

**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**  
**24<sup>th</sup> February 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
Moir Greaves	(MG)	Committee Member
Bernadette James	(BJ)	Committee Member

**ST LEGER HOMES / DMBC**

Judith Jones	(JJ)	Director of Customer Services - SLHD
Meryl Liddell	(ML)	Community Engagement Manager – SLHD
Janet Walker		Community Engagement Support Officer – SLHD

**1. WELCOME**

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

**2. APOLOGIES**

Heather Saunders

**3. Minutes of Last Meeting**

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

**4. Matters Arising**

**Page 1**

AK asked if a public sector meeting had been planned yet. ML stated no and KB would be invited when it had been arranged.

## **Page 2**

KJ informed ML that it was unfair for 8 candidates to have attended 10 out of 12 consecutive weeks on the Business Admin Course and not to be able to achieve the accreditation because the company folded. ML replied that we did not have the finances to start over again with a new company. KJ asked if it would reflect on future courses to which ML stated no. ML reported with best efforts she had been unable to sort this and was open to suggestions, training had now come in house and the team members would be delivering the new programme. JJ asked whether we would be running this course again. ML stated no as our staff would not be qualified to run the accreditation course. JJ asked if other companies could deliver the last 2 modules and then assess on the modules already completed. MB replied that a long time had passed since they last were instructed and couldn't remember the information that was needed for the exam which was to have been the next part of the course. ML stated she would continue to battle with the creditors. JJ stated that it may well be that we will have to be victims in this. KJ asked if ML could contact the individuals who had undertaken the course and inform them what was happening as he kept receiving emails from them. ML replied she wasn't aware of any emails and asked KJ to forward them to her and she would address them.

AK asked if any decision had been made on the Gas Boiler handbook. JJ replied she had not received any update and would speak to Mick Werritt.

## **Page 3**

EP stated he had accounted problems on both times that he reported Gas issues on the emergency line and not just the 2<sup>nd</sup> time as stated in the minutes. EP asked if any more problems had been encountered with this. JJ stated no concerns had been raised with this. The answer rate of calls was well below the normal during the cold weather spell due to emergency calls.

JJ stated she would be attending a meeting tomorrow with Pat Hagan. The fencing and sheds at Woodlands would be discussed then.

BS asked MG if she attended Edlington Royal's AGM. MG did attend this.

## **Page 4**

None

## **5. Chief Executive's Report**

JJ reported on the job cuts and that the full Council meeting had approved the funding for Voluntary Redundancy and Voluntary Early Retirement. Staff had been informed of this and the first members would be leaving by the end of March and most will have left by the end of May. Further redundancies cannot be ruled out. JJ went on to say that there was a £2million reduction in the Management fee and they would be working on a 60% cut on Decency with us receiving £12.9million when we were expecting £33.5million. The council had agreed to add in some money from the rents revenue Contribution and capitol from major repairs to safeguard Decency. The Decency Program was originally until 2012/14 but would now be extended to 2014/15 and we would have anticipated £77million but that is now reduced to £46million. This isn't as bad as it could have been but we have to look at how we deliver the Decency programme. Consultation would take place on how it would be delivered but there is still total commitment from DMBC and SLHD.

AK asked what would happen with the mop ups. JJ replied that this will still be picked up in the same way.

KJ stated he had attended the Oval Tara meeting and they had voiced concerns on where they stood. Would SLHD be able to tell tenants what was happening. JJ replied this would all be looked at openly and as soon as we know the tenants will be informed.

EP reported that at the Homestead in some cases new 6 month old kitchens had been replaced through Decency which was a waste of money. Also that if the toilet or sink was serviceable then only the bath was replaced. JJ stated that if 2 out of 3 elements were still in good working order then only the 1 element would be replaced.

JJ reported that currently SLHD were looking at the roles of the assistant directors then would be working through the business consolidating services and looking at shared services with DMBC.

JJ stated a short report will go in HouseProud for April stating we will let everyone know the Decency outcome as soon as we possibly can.

EP reported that the Free Press had given a very negative report on us and we need to let tenants know what is really happening. JJ replied she had signed off the report for the Free Press but they were not aware of other plans i.e. DMBC putting in money from the rent revenue to top up the Decency fund. JJ also stated that SLHD were looking at other ways to bring in business and are putting a scheme tighter to manage other business schemes. Another proposal is looking for tendering for Aids and Adaptations to keep the business going.

KB asked if we would have the staffing levels for this. JJ reported that we have to reduce the head count over the next 4 years which is going to be a tall order. AK asked if it would affect the apprentices. JJ stated only in the fact that we wouldn't be able to guarantee a job at the end of the apprenticeship. It is still a fantastic opportunity and has a lot of crafts workers coming up to retirement age so we need to be smarter in appointing apprentices to these areas.

JJ gave her apologies for the AGM and said that Susan Jordan wouldn't be able to attend either but Julie Crooke and Mick Werritt would be there. JJ then asked for the accounts which need to be with the finance team for audit urgently in order for staff to prioritise their workload to have them ready for the AGM. JJ went on to state that Susan had spoken to them about a business plan to help them to move forward and they need to utilise the assistance of Lynne Malloy in putting the plan together. AK replied this is all in hand.

## **6. Community Engagement Report**

### **AGM Attendance**

Redhouse	Keith Jobson
Polton Close	Bob Snashall

ML went through the report with all present.

Tickhill Tara had a huge success with their skip day and ML urged everyone to read the comments made by Trisha Marsh.

The area forums will be held next month at the Tenants Resource Centre.

AK informed everyone that the Census pack contains 6 forms but that you only need to complete 1 form per person who resides at the property. JJ asked if Michael Wheeton (Census Manager) was using our information of non English speaking tenants. ML replied we are working closely with the Census team and also with the Digital switchover team.

ML reported that the e-learning sessions had gone extremely well and we were hoping to incorporate this into next years training programme. AP asked if there were any free places on the food safety course as 2 more people wished to attend. ML asked for the names to be sent to her.

JJ asked for the details of the WW2 Veterans funding to be sent to James Turner so it can be put into HouseProud. ML would do this.

The Disability Focus Group took place yesterday and was very well attended. However we would have to hold future meetings at the Friends Meeting house as the room at the Deaf college was no longer going to be available.

AK stated he had heard adverse reports regarding facebook and namely a suicide due to bullying on facebook. ML assured the meeting that team members regularly checked the site and monitor it closely. Any offending material is removed and if necessary the offender blocked from the site.

ML gave the chair the copy of the Equality and Diversity Guide. This guide would be going out to all staff and could already be found on the intranet.

ML pointed out that the Centre's new opening times were printed in the report and a note stated events booked outside these times would be honoured.

It was pointed out that the Lyn Ralph award had been missed of the AGM awards. ML had also emailed councillors etc to invite them to the awards - 3 councillors and the Civic Mayor would be attending. ML asked AK for a meeting on Monday to discuss the details of the AGMs as time was ticking on.

## **7. Chairs Report**

AK had spoken to the Free Press regarding cuts in agreement with the committee. Also a letter was going to be sent to the board over an incident that happened at a meeting.

## **8. Any Other Business**

KB reported that Barnsley Federation has a group called Customer Panel and they also have 1 person training up for the Scrutiny Panel and want to encourage integration. RotherFed were also in the early stages of setting up a Scrutiny panel and they want integration from BME. ML explained that previously we had sent letters out to all BME tenants. They were aware of the BME Tara and the times of the meetings. GM reinforced that a BME Tara was still needed but they were

encouraged to join more local Tara's. This discussion went on to ask why there were not more from specialist groups on the SJC. ML reported that DYTAG were invited. KJ reported that both he and Linda Milan attended DYTAG and 3 members were invited to observe a meeting but they never turned up.

**7. Date and Time of Next Meeting**  
**Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> March 2011 at 1pm**