

Rochdale Area Panel

19th May 2008

Chair – Joan Turner

Minutes – Doug Croxon

1. Notes of last meeting

- Minutes accepted as true record of previous meeting.
- Query – Why no apologies for absence noted in minutes?
- AW answered that as panel made up of tenants who attend on the day there is no real need to note absentees, but will add such a list if required

Action - Admin

2. Terms of Reference

- Deferred while JR gets the photocopies.

3. Report on Environmental Improvement Programme and Quick Win Schemes

- PD outlined the criteria used to prioritise schemes and the role of the Rochdale 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 Rochdale is £303,193.
- PD asked if the Panel was happy with this approach to prioritising schemes.
- **No objections**
- **Approved by the Panel**

- KS then outlined the schemes for consideration by the panel. **See attached sheet.**
- PD asked the Panel to vote on proceeding with the proposed schemes.
- **Unanimous show of hands.**
- **Approved by the Panel**

2. Terms of Reference

- AW outlined the Terms of Reference for the Rochdale Area Panel following the meeting of 15.5.08 between RMBC, RoFTRA, Tenant Representatives and RBH.
- Attendees – Meeting open to all Tenants/Leaseholders/Owner Occupiers from RBH properties.
- Other interested parties such as Councillors and RoFTRA are also welcome.
- Voting – Quorum will be 6 tenants.
 - Owner occupiers will have a maximum of 5 votes.
 - Owner occupiers will not be able to vote on issues or schemes that will improve or increase the value of their property.
- Budget for Quick Wins **£303,193**. Budget for One Off Tenant Participation Grants **£4500**.

- AW urged all members of the Panel to get applications in to take advantage of this money.
- People attending the Rochdale Area panels will be able to decide how this money is spent.

4. One Off Tenant Participation Grants

- NA outlined Derrick Walker Courts application for £300 to improve the garden area around their sheltered housing scheme.
- Current garden area very overgrown and unloved. Grounds maintenance just trim grass so bushes and trees straggly and unappealing.
- The group plan to use an outside gardener to involve the elderly residents in reclaiming the garden areas and then planting new shrubs and flowers using a 'Dig It' grant already obtained. The residents have some mobility issues so will need this extra assistance to carry out their plans.
- **Approved by the panel**

5. Date and Agenda for Next Meeting

- AW suggested 3 months time 11.8.08 6- 8pm at Rochdale Town Hall. Invites will be sent out to all Recognised Tenants Groups and people who have attended the Panel.

Action Admin

- Agenda to include
 - Quick Wins
 - One Off Tenant participation Grant
 - Grounds Maintenance (invite Gordon Beverly)

Action AW

6. Any Other Business

- Peter Orr raised issue with outstanding maintenance and repairs at Derrick Walker Court. KS said would investigate.

Action KS

- Peter Orr asked about overgrown trees near property. KS said would investigate.

Action KS

- Joyce Clough raised problem with inadequate lighting near steps at Derrick Walker Court. PD said would look into it and see if could be done under Quick Wins or the larger Private Finance Initiative to upgrade street lighting across the borough.

Action PD

- Joyce Clough asked if RBH had any say in the new junction at Sudden that has replaced the roundabout near Derrick Walker Court, current problems with rubble and mess and concerns about how area near the sheltered scheme will be landscaped. PD uncertain of plans, suggested a representative of Highways/Impact Partnership who are responsible for the work be invited to the next Panel meeting.

Action Admin

Phil Renshaw suggested this was an issue to take to local councillors. Debbie Lord also suggested investigating the local Area Forum for Brimrod. AW concluded that RBH did not have say in large schemes that do not directly affect RBH properties, best to take to Township meeting.

Action NA to arrange for DW Court group to attend Area Forum.

- Joan Turner asked for the Tenant Participation Unit to send out application forms and application criteria for the One Off TP grants.

Action TPU

- Following the One Off TP grant for DW Court a number of tenants raised concerns about the level of work done by Grounds Maintenance near Sheltered Schemes

and the properties of older tenants, main issue is grass cuttings and leaves making paths slippery and dangerous. JR answered that this was an issue that keeps coming up and that the answer might be to have Gordon Beverly to attend the next Panel. Some sheltered schemes already use their own private gardeners, suggested the SHIP forum (Sheltered Housing In Partnership) look at getting funding for extra gardening work for all sheltered schemes.

Action SHIP/JR

Date of Next Meeting

- **Thursday 11th September**
- **6pm – 8pm**
- **Reception Room, Rochdale Town Hall**

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
Peter Orr	Derrick Walker Residents Association	T	C
Joyce Cough	Derrick Walker Residents Association	T	C
Olga Zilinkas	TRAK	T	C
Phil Renshaw	RBH Board	T	C
Kath Shaughnessy	RBH		
Emma Lord	Chesham TRA (CTRA)	T	C
Paul Dockerty	RMBC		
John Rodgers	RBH		
Doug Croxon	RBH		
Peter Dobson	Cutgate	T	C
Mona O'Connell	Cutgate	T	C
Peter Brierley	Smallbridge TRA	T	C
Andy Wadsworth	RBH		
Nasreen Akhtar	RBH		
Ilana Shineor	NA		

Apologies:

None