



**MINUTES OF THE NORTH AREA FORUM MEETING
25 May 2010 AT 10.30 am
in the
BRODSWORTH MINERS WELFARE HALL**

Present

K Jobson Middlegate TARA, and Vice-Chair SJC
E Plastow Model Village TARA, Treasurer SJC
M Plastow, Redhouse TARA
K White Redhouse TARA
Councillor B Mordue
Councillor D Hutchinson
Councillor A White
L Harrison Community Engagement Officer
M Werritt Director of Property Services
I Bateman Neighbourhood Manager
T Ager Team Leader
R Lambert Woodlands New Estate TARA
P Granby Woodlands New Estate TARA
S Wray Redmond Community TARA
T Bartlett Redmond Community TARA
A Bailey Highfields TARA
L Bailey Highfields TARA
A Riggans Highfields TARA
Cr A White
B James The Homestead TARA
M Bates The Homestead TARA
C Bailey Toll Bar TARA
T Ager Team Leader
I Bateman Neighbourhood manager
F Protheroe Board Member and The Homestead TARA
12 others

Apologies

P Hagan
PC L Dodds
Cr T Sockett
H Saunders
M Paton

Keith Jobson opened the meeting and welcomed and introduced everyone.

Minutes of the Last Meeting

These were agreed a true record moved by Rosemary Lambert and seconded by Sue Wray.

Matters Arising

'K' missing off "new" on the last line of page 1.
Texting for information only on page 2 and
Query regarding 7' high fence, should it be 6'?

Mick Werritt, Director of Property Services

Mick gave a presentation on SLHD's achievements, performance and opportunities. (A hard copy was given to everyone present).

Mick then took various questions;

1. D Farrell, 53 Ridge Balk Lane, Woodlands – What happens when SLHD refuses to do a repair? Scaffolding too expensive during a gas service.

MW – depends on grounds for refusal will look into it.

2. J Besant 2,4,6,8 Chadwick Road Woodlands – Warden Call system not working

MW to pursue.

3. T Bartlett , Redmond Community TARA, Carcroft – Is the financial advice given by SLHD website strictly regulated and at what level?

MW SLHD signposts tenants to further professional advice.

Ian Bateman added the benefits calculator helps people to maximise their income.

4. D Farrell asked how the bidding system works

MW explained that the "bid" is an expression interest in a property and the banding system, waiting time and medical need.

5. T Bartlett asked about the levels of complaints. Mick said 16% were about decency work short term before defects have been sorted

6. E Plastow asked if the garages and boiler-houses at Woodlands were out of circulation.

MW said that local consultation was taking place for the Land and Asset review and the spending review would not take place before the general election.

Manager's Report

- Ian reported that the Neighbourhood Alliance had taken place in Carcroft and it had been well received, the next one will take place in Thorne.

- The Hotspots Strategies have been set in place and the Community Payback system is helping improve the area visually by weeding, tree pulling etc.
- Highfields has had an estate clean-up which has been well received and letters of thanks have been sent to SLHD.
- 30/40 TVs have been dumped in a deprived area (in the bottom 10%) the question “have they been replaced ?” is asked.
- Financial inclusion has been increased by 120%. Danum Credit Union has a low lending rate and income maximisation has proved effective.
- Goals UK is working to improve self esteem and help tenants get back to work.
- Homestead is another area to look at but there are no set timescales.

Any Other Business

T Bartlett asked if there was help for long term drug users in private property and C Bailey asked about the free skip service.

Ian Bateman said the scheme helps people who help themselves and skips will be supplied as and when they are needed.

Cr D Hutchinson said last year 84 tons of rubbish was cleared, this year only 32 tons, the estate walks have proved effective.

K Jobson asked that estate walk details be included in the Federation’s correspondence.

M Bates complained about vermin in the gardens, Ian suggested that fly tipping might be the cause, pest control will deal with it.

A Riggans made the observation that the rear gardens were not included in the estate walks. Ian said we don’t want estate walks to become a vigilante group.

Performance Indicators

Mick Werritt gave out the handout in the absence of Helen who will comment at the next meeting.

Board Member’s Report

Frank Protheroe reported the Estate Improvement Fund would not be funding fencing. Two cameras known as doormat cameras have been installed at the Homestead, they zoom in X 76 from a distance of 1 Km. They cost £6,500 each and once known as “Dodge City” and Frank says 70% of the “deadwood” has gone.

86% of TARAS wanted skips but at a cost of £460each, this was turned down.

The planting of flowers in Toll Bar, the Homestead and Arksey had taken place and tables and chairs had been placed in the conversation area. They are looking at football kits. The North area had not a fair slice of the fund.

Chair's Report

Keith announced that the next forum will take place in the TRRC on 20 July 2010 and discussions will take place about the success of holding the meetings "out in the sticks".

The SJC had just gone through difficult times and the AGM saw the election of new officers and there are two vacancies on the SJC for tenant members.

Date and Time of the Next Meeting

10.30 am on 20 July 2010 in the Tenants and Residents Resource Centre.