

**HOUSING INITIATIVES TASK GROUP held at COUNCIL OFFICES
LONDON ROAD SAFFRON WALDEN at 10.00 am on 7 JULY 2008**

Present:- Councillor R H Chamberlain – Chairman.
Councillors E Bellingham-Smith, E W Hicks, J E Hudson and D
J Morson.

Tenant Forum representatives: Mrs E Rogers and Mr S Sproul.

Officers in attendance: S Clarke (Housing and Planning Policy Manager),
M Cox (Democratic Services Officer), R Millership (Head of
Housing Management), Liz Petrie (Housing Management
Manager), and Judith Snares (Housing Options/Homelessness
Manager).

HTG6 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor J E Menell.

HTG7 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 9 June 2008 were received, confirmed
and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

HTG8 BUSINESS ARISING

i) Minute HTG3 – Holloway Crescent Leaden Roding

The Group was informed that consultations with residents would take place on
16 July and this would be followed by consultation with the wider community.
Officers stressed the importance of maintaining regular contact with the
residents. As a result of the meetings it was expected that the architects
would draw up plans to be submitted to the Community Committee in
September.

ii) Minute HTG5 – Other Business

The Chairman reported that a delegation of Officers, Members and a
representative of the Tenant Forum had recently met with the Parliamentary
under Secretary of State, Ian Wright, to discuss concerns about the Negative
Housing Subsidy. The Chairman felt that it had been a useful meeting and the
group had been able to explain the rural nature of the district and to point out
that it was grossly unfair that the Council currently lost 50% of its rental
income under this scheme. It was hoped that this might be taken into account
in the review of housing finance which was expected next spring. It was
understood that Uttleford was the only District Council that had been granted
a meeting to discuss this issue and the group thanked the members
concerned for making this happen.

HTG9

HOMELESSNESS STRATEGY

The group considered the draft Homelessness Strategy which had been approved by the Community Committee in June. The plan was required to be published by the end of July and the purpose of this meeting was to go through the document in detail and to make any amendments, if necessary. A draft of the document had been sent to Go East but it had made no significant observations. Members made a number of comments and these would be taken on board before the Strategy was finally published and circulated to partner organisations. A copy would be sent to all members of this group and placed in the Members' room.

It was noted that the action plan would be reviewed on an annual basis and brought back to this group. The Chairman asked for the group to be informed if any significant issues emerged in the intervening period.

The members of the group expressed their thanks to officers for all the hard work that had gone into preparing the document.

HTG10

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the group would be held on Monday 8 September at 10.00am

The Chairman asked for that meeting to be informed of progress at Holloway Crescent and also receive an update on the current and future provision of affordable housing in the district.

The meeting ended at 11.30am.