

## **Pennines Area Panel**

**21<sup>st</sup> May 2008**

**Chair – Andy Wadsworth**

**Minutes – Doug Croxon**

Andy Wadsworth called the meeting to order as no Chair or Vice Chair had been elected at previous meetings. He then suggested nominations for the positions of Chair and Vice Chair be moved to the first order of business.

### **1. Election of Chair and Vice Chair**

Alwyn Smith stated that he would not ask for nomination as Chair until he had seen how the Pennines Area Panel worked.

Jay Law asked if training would be arranged to help a tenant carry out the role of Chair. AW answered that this would be arranged by the Tenant Participation Unit in the near future with a letter being sent to all groups soon.

Andrew Fitzsimons volunteered to stand as Vice Chair

**Approved by the Panel**

AW offered to Chair the meeting this time

**Approved by the Panel**

### **2. Notes of the Last Meeting**

AW asked if there were any inaccuracies in the minutes from the last meeting.

KC asked why new groups such as Smallbridge were being included with Pennines. Cllr Ashley Dearnly answered that this change resulted from changing electoral boundaries as RMBC ensured that wards have similar populations. This is a directive imposed by government to ensure equal numbers of people have the right to vote for each ward Councillor. This will not affect budgets as they will be adjusted to accommodate the increase or decrease in properties.

KC countered that Housing Management for these new estates will still be done by Rochdale and the new groups will not feel part of Pennines, not get involved which will undermine the Pennines Area Panel. AW responded that having RBH Area Panel boundaries the same as Township ones was part of the Memorandum and Articles of RBH and it makes sense to follow them when the Panel may have to refer some queries to Township panels on non-housing services. To help include all groups, we will rotate the venue for meetings between Littleborough, Belfield and Milnrow. The way budgets are allocated for the Pennines will be decided at this Panel so it is in interest of the groups to get involved. Housing management boundaries do not follow Township to deliver more efficient management of properties.

KC noted the increase budgets for Quick Wins and One Off TP grants but felt this not widely publicised so groups have not come to the meeting. AW answered that the reports have gone out to the groups, KS added that staff are aware of the issue and are willing to give advice if needed.

AW asked if there were any other matters arising from the minutes.

None

**Approved by the Panel**

### **3. Terms of Reference and Code of Conduct**

AW outlined that the Terms of Reference for the Pennines Area Panel were now recognised following the meeting of 15.5.08 between RMBC, RoFTRA, Tenant Representatives and RBH.

Quorum will be 4 tenants.

Voting – votes from owner occupiers will be capped at 3 so are in minority.

Budgets – Pennines Area Panel will oversee Quick Wins budget of £126,398 and One Off Tenant Participation grant budget of £1896.

Terms of Reference will be reviewed every 3 years or if review requested by the Panel.

Any questions

None

**Noted by the Panel**

#### **4. Environmental Improvements and Quick Win Schemes Criteria**

Paul Dockerty outlined the criteria used to prioritise schemes and the role of the Pennines Area Panel to approve/defer/decline schemes as well as monitor outcomes and propose new schemes.

Quick win schemes defined as small-scale projects costing no more than £30,000.

They can cover areas such as – lighting, fencing, car parking, landscaping, drainage, upgrading internal or external communal areas and upgrading play/recreational areas.

Anyone can propose a scheme by contacting local Housing Manager, Paul Dockerty or the Tenant Participation Unit.

If major changes are made to a scheme after it has been approved it will be brought back to the Area Panel for further approval.

The 2008/9 budget for Pennines is £127,480.

PD asked if the Panel was happy with this approach to prioritising schemes.

No objections

**Approved by the Panel**

#### **5. Quick Wins for Decision**

AT then outlined the schemes for approval by the Panel at this meeting noting that if all the schemes were carried out there would be approximately £65,000 remaining for the rest of the year. **See attached sheet.**

Andrew Fitzsimons stated that he knows of a resident in a wheelchair who is struggling to get around Saxon House. He felt that the parking scheme should improve access for wheelchair users as a matter of urgency.

AW stated that if any of the schemes proved to have higher actual costs than the estimates given they would be brought back to the panel for further consideration. He asked if there were any objections to proceeding with the schemes that were presented.

No objections.

**Approved by the Panel**

#### **6. Agenda items for next meeting**

AW asked the panel if they had anything they would like to put on the agenda for the next meeting. Expressed hope that tenants would raise issues for discussion by the Panel not RBH/RMBC officers. Half the quick wins budget remains so there will be a new report on that, urged groups to contact Paul Dockerty and local Housing Officers to suggest ideas for schemes.

Brian Sayers suggested some follow up on the security lighting problem at Hare Hill Court raised at the last Panel meeting.

#### **Action Susan Norton**

KC asked if groups could get in touch later with suggestions. DC answered that could contact Tenant Participation Unit and other RBH officers through usual telephone and email as well as make use of new page on website, click 'About RBH' at the top of the RBH website ([www.rbhousing.org.uk](http://www.rbhousing.org.uk)) then click on 'Area Panels, or use the link below.

[http://www.rbhousing.org.uk/about/area\\_panels.htm#agendaandquestionform](http://www.rbhousing.org.uk/about/area_panels.htm#agendaandquestionform)

## **7. Any Other Business**

Brian Sayers reported success of the anti-vandal paint on the fire escape at Hare Hill Court. Thanks to Alan Taylor for getting work done.

Brian Sayers also asked about the scheme to provide computers and internet access in sheltered schemes. JL answered that surveys had been sent out to all schemes if yours has been mislaid contact the Tenant Participation Unit directly.

AW raised the RBH Board elections for Pennines. Keith Barker will be up for re-election and other candidates are invited to stand for nomination to the RBH Board. An information pack was passed to the Panel. Need to increase awareness of the role of the Board in deciding how services run on estates, urged Panel to pass the word on and get more people involved.

One Off Tenant Participation grants

AT stated that the applications had been sent to Rochdale Township in error so could not send details out with invite to the Panel.

Hare Hill Court asked for £300 to buy some garden furniture so residents could make use of the garden areas around the scheme.

AW Any questions?

No

**Approved by the Panel**

Saxon House & West View TRA asked for £429.96 for garden furniture to provide seating for residents at outdoor events and activities.

AW Any questions?

No

**Approved by the Panel**

**Meeting closed**

**Next meeting to take place-**

- **Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2008**
- **6pm – 8pm**
- **Butterworth Hall, Milnrow**

## Attendance

Name	Group	Tenant (T), Resident (R), Leaseholder (L)	Committee Member (C)
John Sharp	Birch View TRA	T	C
Keith Churchman	Birch View TRA	T	C
Jay Law	RoFTRA		
Kath Shaughnesy	RBH		
Susan Norton	RMBC		
Paul Docherty	RBH		
Karen Wood	RBH		
Andrew Fitzsimons	Saxon House	T	C
Brian Sayers	Hare Hill Court TRA	T	C
Bertha Hawkyard	Hare Hill Court TRA	T	C
Keith Barker	RBH Board	T	
Ashley Dearnley	Cllr RMBC		
Alan Taylor	RBH		
Alwyn Smith	Bentgate TRA	T	
Doug Croxon	RBH		
Andy Wadsworth	RBH		

## Apologies:

None