

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
30 September, 2010 at 2.00pm
in the
DONCASTER FEDERATION'S TENANTS' & RESIDENTS' RESOURCE CENTRE

PRESENT

STANDING JOINT COMMITTEE

Andy Kerr	(AK)	Chair
Keith Jobson	(KJ)	Vice-Chair
Mavis Williams	(MW)	Secretary
Ken Barron	(KB)	Committee Member
Marion Baxter	(MB)	Committee Member
Moira Greaves	(MG)	Committee Member
Michelle Heeley	(MH)	Committee Member
Bernadette James	(BJ)	Committee Member
Dave Maxey	(DM)	Committee Member
Godwin Mudzimu	(GW)	Committee Member
Anne Pawson	(AP)	Committee Member

ST LEGER HOMES / DMBC

Susan Jordan	(SJ)	Chief Executive – SLHD
Meryl Liddell	(ML)	Community Engagement Manager – SLHD
Alan Cunningham	(AC)	Neighbourhood Manager DMBC
Cllr Patrick Wilson	(PW)	Housing Portfolio Holder
Heather Saunders	(HS)	Temp. Federation Support and Community Engagement Officer

1. WELCOME

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

2. APOLOGIES

John Bartkus	Committee Member
Margaret Cooke	Committee Member
Ernie Plastow	Committee Member
Bob Snashall	Committee Member
Heather Coulthard	Neighbourhood Manager DMBC
Judith Jones	Director Customer Services – SLHD
Jane Miller	Director of Neighbourhoods and Communities

AK explained to the members of the meeting that due to the circumstances that there would be a slight alteration to the agenda as SJ was currently attending another meeting and would arrive at around 3pm.

3. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT REPORT.

ML requested members of the SJC to decide who would be attending the following AGMs. The following arrangements were agreed.

Redmond Community TARA	-	Ernie Plastow
Blowhall & Stubbins TARA	-	Ken Barron & Dave Maxey
Highwoods & Arnold TARA	-	Ken Barron
The Lakes TARA	-	Ken Barron
Balby Bridge TARA	-	Mavis Williams
Ennerdale TARA	-	Mavis Williams

A number of items from the report were read and members of the committee were reminded to advise the TARAs that we can only feature them if they update us with project/ good news.

A discussion was held with regards to the hit squad in the Edlington Royal TARA area, PW advised the members of the meeting that the hit squad was used as the 'carrot' approach. It is hoped that by supporting the landlords they will comply n keeping here properties up to a good standard.

4. Minutes of Last Meeting

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

5. Matters Arising

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None

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MH advised the members of the meeting that she had not attended the Howbeck Drive TARA meeting, due to the wrong date being published.

AK informed the members of the meeting that due to unforeseen circumstances Keith had attended the AGM at Woodfield.


ML advised the members of the meeting that the MDU would now be going in to storage for the winter.

ML apologised that she was still unable to provide the members with an Equality and Diversity guide, but the document has still not been finalised.

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Please note the minutes of last month meeting should have read "KB asked if it would be possible to include images of SJC members in the CEO report" not KJ. Also KB requested a double page feature in HouseProud not KJ.

HS informed the members of the meeting that all dates for the next round of area forum meetings have now been set. Please see next page.

 Doncaster Federation of Tenant's and Resident's Associations.						
Area Forum Meeting Dates and Venues						
North Area Forum	November 9, 2010 Homestead Communal Hall	January 18, 2011 TRRC	March 15, 2011 TRRC	May 17, 2011 TBC	July 19, 2011 TRRC	September 13, 2011 TRRC
South/ East Area Forum	November 10, 2010 Polton Close Communal Hall	January 19, 2011 TRRC	March 9, 2011 TRRC	May 4, 2011 TBC	July 6, 2011 TRRC	September 14, 2011 TRRC
West Area Forum	November 1, 2010 CISWO, Edlington	January 10, 2011 TRRC	March 7, 2011 TRRC	May 9, 2011 TBC	July 4, 2011 TRRC	September 5, 2011 TRRC
Central Area Forum	November 24, 2010 Ennerdale Communal Hall - 2pm	January 26, 2011 TRRC	March 23, 2011 TRRC	May 25, 2011 TBC	July 27, 2011 TRRC	September 21, 2011 TRRC
All meetings to commence at 10:30am unless otherwise stated						

PW spoke with regards to budget cuts, he advised that he will be more equipped to speak about this following the government's comprehensive spending review. However, it may be the case that the Doncaster Decency Standard be replaced with the reduced spec of the national standard.

MW commented that it is unfair that a number of tenants have had the full Doncaster Decency Standard and those who have been waiting will now get a lower specification. PW went on to inform the members of the meeting that Gary Wells and Susan Jordan are currently devising a three year delivery plan which will grant a greater feeling of security.

DM queried that if service levels reduced it may leave leaseholders like himself with a property that is de-valued. PW advised that DM should take this issue up with St. Leger Homes of Doncaster. PW went on to discuss that money that had been saved in efficiency savings £750,000. £400,000 of this money will be spent on renovating garage sites across the borough.

5. Directors Report

SJ apologised to the members of the meeting that she was running late but she had taken a phone call just before leaving the office and had not been able to get away.

Inspection Outcome.

SJ advised the members of the meeting that St Leger Homes were still awaiting the results of the Audit Commissions inspection. The company have received the draft report and have sent it back along with comments. SJ said there are a number of positive aspects to the report, but there are also a number of areas where improvements can be made. SJ commented that there had been a very positive round table discussion with the audit commission and scores on two of the service areas have been pushed up and they have agreed to look at some of the others. The result is due to be published by 21/10/2010

Housing Strategy Consultation

PW will ensure that all members of the committee are forwarded a copy of the consultation. PW explained that the document painted a picture of housing in Doncaster, the final part of the document poses question to the reader. PW commented that it was crucial that the people of the borough were given the opportunity to consult on the document. SJ agreed that HS would put together a list of TARA chairs, who could be invited to a meeting. The TARA chairs would then be empowered to disseminate the information to the members of their group/ community. It was also

suggested that the consultation should feature as an agenda item at the next area forum meetings.

Budget Cuts

SJ advised the members of the meeting that there was still no clearer picture nationally. St. Leger are planning for worse case scenario of 25% cuts which will equate to 2 million pounds, however they also have business models that represent cuts of up to 40%. SJ also advised that decency standards may have to be reduced the national decency standard. However, to alleviate this they company were looking at working on extra properties this financial year.

6. Any Other Business

AP asked PW if there was any decision yet with regards to the housing that is set aside for asylum seekers. She commented that there are a number of properties that have been unoccupied for a long period of time. PW advised the members of the meeting that the contract is currently being reviewed as the number of people seeking asylum in the borough has decreased.

AK requested further information on the new initiative offered by St. Leger Homes. AK asked how secure tenancies could work on a short term basis. PW commented that he did not know the full details of the pilot that would be run. The members of the meeting were informed that if a landlord was receiving a grant for renovations to be made to a property, they in turn must house someone from the St. Leger Homes housing register. It was also confirmed that the rent levels will be governed by the St Leger structure

AP raised the issue of sewerage leaking from underground pipe work in Highfields. There have been a number of problems over the last 18 months and a long term solution is needed. PW took details of the area concerned and advised that he would address look in to the issue.

7. Date and Time of Next Meeting **Thursday 28 October, 2010 at 1pm**