvement Officer, NWLDC, (NJ) Sheila Sharpe – Tenant (SS) Rosie Brown – Tenant (RB) Teresa Tatler – Tenant (TMT) Trevor Tatler – Tenant (TT) Cllr Derek Howe - (DH)	
2.	MINUTES OF LAST MEETING 11th July 2011 Agreed as a true and accurate record of last meeting by PG & KN	
3.	MATTERS ARISING Forum requested Choice Based Letting (CBL) to be on the next agenda AH said that CBL will be reviewed after 6 months as initially agreed and explained that housing service would welcome the opportunity	

	<p>to run an information event.</p> <p>BD suggested that the group wait for the review, then bring it onto the agenda at a later date.</p> <p>Forum agreed CBL will be put on the agenda after the review. AH to arrange this.</p> <p>BD stated that Item 8 has been removed from agenda. This is because the council has responded positively to residents' concerns and are not going to charge for aerals as originally planned.</p>	AH
4.	<p>Housing plans re: Localism Bill – Forum debate</p> <p>BD referred to the summary of the bill that was sent out to forum members with the minutes. BD informed the forum that the Localism bill becomes law in October 2011 and explained it would be beneficial to all members to familiarise themselves with the changes. Bob stated that it was important for members to get involved right from the beginning.</p> <p>AH asked the forum if they would like to have Shelter come in and talk about the bill. AH advised the forum that courses on the Localism Bill are running at the moment and she would look into the having a representative of Shelter come to the Council rather than members having to attend the course.</p> <p>The Forum agreed with the proposal.</p> <p>AH to contact Shelter regarding the workshop.</p>	AH
5.	<p>Resident Involvement Budget – Amanda Harper</p> <p>AH referred to Appendix 1 and requested the forum make recommendations for spending the budget</p> <p>PG stated that she would like to see more training</p> <p>AH said that some of the budget could be used for developing a Tenants Scrutiny panel and the cost for holding 2 workshops run by TPAS would be £750</p> <p>KN stated that she has been on a 1st Aid Training course organised by the Resident Involvement Team and commented on how much she got out of it.</p> <p>RL responded that the forum needs to judge whether the training is relevant to the individual.</p>	

	<p>BD continued by stating that it is no use sending a person on a 1st aid course that cannot kneel down, therefore we should look at having a basic criteria for training.</p> <p>The Forum agreed with this proposal.</p> <p>CL stated that although we used to carry budget over in the past, this would no longer be that case, if there is any money left over in the budget in the future it will not be carried over.</p> <p>AH proposed that some of the money could go to help some projects that did not receive funding from the Respect Challenge.</p> <p>BD asked AH to bring along the some applications that will help council tenants, for the group to look at.</p> <p>AH agreed to bring the housing related Respect applications to the next meeting after contacting the applicants.</p> <p>RL stated that he would like to see the Annual Grant payments to TARA paid sooner than they are at present.</p> <p>CL added that the appropriate checks have to be made before the grants are paid and this does take some time.</p> <p>KN expressed an interest in acquiring a new computer for her TARA</p> <p>CL proposed that the TARAs annual grant could be increased in the future, to enable them to buy their own equipment. This could help the group to get a better deal than the council can get, as the council's procurement process restricts them to which suppliers can be used. CL continued that this would also enable the TARAs to purchase the software that best suit's the group's needs.</p> <p>The forum expressed their support for the proposed budget.</p>	<p>BC/NJ</p> <p>AH</p>
<p>6.</p>	<p>InTouch (New Editorial committee)</p> <p>BD stated it was a positive step forward that more tenant's articles were included in the latest edition.</p> <p>PG requested deadline dates for future editions of the InTouch newsletter.</p> <p>AH responded that the end of November is the deadline for the next InTouch, but a forward plan for future editions of InTouch would be forwarded with the minutes.</p> <p>BD requested more members join the InTouch editorial panel.</p>	<p>BC</p>

	<p>KN and JF volunteered to join the panel.</p> <p>RL suggested that the newsletters includes a letters page.</p> <p>BD replied that this would be a good idea and asked if RL would be prepared to submit the first letter about Willesley.</p> <p>RL agreed with the suggestion.</p> <p>BD added that InTouch was a great way of getting people involved and everyone should use it and read it.</p> <p>CW suggested that puzzles and crosswords are included in future editions.</p> <p>CL proposed that some of the excess money in the Tenant Participation budget could be used to increase the InTouch newsletter.</p> <p>RL suggested that the group look out for the Ashby Life, which is a good source of information about the local area and could provide ideas of what to put InTouch.</p>	<p>RL</p> <p>BC</p>
<p>7.</p>	<p>Report from Sheila regarding the Dig –</p> <p>The report is to be added onto the agenda of the next meeting.</p>	<p>BC</p>
<p>8.</p>	<p>Update on Willesley Cabin- Amanda Harper</p> <p>AH referred the forum to the report.</p> <p>BD proposed that the £16.690 should be transferred onto refurbishing the cabin.</p> <p>The proposal was agreed by JC, KN and PG.</p> <p>AH acknowledged all the hard work that Kath Whittaker has done in applying for various funds and grants.</p> <p>CL stated that this could not be made formal as the cabin is an asset of the HRA. CL continued that Ashby Town Council would need to consider what is involved with taking on the cabin.</p> <p>AH stated that the proposal has been agreed in principle.</p> <p>CL advised that the improvements work to the cabin should start as soon as possible.</p>	<p>AH</p>

<p>9.</p>	<p>AOB</p> <p>PG was nominated for decorating the Christmas tree at the Council offices this year.</p> <p>KN stated that during a closed meeting at the Repairs Working Group someone had relayed on to an officer what was said.</p> <p>BD added that members should adhere to a confidentiality document. He will write to the person responsible – No names were mentioned at the meeting.</p> <p>CL added that he will talk to the officer concerned.</p> <p>BD asked if all meeting dates up until the end of the year can be emailed to him.</p> <p>BD referred to the Thank You event agenda item that he had seen on the Housing Management Working Group's agenda.</p> <p>BC proposed that the event would take place at the Hermitage Hotel on the 8th December at 6pm with Andy Cope as the guest speaker. Residents would be asked to contribute £5 per person and the council will pay the remainder, however if partners would like to come along they need to pay full price £19.50.</p> <p>6 Forum members voted in favour of the event, date and time 1 Forum member voted against 4 abstained from voting</p> <p>BD stated that the proposal was accepted and left with BC to organise</p> <p>JC asked to formally thank Nick Jones, Polly Page and Beverley Curry for all their hard work and help during the Greenhill Environment week.</p>	<p>PG</p> <p>BD</p> <p>BC</p> <p>BC</p>
<p>10.</p>	<p>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</p> <p>Monday 31st October 2011, 6.00 pm, Council Chambers</p>	