

JOINT CONSULTATION MEETING
between
THE STANDING JOINT COMMITTEE
of the
DONCASTER FEDERATION OF TENANTS' and RESIDENTS'
ASSOCIATIONS
and
ST LEGER HOMES of DONCASTER
and
DONCASTER MBC
held on
27th January 2011 at 1.00pm
in the
DONCASTER FEDERATION'S TENANTS' & RESIDENTS' RESOURCE CENTRE

PRESENT

STANDING JOINT COMMITTEE

Andy Kerr	(AK)	Chair
Keith Jobson	(KJ)	Vice Chair
Ken Barron	(KB)	Committee Member
Marion Baxter	(MB)	Committee Member
Michelle Heeley	(MH)	Committee Member
Anne Pawson	(AP)	Committee Member
Ernie Plastow	(EP)	Committee Member
Margaret Cook	(MC)	Committee Member
Mavis Williams	(MW)	Secretary
Godwin Mudzimu	(GM)	Committee Member
Bob Snashall	(BS)	Committee Member
Moira Greaves	(MG)	Committee Member

ST LEGER HOMES / DMBC

Meryl Liddell	(ML)	Community Engagement Manager – SLHD
Mick Werritt	(MW)	Director of Property Services – SLHD
Janet Walker		Community Engagement Support Officer – SLHD

1. WELCOME

The Chair opened the meeting and thanked everyone for attending followed by a run through of the housekeeping rules.

2. APOLOGIES

Bernadette James	Committee Member
Susan Jordan	Chief Executive – SLHD

3. Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes of the meeting were agreed as a true and accurate record.

4. Matters Arising

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Meryl Liddell read out an email for Kenny Baron from Janet Clarke. There had not been a private sector housing meeting recently and no meeting was planned yet. As soon as one was planned Kenny would receive an invitation.

Andy Kerr asked whether any progress had been made on the Gas boilers handbooks. Mick Werritt informed the meeting that there had been great discussions on this and that a library of all the different handbooks were being collated which would be made available on the SLHD website at a later date. This problem was also being addressed by the Gas servicing team who were advising tenants on loss of water pressure whilst with the tenant. The use of stickers for the boilers was also being discussed but the pro's and con's of this were being weighed up. Mick went on to state that this is not just a cold weather snap problem but a year round problem. Some tenants feel comfortable re pressurising the boiler themselves other don't and it might be another problem that causes the pressure problem, therefore this has to be addressed very carefully.

Kenny Baron asked if there were any further reports on the Windhill estate and the remaining 47 properties. Mick Werritt answered that this had been looked at closely and allowances had been made in the submission of the Decency bid if it wasn't picked up by pathfinder.

Godwin Mudzimu enquired about the e-learning course and what courses were available. This was answered by Meryl Liddell who went on to explain that the TRRC has been booked for 2 days for tenants to undertake the e-learning course. A member of the team would be present to overcome any problems. If any member of the SJC wanted to take part then they would be booked on a place. Also Andy Kerr and Kenny Baron would be undertaking training on fire safety to become the centre's fire wardens.

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Keith Jobson asked whether Meryl was any further forward with the completion of the business Admin Course. Meryl reported that she was still struggling with this as she had even tried contacting the assessor direct but under solvency they were not allowed to have any direct contact with us. Marion Baxter expressed her frustration with this as they only had a few modules to complete. Meryl expressed her apologies but her hands were tied in this matter and it couldn't be resolved at this moment in time. Ernie Plastow asked whether a private tutor could be brought in to complete the last modules to which Meryl explained the tutor wouldn't be able to award the accreditation as he would have only tutored the last 2 modules.

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Kenny had attended the meeting at Rotherham and had thoroughly enjoyed it.

5. Chief Executive's Report

Mick Werritt advised the members that the Decency bid was going forward with HCA and they had been working with the regional HCA on what would be required. The HCA had also accepted a back up report which they were assured would be looked at. Initial reports seem to be that it had been received quite well. Mick explained to the meeting on why the bid had to be made in the first place. Mick stated this was a strong bid but they didn't expect a response until mid February. The SJC would be informed when the information is received. Windhill was included in the resubmission bid but SLHD still had to work on the presumption that we would have reduced funds.

Kenny asked if the "bathrooms on stilts" had been included in the bid to which Mick replied yes.

Mick Werritt then went on to talk about the cold weather snap and that SLHD had received 2000 more repairs requests which had put a tremendous strain on

resources. The men had been working until late in the evening and sometimes round the clock to restore heating and deal with burst pipes. Mick praised all the staff who had been assisting with this. SLHD had rehoused 30 people during this time. This had placed a strain on other staffing areas but we had received a lot of compliments from tenants. All this had had a knock on effect on other repairs which is reflected in the performance figures. Andy asked if pipes and lagging were checked during decency works to help alleviate this problem to which Mick stated this was already being done as part of the programme. Mick stated they were collating all the data so they could work on how to reduce this problem from occurring next year.

Bob Snashall asked whether some of the costs from the Cold Snap could be passed onto the insurance companies. Mick stated this was currently being looked at.

Ernie reported to Mick he had accounted a problem when reporting 2 Gas issues on the emergency line. The 1st time it was repaired with no problems, the 2nd time it took almost 2 hours on the phone and he felt he was ignored. Ernie asked whether SLHD had received any feedback from this. Mick asked Ernie for further details and would follow this up with Cam C.

Ernie also asked if some kind of explanation could be written alongside the performance figures so that tenants knew why the figures were down. Mick Werritt explained that this was already being carried out.

Mick Werritt went on to highlight broken windows in high rise blocks. A letter drop would be carried out and there would be an article in houseproud regarding this.

Mick reported on the job cuts. A number had been through the panel and they were now waiting on DMBC's confirmation to support the funding of this. It is not known how many will accept the offer as it was only an expression of interest. Mick explained that certain key skilled people would not be able to take up voluntary redundancy but this was being explained to the people involved.

Ernie Plastow raised a query regarding Woodlands regeneration. 6 out of 12 had been completed and the blocks that are done look very good however fencing and sheds had been erected in the front gardens. Could SLHD add some pressure to have the sheds & fences removed to the back gardens to make it more open plan. Mick will discuss this with Judith Jones and look at the issue.

6. Community Engagement Report

AGM Attendance

The Oval - Kenny Baron

Kenny was unable to attend the Edlington Royal Tara AGM tonight and Moira Greaves would be attending in his place.

Meryl Liddell asked for all SJC nominations to be sent to Heather Saunders. Keith asked how many had been received. 2 new nominations and 2 existing had been received to date.

From April Tara's would only receive £5 per committee member for attending training as opposed to £10. Andy Kerr confirmed that all Tara's had been informed of this and understood the reasons behind the change. Meryl thanked Andy for his support.

The TRRC centre has been booked for 22nd February and 8th March to carry out 4 e-learning sessions for tenants. If any of the SJC would like to book a place then please contact Heather Saunders.

The Tenants Training Programme has been brought in house and will be delivered by members of our team who would be undertaking training themselves first. This included the Food Safety Course. Heather Saunders, Gavin Shawcroft and Nyssa Hird would be undertaking the Level 3 Food Safety Course. They will then be able to deliver the training themselves and award the accreditations. We would also be able to deliver the training to other companies at a cost. Meryl reported that 33 tenants were on the waiting list for the food safety course and these would be trained first. Details were taken of the dates required for training by the SJC members.

Godwin Mudzimu asked if children of tenants could participate in the e-learning at the resource centre. Meryl replied that unfortunately they had to be over the age of 16 to take part at the resource centre due to insurance purposes but there was nothing to stop them using their home computers to take the course.

The Equality and Diversity guide was still being written and copies would be sent to the SJC when it was completed.

7. Chairs Report

Andy informed the meeting that Keith Jobson had compiled a report on what takes place at the SJC. This had been sent to Susan Jordan. Susan would be meeting with the SJC next week on how to move the SJC forward and to speak about funding. Andy would appreciate if as many members as possible could be present. Keith stated he had received a reply from Susan which suggests that the SJC use the time to discuss what the SJC can offer to the council to help them. Also that the localism agenda may be the opportunity that they wish to explore ready for the meeting next week. Kenny thanked Keith for all his input and for compiling an excellent report.

8. Any Other Business

Ernie Plastow queried whether the bid included the Bathrooms at Model Village which do not contain a toilet and could a toilet be put into these bathrooms. Mick replied that this was all compiled within decency but requested more information so it could be built into future plans.

7. Date and Time of Next Meeting Thursday 24th February 2011 at 1pm