

MIDDLETON AREA PANEL

8th September 2008

Notes of Meeting

Attendance: Julia Block (RBH), Debbie Hopwood (RBH), Cath Palin (RBH), Janet Grainger (RBH), Ken Wilson (Middleton), Sharon Worsley (Hollin EMB), Roy Thompson (RBH), Tom Rodgers (TOMTRA), Ken Eaton-Dyke (Lonsdale Court), Julie Hall (AMTRA), Conor McPartland (Hollin EMB).

Apologies: Lois Tinker

Conor McPartland (Chair) asked that the Panel note the change of agenda item 6, Any Other Business, to Item 2.

The panel expressed their sadness at the recent death of Malcolm Collinge who will be greatly missed.

1 Notes of the Last Meeting – Matters Arising

Item 2 (b) - One-Off TP Grant application by Norman Weall Court for £500 to purchase a large screen TV for the communal lounge. It had been agreed to fund the sum of £250. Debbie Hopwood reported that she had spoken to Peter Smith regarding match funding and this is not available. Julia Block pointed out that Lonsdale Court's application for funding to buy curtains for the residential lounge would be met from other sources which would increase available funds. In addition, Julie Hall informed the meeting that AMTRA had not in fact spent £150 of the fund from this year's allocation. This leaves the total grant sum of £1434.

After discussion it was **AGREED by a majority vote** that the full grant of £500 would be awarded to Norman Weall Court.

It was requested that the applications for one-off grants be sent out earlier to allow members time to read the paperwork.

Item 3 – Environmental Improvements Programme

- i) Julie Hall reported that due to the extremely inclement weather, the fencing programme on the Alkington Moss estate has not been completed; this is still in progress.
- ii) Conor McPartland raised the issue of dropped kerbs and progress on completion of this scheme. It was reported that varying prices had been given by the Highways Team. After discussion it was **AGREED** that:

- Debbie Hopwood will speak to Paul Dockerty regarding match funding being provided under the Quick Wins Scheme. She noted that unfortunately, a representative of the Highways Team had not attended the meeting as expected.
- In order to identify a budget Debbie will raise the issue formally at the next Township meeting. She will also discuss with other principal housing managers and senior officers the work of the Impact Partnership. Roy Thompson and Ken Wilson will also put this forward as Tenant representatives.
- The Tenant Participation Unit will make a formal request on behalf of RBH for the issue to be discussed at the next round of Township meetings.

The Notes of the previous meeting were agreed.

2 Any Other Business

- a) Julia Block introduced Cath Palin, Tenant Participation Officer, who will be covering the Middleton groups on a temporary basis following the departure of Natalie Stokes. Cath had sent a letter of introduction to all groups and will be conducting liaison visits. Members were invited to arrange meetings with Cath to discuss any relevant issues in the interim.
- b) Julia invited all tenants to attend the RBH Celebration and Information Day to be held on Saturday, 11th October. A variety of activities will be available for all ages and proceeds from tenants' fundraising efforts will go to Springhill Hospice. Contributions to the Tenants' Achievement display will be warmly welcomed from Tenants and Residents' Associations.
- c) Debbie Hopwood reported that Hollin is still a priority estate for Quick Wins funding. It is intended to identify specific areas housing families and provide secure fencing and gates for these properties. Further consultation on this matter will be provided. It was felt that professional advice was needed on the type of fencing to be used. It was **AGREED** that:
 - Roy Thompson will raise the issue at the next Environmental Steering Group meeting.
 - Debbie Hopwood will discuss the issue with Paul Dockerty.
- d) Roy Thompson advised that in relation to the issue of dropped kerbs, owners of houses purchased under the Right to Buy scheme need to be warned that if kerbs are to be dropped at their properties they will be required to make a financial contribution or be liable for any costs if damage occurs.

Conor McPartland reported that workmen currently carrying out kerb dropping work are not utilising parking areas provided and debris is being left at the sites.

Action: As liability for this lies with the Highways Team Debbie Hopwood will take up this issue.

3 Update on Quick Wins Programme

Debbie Hopwood gave the following update:

- **Graffiti Clean Up on Cheapside** – completed.
- **Garage Demolition on Cheapside** – not completed.
- **Chapel Walk Shops** – work commenced on 1st September.
- **The Heath/The Meadows flats** – completed.
- **Shed Doors on Cheapside** – due to commence.
- **Fencing Scheme on Bradshaw Street** – no progress as yet.
- **Landscape works on Cheapside** – plans at drawing stage.
- **Intercom scheme at Langley House** – completed.
- **Fencing Scheme, Wood Street Estate** – completed.
- **Grass Verge Modification, Alkrington estate** – no start date.
- **Grass Verge Upgrades, Wood Street** – to be completed under fencing scheme.
- **Poplar Street Landscaping** – completed.
- **Elm Street Path Refurbishment** – in relation to this being previously agreed as Priority 1, Roy Thompson queried why this has now been deemed Priority 2. Debbie Hopwood stated that this will not in fact affect the order in which the job is completed. With regard to the delay in progress, Debbie will speak to John Cunnane to establish a start date.

Roy reported that he intends to ask for a senior member of the Impact Partnership to be invited to attend the Environmental Steering Group meeting to discuss service provision.

- **Rhodes Estate Fencing Scheme** – completed
- **Poplar Street Parking Scheme** – no start date
- **Davidson Drive Street works** – no start date

Julia reported that in relation to the total Quick Wins funding committed, Andy Wadsworth had noted the figure as being £116,200, not £115,820 as given in Paul Dockerty's figures. As this leaves £11,200 Debbie Hopwood will bring choices of schemes to be funded to the next meeting for discussion.

4 One-Off Tenant Participation Grants

- i) The application from Lonsdale Court was withdrawn on advice from Julia Block who said that Andy Wadsworth had agreed for this to be funded from an alternative source.
- ii) An application by Chisholm Court for £199.99 to purchase a colour printer for the new computer room was **AGREED by a majority vote**.

5 Agenda Items for Next Meeting

- Kerb Dropping Scheme
- Feedback from Celebration and Information Day
- Report from Sue Kershaw on "Communities First".

Action: Paul Dockerty and a representative from Highways to be invited.

Dates/Times/Locations of Future Meetings

A provisional date of 12 January 2009 was agreed. The date, time and venue are yet to be confirmed.

It was agreed that the TPU will investigate opinions of group members on the time of the next meeting and whether it would be preferable to hold the meeting in an afternoon.