



Minutes

Homes 4 Us meeting held on 28th November 2011

Present:

Val Schneider - Chair	LK	Linda Kerry	LK
Loveleen Labana	LL	Lyn Mitchell	LM
Sheila Beale	SB	Juliette Trout	JT
Sue Stevenson	SS	Jenny Grant	JG
Elaine Graham	EG	Dorothy Dayton	DD
Alan Darby	AD	Keith Bradbury	KB
Christopher England	CE	Peter Reynolds	PR
Linda Lynch	LL		

Nottingham City Homes:

Andrew Filer	AF	Tim Millns	TM
Helen Godfrey-Clamp	HGC	Mark Lawson	ML
Anthony Slater-Davison	ASD	Phil Saunders	PS

Apologies:

Anna Guest	AG
Ruth Haywood	RH
Clive Thorpe	CT

The meeting was opened at 12.40 by the Chair

Item	Commentary	Action
1.0	VS Welcome and apologies	
	VS welcomed the group and asked everybody to introduce themselves. Apologies were noted as above.	

2.0	VS	Minutes from the last meeting and matters arising	
2.1		AF distributed a thank you letter from Lillian Greenwood MP. The forum were thanked for inviting her to the meeting. Councillor Greenwood will be following up the matters that were raised and will come back to the forum as soon as possible.	
2.2		6.5 - DD raised concerns that the entrance to Woodthorpe and Winchester Court remained un-locked. AF to speak with Lisa Richardson.	AF
2.3		3.21 – The forum were advised that Mark Lawson would be attending today’s meeting to discuss Supporting People funding. If the forum would still like to invite the Portfolio holder for Support Services, this can still be arranged.	
2.4		5.4 – LK has expressed her fears over being followed in a car whilst out and about. AF advised if she ever feels scared, she must dial 999 rather than the local Police station number.	
2.5		JG asked for feedback regarding the latest EMPTF conference. AF gave a brief overview of what it is all about. Invites to be sent to interested forum members	
3.0	ASD	DDA Work	
3.1		ASD introduced himself and gave a short overview of the works being carried out. At the moment they are looking at access for people into buildings / induction loops in community rooms and ramps on fire escapes. They are looking at 37 sheltered schemes across the City. They have £2 million to spend, which is work covered by legislation.	
3.2		Work was started at Fenton Court 3 weeks ago, with assessments being made at Woodthorpe and Winchester Courts next.	
3.3		ASD told the forum that they are looking at using local firms and social enterprises as this would help with putting local people and money back into the community.	
3.4		DD asked when Woodthorpe and Winchester are being looked at. ASD replied that the architects are currently looking at the exit routes, whether the doors are wide enough for wheelchair access and whether they have the right set of ramps at correct gradients.	
3.5		JG asked about how the local community could get involved in the works. ASD replied that training organisations are being approached for example BEST, which works with training out of work youngsters. ASD stressed that the work will only be offered to recognised contractors.	
3.6		JG asked whether it would be possible for tenants to look at the work that has been done? ASD is happy to work with the	

		forum, although the scope of the work is dictated by legislation. VS asked whether involvement at the procurement stage would be possible. ASD explained that due to quick turnaround and a tight schedule, this may not be possible. The work must be assessed in the right way.	
3.7		SS asked about mobility scooters and whether they are being looked at? ASD informed the group that some residents at Kingston Court have forgone their store cupboards so they can store their scooters there, but this is not possible at all sites.	
3.8		SS suggested that the paint used could be purchased from Johnsons. The 'We Decide – You Provide' team worked hard to get great discounts for tenants. ASD explained that the contract has to go to the open markets. We cannot dictate due to procurement rules.	
3.9		AD asked whether it was all sheltered schemes that are being looked at? ASD replied that all NCH schemes are being checked, with other NCH community facilities also being looked at.	
3.10		DD asked whether disabled parking could be looked at at Woodthorpe Court? Could a notice be put up as people consistently park in the disabled bays. ASD said that it is part of the scheme to look at the requirements and the needs of the facility. Signs for disabled parking will be put up.	
3.11		AF to liaise with ASD regarding the forums involvement.	AF / ASD
4.0	PS	Homes 4 Us TSI Team	
4.1		PS gave the forum an overview of the work carried out by the Tenant Inspectors Team. There are 30 or so inspectors looking at a range of things including <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Estate inspections - carried out quarterly • Empty properties - every 2 weeks • High and low rise properties are inspected regularly to ensure they are meeting standards • Office of the month – Looking at the customer areas, public toilets and to check that there are sufficient leaflets • Monitoring of complaints • Decent Homes works 	
4.2		PS would like to get the forum involved and all input is welcomed. PS asked whether a representative from the forum would like to come to a TSI meeting to talk about disability and to offer advice to the other inspectors on the things that should be looked at. People can make a difference and standards have risen. The level of 2/3 star	

		estates has improved greatly.	
4.3		VS asked whether the forum could have an input with facilities? PS suggested working with the TSI Team. JG raised concerns about the condition of the floors at Digby Court. As the lift was out of order, JG took the stairs and was not impressed by the dirt on the floors. PS will raise with the caretakers and will ask the TSIs to take a look	
4.4		LK asked how to become a tenant inspector. PS advised a simple form would need to be filled out and your interests and suitability for activities would be looked at. You will then be invited to a welcome meeting.	
4.5		AD asked whether disabled access at housing offices were looked at? SS replied that all public buildings should be DDA compliant and disabled friendly.	
4.6		It was agreed that DD, LL, LK and SB will attend the next TSI meeting which is being held at 14 Hounds Gate on 20 December 2011. AF to send details to interested members	AF
4.7		With regards to DD's concerns regarding Mobility Scooters, Richard Worrall, Health and Safety Officer will be invited to attend a future meeting to discuss the Mobility Scooter Policy. AF to arrange this.	AF
5.0	ML	Supporting People Funding Update	
5.1		There have been significant reductions from the Supporting People grant. The City Council are looking at how and what services are to be delivered. Proposals have not yet been confirmed, but proposal include a needs-led service.	
5.2		LK asked about support for those living independently on their own. ML advised that floating support can be accessed. There are lots of different providers.	
5.3		ML told the group that they are looking at what we can provide to people who need support. Money is an issue as it has not been confirmed what is available. Services may have to be changed. There is an over supply of Sheltered Schemes which potentially will be re-designated. More money will be put into schemes where residents have higher needs.	
5.4		VS asked what services are going to go and what the realities of the funding were. ML explained that the details have not been agreed. Different ways of delivering the services are being looked at. Possibility of having a team of people looking after 5/6 schemes. LK raised her concerns over the elderly tenants at Foxton Gardens. ML advised that they can't afford to have a scheme manager per scheme. The service will be tailored, taking everybody's needs and dependency on board. The scheme will be flexible and a dependency analysis will be done. Consultation with all the	

		schemes will be done and they will not be abandoned.	
5.5		ML advised of limited resources and the possibility of reducing the schemes. If appropriate we will help people to move. The design of the schemes will be looked at to, with a view to making them more homely.	
5.6		Consultation between residents and staff needs doing asap and this has been extended until April 2012. ML suggested he come back to the forum before consultation goes ahead. ML asked the forum for their discretion, with a view to preventing rumours.	
6.0	TM	Welfare Reform Update	
6.1		Please refer to the Welfare Reform Briefing Note – Attached	
6.2		The aim of the welfare reform is to shrink the housing benefit bill. The forum were shown an article in Issue 44 of the news from NCH. The article featured a letter from Jean England, Chair of the Tenant and Leaseholder Congress to Lord Freud raising Nottingham tenants concerns and also a reply letter from Lord Freud. TLC suggested that further amendments are made to the bill. 3 MPs support these amendments.	
6.3		TM informed the group that the government are trying to treat social housing the same as private rented. Need to constantly engage with MPs	
6.4		SS told the group about the Universal credit payment, which will be paid monthly in arrears. EG raised her concerns over this payment. TM made the forum aware that workshops will be held with the Financial Inclusion officers. The aim of these workshops is to educate people so they can manage their budgets. The Financial Inclusion Officers will be contacting every new tenant to offer support and the Lettings Team will be doing vulnerability tests to find out if any other support is required. Updates to follow. TM was thanked by the forum for attending the meeting.	
7.0	VS	Aids and Adaptations / Homes 4 Us Leaflet / Homes 4 Us Tour and Any Other Business	
		VS deferred the above agenda items to the next meeting.	
		Date, time and Venue of next meeting The next meeting will be: Monday 19th December 12.30 – 2.30pm Board room, 14 Hounds Gate on	

The meeting was closed at 14.30pm

Homes 4 us
Action Sheet



			Meeting Date	28 th November 2011
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Agenda Item	Page	Action	Responsible	By when?
2.2	1	DD raised concerns that the entrance to Woodthorpe and Winchester Court remained un-locked. AF to speak with Lisa Richardson.	AF	19.12.2011
3.11	3	AF to liaise with ASD regarding the forums involvement.	AF	19.12.11
4.6	4	Homes 4 Us TSI Involvement - It was agreed that DD, LL, LK and SB will attend the next TSI meeting which is being held at 14 Hounds Gate on 20 December 2011. AF to send details to interested members	AF	
4.7	4	With regards to DD's concerns regarding Mobility Scooters, Richard Worrall, Health and Safety Officer will be invited to attend a future meeting to discuss the Mobility Scooter Policy. AF to arrange this.	AF	19.12.11