

Rochdale Area Panel

11th February 2008

1. Notes of last meeting

- Amendments to Election of Chair and Vice Chair
 - Debbie Lord (Chesham Tenants and Residents Association). Nominated and unanimously voted as Vice-Chair.
 - Debbie Lord will chair meetings in the absence of Joan Turner.

2. Report on Environmental Improvement Programme and Quick Win Schemes (Report attached)

- Eugene Wilson presented the report.
- Groups are invited to submit suggestions for Quick Win schemes to their housing officer or tenant participation officer. Suggestions can be for any type of environmental improvement that will improve the quality of people's lives. There is no need to submit full proposals, just a basic idea is sufficient.
- E Wilson to publicise to all TRAs how to submit suggestions for Quick win schemes and the process for consideration/project development and approval.
- Paul Dockerty to speak to Cutgate TRA to discuss options for the land previously used by Bramalls site cabins.

3. One-Off Tenant Participation Grants

- Total budget remaining for 2007/08 is £1,341. Unused budget cannot be rolled over to the next year.
- Arnold Bagnall Court – Application for £275 towards coach hire for day trip to Cleveleys. Decision deferred to next meeting. Nasreen Akhtar to advise group:
 - The Panel is unable to consider applications unless a representative from the applying group is present.
 - The maximum contribution that can be made towards a day trip is 50%.
 - Agreed that if the application is re-submitted to the next Panel and the above conditions are met it will be approved.
 - Alternatively, the residents may wish to consider asking their Councillor to take the funding request to the next Township Committee.
- Derrick Walker Court TRA - £300 for Arts & Craft Be Dazzled Project – Approved.

4. Agenda items for next meeting

- This item to be a standard agenda item.
- A form is being added to the RBH website to enable agenda items / questions to be submitted electronically.
- Environment to be invited to the next meeting to discuss issues around alternative week waste collection: Collections from sheltered accommodation / accommodation with rubbish chutes; assisted collection; proposed changes to bulk waste collection service; service available from Environment to visit groups/schemes to offer guidance/instructions; collection points for blue bags.

5. Respect Agenda

- Jonathan Walton to circulate background information on the Respect Standard for Housing Management to all TRAs. (Attached)
- TRAs are to be surveyed to assess local perceptions of anti social behaviour, how RBH should tackle the problems and whether the legal action taken has had an

impact on the problems. The Panel were asked for and provided initial feedback on 3 questions:

1. What do we do well?
2. What do we need to improve? (Publicity - ASBOs are only effective if the communities are aware of the offender and the terms of the order. Marketing – People are not aware of the ASB service. Communication – Ensure the Council are providing the same level and accuracy. Accessibility – Should look at the provision of a 24hour service to offer advice and guidance).
3. What are the issues for Rochdale?

Feedback can be provided by contacting Jonathan Walton on (01706) 273802
jonathan.walton@rbhousing.org.uk

- Gill Walch requested that the forum be used to thank enforcement officers for their pro-active work with youngsters. Roy Thornsby (Enforcement Officer) was praised for his work in visiting parents and children at home to resolve minor problems before they escalated. It was recommended that re-visits should take place to check that the problems aren't reoccurring.
- RBH are setting up a boroughwide forum for youth issues and anti-social behaviour. Anyone who is interested in joining should contact Jonathan Walton.
- Jonathan Walton to circulate to TRAs the contact details for their enforcement officer.

6. RBH Estate Inspection Programme 2008/09

- A formal programme of estate inspections is to start in April 2008. Every housing officer 'patch' / estate will be inspected four times a year. TRAs will be consulted on the timetable and on how the inspections should take place. TRAs and Ward Councillors will be invited to participate in the inspections.
- Inspections will be an opportunity to pick up on issues for environmental quick win schemes, grounds maintenance issues and a small estate inspection budget will also be available to tackle issues identified.
- Sheltered Schemes will be included in relevant housing officer patch inspection.

7. Rehousing Policy Changes

- RBH has recommended changes to rehousing policy and the Council has agreed these:
 1. Current policy: Not to rehouse children in flats above the ground floor.
Amendment: Children above the age of 10 may be offered flats above the ground floor.
 2. Current policy: Rehousing priority given to families where male and female children over the age of 10 years are sharing a bedroom. Amendment:
Extended to same sex children.

8. Update on consultation on terms of reference

- TRAs are to be consulted after the Council and RoFTRA have formally agreed to the terms of reference.
- The following feedback was provided on the draft circulated at the meeting:
 - The voting section is difficult to understand
 - RoFTRAs concerns focus on the way the terms of reference are set out and the fact that they disagree with residents being able to vote on major issues that are about spending tenants' money.
 - There needs to be more publicity to encourage attendance by non-TRA tenants/residents (Tenants Talkback and Council publications).

9. Any Other Business

- Kath Shaughnessy reported that grants totalling £5,000 per Ward will shortly be available for planting schemes. This is part of the Council's Townships In Bloom Scheme and Gordon Beverley (Environmental Management) will issuing publicity shortly.

10. Date of next meeting

The main agenda item for the next meeting will be approval of Quick Win Schemes. The next meeting will, therefore, be timetabled once the applications have been developed into projects and are ready for approval. As much notice as possible will be given, and it is anticipated that the meeting will take place around the end of March 2008.

Attendance

Name	Group	Tenant (T), Resident (R), Leaseholder (L)	Committee Member
Joan Turner (Chairperson)	Brotherod TRA (BETRA)	T	C
Debbie Lord (Vice-Chair)	Chesham TRA (CTRA)	T	C
Jacqueline Mills	Derrick Walker Residents Association	T	C
J Cough	Derrick Walker Residents Association	T	C
Olga Zilinskas	TRAK	T	C
Phil Renshaw	RBH Board	T	C
Kath Shaughnessy	RBH		
Eugene Wilson	RBH		
Caroline Rafais	RMBC		
Paul Dockerty	RMBC		
Deborah Jamieson	RBH		
Tim Byrne	TRAK	T	C
Jan Duszynski	TRAK	T	C
John Ashton	Stoneyvale TRA (STAR)	T	C
Angela Flynn	Stoneyvale TRA (STAR)		
Sue Kershaw	RBH		
Jonathan Walton	RBH		
Gill Walch	Board Member and (TARAS)	T	C
Peter Dobson	Cutgate	T	C
Mona O'Connell	Cutgate	T	C
Peter Brierley		T	C
Maddy Stean	RoFTRA		
Andy Wadsworth	RBH		
John Rodgers	RBH		
Nasreen Akhtar	RBH		
Glynis Hanson	RBH		

Apologies:

Carl Newhall – College Bank TRA (CBTRA)