

JOINT CONSULTATION MEETING
Between
ST LEGER HOMES of DONCASTER
And
THE STANDING JOINT COMMITTEE
Of the
DONCASTER FEDERATION of the TENANTS and RESIDENTS
ASSOCIATIONS
Held on
27th March 2008 at 2.00pm
In the
HAYWOOD ROOM, COUNCIL HOUSE

PRESENT

STANDING JOINT COMMITTEE

Brian Naughton	Vice Chair
Mavis Williams	Secretary
Frank Knapton	Assistant Secretary
Andy Kerr	Assistant Treasurer
Linda Teasdale	Committee Member
George Hardy	Committee Member
Ali Melli	Committee Member
Ernie Plastow	Committee Member
Colin Leonard	Committee Member
Anne Leonard	Committee Member
David Evans	Committee Member
Ashkan Melli	NDC POP Worker (Community Worker)
Naz Hussain	Federation Support Officer (minutes)

ST LEGER HOMES

Martin Musgrave	Chief Executive
David Willis	Community Liaison Manager

1. WELCOME

Brian Naughton opened the meeting and thanked everyone for attending.

2. APOLOGIES

Lyn Ralph	SJC
Sue Wilkinson	Treasurer
Sue Bowie	Temp. Assistant Director of Customer Services
Gail Newton	Area Service Director – Central (DMBC)
Christine Mills	Ward Councillor (Cabinet Member)

3. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record.

4. MATTERS ARISING

Pg. 2 Matters Arising – Chairs Report

George Hardy asked for an update about the future plans for the old fire station on Leger Way; Naz stated that Gail Newton had investigated the issue and concluded that the fire station was not available for a community resource.

Pg. 2 Directors Report

George enquired why it took longer to evict tenants causing anti social behaviour and nuisance than those with untidy gardens. Brian replied that to evict people causing nuisance requires more evidence, which can take longer.

Martin Musgrave added that SLHD have to prepare sufficient evidence for all cases of eviction, but stipulated eviction is a last resort.

Andy mentioned that the paths by Skipworth Gardens in Rossington had still not been cleared of overhanging shrubbery. Dave Willis agreed to take up the issue and said such details will be used as part of the ongoing review of the garden service. Dave added that he would make arrangement with the Service Improvement Team to invite Andy to be part of any future service review group.

A short interval took place to present a retirement present to Lynn Chamberlain, Community Liaison Officer.

Pg. 3 CLO Report

Frank Knapton took the opportunity to praise the Community Liaison Team for their new extended and comprehensive free tenant training programme.

Pg. 4 Any Other Business – Smart Water Stickers

Andy Kerr asked for an update about SmartWater stickers for those tenants who have had decency works. Dave stated that all properties registered and displaying SmartWater stickers prior to decency works will be sent additional ones.

Martin also noted that SLHD are looking to push the SmartWater initiative to all tenants and encouraged the Federation to do the same.

5. DIRECTORS REPORT

Martin updated on the current spend of the Decency programme, and stated that allocation for this financial year will be spent, which is a great achievement. The programme will have completed approximately 7,500 properties across the borough and is among the biggest programmes in Britain. He also mentioned that there had been some issues with the programme but overall it was a massive success.

SLHD is still on with the move away from the Thorne and Conisborough offices but it is progressing slower than expected due to initial agreements and negotiation of leases.

Martin announced and congratulated Dave Willis on his new post as one of the five new Neighbourhood Housing Managers for SLHD and wished him every success in the new job. SJC also congratulated Dave on his new position.

From 1st April 2008 the monitoring and evaluating of performance and HR related issues will be passed to the Area Boards and Martin hoped the SJC would work closely with the Area Boards to help make improvements.

Martin also reminded everyone about the period of Purdah and that SLHD could not be seen to be working or favouring any political parties. Martin added that St. Legers' Communications Team will shortly be contacting all TARAs relating this information.

Andy highlighted that at many TARA meetings decency was a major issue, due to its various problems. Martin acknowledged that there had been problems, but added that all issues flagged up have been dealt with appropriately.

Ernie Plastow asked if SLHD work in partnership with Social Services when looking at adapting properties. Martin said SLHD had 3 occupational health therapists who look at adaptations. Discussions are also under way to offer tenants in designated properties the option of a walk in shower.

Martin agreed to provide a schedule of properties planned for environmental works for the next meeting.

Ernie enquired about the possibility of offering central heating to properties with coal. Martin replied that where possible, SLHD are looking to offer all such properties central heating.

Martin explained that the SLHD Empty Homes Team have brought some empty properties up to Decency Standard within a 2 week period. This work is being reviewed in order for SLHD to make an assessment regarding the team's competitiveness set against our contractors.

6. COMMUNITY LIAISON / DIVERSITY REPORT

Dave Willis presented the March 2008 report for the two teams. Please see attached report.

Other points that were raised in relation to the Community Liaison report:

- The new tenant training programme is to be delivered in local venues, wherever possible. This will enable more people in a community to easily access the training.
- It was asked if TARA members running Community Halls would require a formal qualification on health & hygiene. Dave agreed to look into the matter.
- The SJC thanked Lynn Chamberlain for all her support and work for the tenants and residents of Doncaster.

7. CHAIR'S REPORT

Brian reminded all about the Tenants' & Residents' Day (Tenants Conference), which is due to take place on **Saturday 19th April 2008** at the newly re-developed **Doncaster Racecourse**.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Ennerdale TA

David Evans asked for advice on increasing the capacity of the Ennerdale Communal Hall as it only holds a maximum of 48 people, but the TARA meetings exceeds this.

Brian stated that the legal must not be exceeded due to health and safety implications and advised David to apply to DMBC to extend the hall. Dave Willis said that the CLO would help David with a funding bid if the TARA decided to take this course of action.

9. DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday 24th April 2008 at 2pm in the Haywood Room, Council House