

Committee: COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

Agenda Item

Date: March 13, 2008

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Title: TENANT FORUM MINUTES

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For information

Summary

1. This report provides the Committee with the draft minutes of the previous meeting of the Tenant Forum, which covers the district. There are no specific financial or risk assessments relating to this report.

Recommendations

2. That the Committee note the minutes of the Tenant Forum of 4 February 2008.

Background Papers

3. The following papers were referred to by the author in the preparation of this report and are available for inspection from the author.

Impact

- 4.

Communication/Consultation	The Tenant Forum promotes consultation relating to a wide variety of issues that affect tenants and the wider community
Community Safety	N/A
Equalities	Tenant Participation must be applied without discrimination of any kind.
Finance	The Tenant Forum is operated via existing Tenant Participation budget.
Human Rights	NONE
Legal implications	Fulfils the Councils statutory duty.
Sustainability	N/A
Ward-specific impacts	Covers the whole district.
Workforce/Workplace	Statutory part of the housing management function.

Situation

5. This report has been presented to members following the request made by the former Housing Committee in March 2005.

It should be noted that the minutes of the meeting held on 4 February 2008 are in draft only and are subject to approval of the Tenant Forum at its next meeting in March 2008.

Risk Analysis

- 6.

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigating actions
Tenant Forum does not have a sufficiently high profile in helping shape/plan future improvements to the services provided to tenants	Low	High	Ensure Tenant Participation is promoted by the Housing Service, to ensure full take up of all positions on the Forum.

**MINUTES OF THE TENANT FORUM HELD ON MONDAY 4 FEBRUARY 2008 AT
SAFFRON WALDEN COUNCIL OFFICES**

Present:- Joan Hoadley, George Chesham, Daphne Cornell,
John Maddams, Sam Sproul, Lorna Plant, Effie Rogers,
John Cole, Colin Gilbey, David Parish, David Rhodes.

Officers in attendance: - Helen Joy (Tenant Participation Officers), Liz Petrie
(Housing Management Manager) Russell Goodey
(Building Services Manager)

Observers: - Ghinwa Chammas

1 APOLOGIES

Paul Simpson and Bryan Smythers

2 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

David Parish asked that an extra sentence be added expressing the tenant concern that the rent increase was much higher than the rate of inflation.

MATTERS ARISING

None

3 GUEST SPEAKER RUSSELL GOODEY

Russell explained that he would be embarking on the tender process to secure new contracts for the repairs department for 2008. Russell explained about the procurement process and asked if any of the forum would be interested in sitting on the selection panel.

A show of hands indicated that Daphne Cornell, Sam Sproul, John Cole, David Parish, Effie Rogers, Lorna Plant and Colin Gilbey would be interested in sitting on the selection panel. (Paul Simpson and Bryan Smythers also showed an interest by phone)

Effie Rogers asked to have a copy of the questions asked of contractors. Russell agreed to pass them on.

Colin Gilbey asked why local contractors were not used. Russell explained that the procurement process is available to all registered businesses locally and European.

Daphne thanked Russell and asked him to keep the forum updated.

4 ELECTIONS FOR CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

Chair – Daphne Cornell

Vice Chair – Sam Sproul

Representatives for Community Committee – Daphne Cornell and David Parish

Representatives for the Housing Initiative Task Group – Sam Sproul and Effie Rogers

Area Panel

North – Daphne Cornell and David Rhodes

South West – David Parish

East – Joan Hoadley and John Cole

5 TENANT PARTICIPATION UPDATE

Helen Joy asked for dates to arrange training for the forum to help them understand the HRA account. Dates were recommended and Helen agreed to confirm with Roz Millership.

Helen Joy explained that she had been approached by Epping and Brentwood Council to set up a TP working group. Helen will be attending a meeting on the 6 February 2008, this she hopes to be an interesting meeting to share with other local authorities working practices. Helen will report back to the forum and the Housing Initiative Task Group.

6 PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Repairs - unavailable

Homelessness – up to 31 December 2007

Presented 40

Accepted 25

Rejected 14

Pending 1

Bed and Breakfast 4

7 LOCAL ISSUES

It was agreed by the forum to rename local issues to Community Issues.

Lorna Plant expressed her concern that since Essex County Council had elected to switch the Street lights off at Midnight, she felt that people were leaving house lights on to compensate, this is not helping with CO2 emission. It was agreed by the forum to ask members at the next Community Committee to ask Essex County Council for a report on how they are measuring the CO2 emission.

David Parish expressed his concern about the parking around the school area in Hatfield Heath since the Village Hall had locked the car park because of the damage being caused to the surface. David also raised the issue of speeding in the 30 MPH limit, the Parish Council have informed the Police and Traffic Police have been seen to being do speed checks but unfortunately David feels the time of the checks are not appropriate and need to be between rush hour times to give a true indication of the true problem. Helen Joy will also report to the next JAG (Joint Agents Group) which is attended by the police the concerns raised.

Daphne Cornell expressed concerns about estate management and the fact that properties on her estate where not being look after by tenants. Liz Petrie stated that she would ensure that estate management would be given as much priority to this as possible.

8 ANY OTHER BUSNIESS

Helen asked forum members to give dates for her to arrange the HRA training that had been agreed at the last meeting with Roz Millership.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 10 March 2008 at 7.00 pm in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Saffron Walden.