

Minutes

Minutes of Area Panel 5
5th October 2009 6.30-8.00pm
Edwards Lane Estate Community Centre

Present:

Roy Lawson (RL)	David Barnaby (DB)
Jackie Brown (JB)	Imoegen Denton - NCC (ID)
Cllr Penny Griggs (PG)	Jackie Medcalf - Notts Probation (JM)
Allan Breeton – CDP (AB)	Paul Stanley – NCH (PS)
Garry Handley – NCH (GH)	Kim De Vergori – NCH (KDV)
Jill Slade – NCH (JS)	Andrew Filer – NCH (AF)

Apologies: Chris Langstaff – NCH

		Action
<u>1.0</u>	Welcome, introductions & apologies	
	All present introduced themselves	
<u>2.0</u>	Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising	
	Minutes signed off as a true representation of the meeting.	
	<u>Page 1</u> PS to update on environmental proposals as part of agenda item 5. AF asked whether the forward plans had been received. The group confirmed they had. AF confirmed that as the meeting was still not quorate, an AGM still cannot be held.	
	<u>Page 2</u> PS confirmed that any environmental budget not spent will be lost.	
	<u>Page 3</u> RL raised the issue of communal keys. GH and PS advised that each housing office has copies which are available should a tenant or leaseholder not have a key. A small charge may be made for these. RL queried estate inspection feedback. GH advised the feedback for that area is still being updated and checked to ensure that no data protection is being breached. It will then be sent out to all relevant parties.	
	<u>Page 4</u> AF advised Louise Painter could not attend tonight's meeting, but is able to attend the next one.	

3.0

Justice Seen, Justice Done

AB and JM presented on this item (presentation enclosed).

This subject is high priority across the City, and has cross-party support, so will continue even if there is a change of government.

Community Payback was previously known as Community Service which was always done quietly as did not want negative feedback. Work is now visible with approximately 60 adult offenders (aged 17 – 70) currently working 6 days a week across the City.

Presentations being done at each Area Panel, to give an opportunity to engage with the community to find suggestions for work to do.

Offenders are supervised at all times, and can do work such as garden / land clearances, litter picks, painting and decorating, and small building work. All jobs are risk assessed prior to being started.

Lots of work has been done already around the St Anns area, but not many jobs have been identified for work around Sherwood and Mapperley.

They want the community to nominate work to be done, and 3000hrs have been ring-fenced for work within the NCC boundaries. Contact details are available on the leaflets enclosed.

GH confirmed that the work done around St Anns has gone down very well.

JB asked whether the team would trim hedges for people who were unable to do so themselves. JM advised small jobs such as that were not normally undertaken, but if they were the cause of ASB, then they would be looked at. JB then thanked AB and JM for their presentation.

KDV raised the issue of graffiti near the train station, as it does not set a good impression as this is the first thing you see when entering Nottingham on the train. ID advised the new Public Realm Team should look at issues such as this.

KDV also asked whether work could be done in communal gardens of sheltered schemes. JM replied that work had been done with Crossfield Ct already, and decorating work had also been done in communal

rooms. The team also have a mini-bus allowing them to transport older / vulnerable people to do shopping etc.

GH asked what tools or equipment is provided by the team. JM advised that materials are needed, but the team bring along tools and equipment with them.

4.0

Rents and Financial Inclusion

JS presented on this item (presentation enclosed).

The Financial Inclusion Officers make personal contact with each new tenant and existing tenants on a referral basis to provide support where it is required. They will sign-post to support agencies if further ongoing support is needed.

JS added that outreach work is done where they go out to Shelter, hostels and community centres giving advice and support. She added that it is a service NCH are proud of, and have made a real significance to the improvement within the rent figures.

JB asked whether this presentation could be taken out to TRA meetings to help promote the service. JS advised this is something that can be done easily on request. RL added that information can be passed to others from attendees tonight also. JB added that having a delegate from Nottingham Credit Union may also be useful for future presentations to increase awareness.

RL queried why the government does not step in to deal with organisations such as Provident. AF advised that unfortunately, they are doing nothing illegal. Such companies as Provident also will offer further money when the repayments have nearly finished, which results in a further downward spiral. PS added that they often advertise that they take family portraits as a means to start the ball rolling.

The panel agreed this is a very useful service, but wondered about further marketing and promotion of the service could be done.

GH added that this information is slowly 'getting out there' as numbers of people asking for help and using the St Anns Debt Advice Surgery at St Anns Housing Office has increased dramatically over the last year. Housing Patch Managers also take information with them on each visit they make, and any frontline member of staff can give out details and arrange visits by the

FIOs if required.

JB thanked JS for her presentation.

5.0

Environmental scheme feedback

PS handed out a paper giving a review of what stage these are currently at. He advised that any further schemes will need to be agreed at the Area Committee in November, or the money will be lost, so time is running out.

The NCC Clear Out Campaign is currently in use (latest programme enclosed), rather than have a 'skip scheme'. ID added that the skip scheme had not totally been rejected, but there was some clarification required on who would monitor / supervise the work and where this had been requested for, as they did not want to duplicate work.

A discussion was then started over why people do not contact NCC to arrange for removal of items. It was agreed that the rules for collection were too stringent, and often took several days for things to be picked up. Using the 'skip scheme' or kerbside pick-ups informing people when and where to put items, would alleviate these problems.

ID suggested looking at the Clear Out programme, and then identifying any areas which are not covered, and then use a further scheme to supplement it.

PS

Further environmental schemes were then suggested: RL noted the drying areas for the communal flats on Pearmain Drive need resurfacing. GH to get further details at Woodlane TRA meeting.

GH

JB requested better signage at the entrance way for Edwards Lane Estate Community Centre. These will be looked at, but possibly will need to go on to the wish list for next year.

6.0

Local Housing Issues

JB felt that Edwards Lane Estate TRA had been neglected, and felt that an event or activity was needed to help this. AF advised that he was awaiting contact details for the new committee, to arrange a meeting to discuss this and to complete a grant application.

AF

ID also mentioned the Grab a Grand scheme that had just finished. Short listing of suggestions was being done the following day, with public voting being done as part of local democracy week. Also if there were any

other good schemes, further funding was possibly available.

KDV suggested groups start thinking now for ideas they would put forward for next year.

JB also thanked PS, as recent work done on pathways and fencing around Edwards Lane Estate has left it looking very nice.

DB raised an issue that the Community centre did not have a post box. PG advised there were issues over it not being staffed permanently, and a discussion would be needed with the management committee. JB will take this forward to the management committee.

JB

JB advised that some street lighting on the pathway leading up to the community centre was not working. ID and PG have previously reported this, so will chase up.

ID / PG

RL asked who deals with lighting on communal blocks. GH advised issues are normally raised by tenants. KDV added that property services are currently looking at these issues.

7.0 Performance

PS handed out an overview of NCH performance. Any comments to be given to PS.

8.0 Any other business

None

Next Meeting

Next meeting is to be held on Monday 7th December 2009 from 6.30 – 8.00pm at Wells Road Community Centre, St Anns.

