

**DRAFT - MKCHF Executive and TP Notes**

**Monday 5 February 2007**

**Present** – Eamonn Bobey, Margaret Burke, Rita Venn, Pauline Prop, Jeanette Marling, Derek Beaumont (Part) and Paula Mason

**Apologies** – Simon Aslett

<p><b>Minutes of the last meeting</b> – OK, some minor changes</p>	
<p><b>Heating Compensation</b> – Derek Beaumont attended the first part of the meeting to discuss requests by the MKC Housing Forum for providing help with heating costs when a tenants heating system fails.</p> <p>He explained that he had spoken to the Council’s legal department regarding this issue and they advised that the HRA was restricted in what it could and couldn’t do. The payment of compensation to tenants to pay for heating was regarded as a “short term increased cost” which was classed as a benefit payment and this was not allowed under the terms of the HRA.</p> <p>EB mentioned the £10 payment to tenants if a contractor missed an appointment, however this was paid by the contractor, not by the council.</p> <p>The matter could not be addressed under right to repair as there was a process which needed to be followed prior to any recompense being paid.</p> <p>DB said he could not stop tenants being out of pocket, however he could ensure heating is repaired or replaced as quickly as possible.</p> <p>The council have issued 650 heaters to 325 homes. Many are not returned by tenants. MB thought this was atrocious; however it appears to be something that is experienced in other areas as well. Wheldons did employ someone but have since found this not financially viable. Therefore they are not pursuing the return of heaters as vigorously. Some Council allow tenants to keep heaters as the cost of return and compulsory electrical check can be cost more than the price of the heater.</p>	<p><b>EB</b></p>

<p>EB said he would still pursue the matter with Consumer Associations.</p> <p>DB will investigate further.</p>	<p><b>DB</b></p>
<p><b>Matters Arising –</b></p> <p><b>Finance –</b> Exec would be happy to have a quarterly update but would also like to keep to other meetings in between.</p> <p><b>Noticeboards –</b> The notice boards at Manor Farm and Lakes Estate still needs fixing. The location for the other notice board for Fenny Stratford has yet to be resolved. Beanhill have said there are some major refurbishments happening at the local centre and would wait for a notice board. They will notify PM when works completed. Downs Barn has had theirs collected by MITIE.</p> <p><b>Complaints –</b> Forum minutes need to be checked.</p> <p>MB has had her complaint resolved but is not happy that the complaints process was not followed.</p> <p>Norma Evans and Jon Bilson still to attend future meeting. SA to arrange.</p> <p><b>Voids Flowcharts –</b> There were issues of data protection from tenant reps visiting local housing offices to view these. With regard to the charts JM has looked at the South ones and was not impressed. They do not appear to cover the whole of the process, just the start of the process.</p>	<p><b>SA</b></p>
<p><b>Meetings and Training Attended or Forthcoming –</b></p> <p><b>PEP Finance Training –</b> MB to provide paperwork to send to other Tenant Reps. She has emailed other people on the course to keep in touch with them. She has received the TP's satisfaction sheet and will complete it.</p> <p><b>Meeting with Pam –</b> 8<sup>th</sup> February 2007. Exec will arrange the agenda. There will be no-one to take the minutes. Exec requested PM to ask Pam to bring someone to take minutes.</p> <p><b>Meeting with Irene –</b> Nothing scheduled but MB said she would like to discuss what was said in their last meeting with Irene.</p> <p><b>Spring Conference –</b> The noticeboards were at the TRC for the Forum to use. Sam could help with this.</p>	<p><b>MB</b></p> <p><b>Exec</b></p> <p><b>PM</b></p>

<p><b>Harrogate</b> – The day trip has been arranged for Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> June. MB and EB expressed their interest. With regard to the week long trip we need to have tenants attending this year. A couple of people who might be interested in attending were discussed. List of hotels was left with JM to look for suitable ones.</p> <p><b>Community Cohesion Event</b> – EB and JB attended but could not stay for long.</p>	<p><b>JM</b></p>
<p><b>Resource Centre Issues –</b></p> <p><b>DDA and Gerald Eve</b> – MB has spoken to Rob at Gerald Eve and he said they were provisionally happy for us to get costings and a specification prior to work being done. MB to contact places regarding funding.</p> <p><b>Firebox</b> – deferred</p> <p><b>Waterboiler</b> – PM to check out Staples for a suitable one.</p> <p><b>Toilets</b> – still need to be checked</p> <p><b>Kitchen</b> – Cleaner needs to use less cleaning materials on the floor as it is all sticky!</p> <p><b>Opening times</b> – PM said there have been a number of incidences where people have tried to contact the TRC but have been unable to, even during normal opening hours. There needs to be better arrangement of staffing, including asking for other volunteers.</p> <p><b>Jobs for Sam</b> – Sam has not been around for a while but will be back at the Resource Centre from Tuesday. Things for her to do include filing of emails and checking of planning applications. It might be that she comes down on different days when the exec are around.</p>	<p><b>MB</b></p> <p><b>PM</b></p>
<p><b>MKCHF –</b></p> <p><b>AGM</b> – The Council Chamber is not available for the suggested date for the Forum AGM. It could be held at the TRC, however this would need to be discussed at the Forum.</p> <p><b>Forward Plan</b> – was given out.</p> <p><b>MKCHF Grant Panel</b> – There were some discussions regarding the timing of this meeting. Many other groups are being arranged for the evening, including the Housing Week event meeting. It is difficult to find timing which suits all and occasionally some</p>	

<p>interested people will have to miss out. We have to arrange times to suit the most people who can attend without excluding the people who may have been attending the group for a while. PM wanted to state, again, that with regard to the grant panel she had been happy to meet in the late afternoon but more people wanted to meet in the morning. With the grant panel there was also an agreement from the panel members that there was a commitment to attend site visits which could only be made during the day.</p> <p><b>Networking</b> – EB has not heard back from Northampton.</p> <p><b>Vanguard meeting</b> – this needs to be arranged. SA to contact people including those who were involved in the Compact review.</p> <p><b>REC Membership</b> – The Exec were asked whether the MKCHF should join the REC. They wanted more information before committing themselves to this. The cost is £10 per year.</p>	<p><b>SA</b></p>
<p><b>Consultation Update</b> –</p> <p><b>MKC Housing Event</b> – It was decided to keep the first meeting to Tenant Reps and when we had decided what we were going to do other tenants could become involved. The meeting was scheduled for 22<sup>nd</sup> March at 7.30pm.</p>	
<p><b>Any Other Business</b> –</p> <p><b>Allocations Policy</b> – Exec to ask for a copy which should not be FOI request.</p> <p><b>Denbigh</b> – EB said he would visit the Denbigh site soon.</p> <p><b>Sheltered Housing</b>– MB would like clarification over whether Heron’s Lodge was getting a full time warden.</p> <p><b>Right to buy leaflet</b> - Exec wanted clarification over how much money was spent on sending the leaflet to places where it shouldn’t have been sent.</p> <p><b>Residents Association Support Grants</b> – Leon Residents Association – awarded £312</p>	<p><b>Exec</b></p> <p><b>EB</b></p> <p><b>PM</b></p> <p><b>PM</b></p>
<p><b>Date and time of next meeting</b> –</p> <p>Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February 2007 at 10am at the Tenants Resource Centre</p>	