

ITEM 15b

MKC HOUSING FORUM

19 APRIL 2007

MINUTES OF THE MK HOUSING FORUM GRANT PANEL - 13 MARCH 2007

Present – Tony Mercer, Jim Blore, Simon Aslett, Jeanette Bobey (late), Charles Allum (part), Paula Mason, Lyn White(non-voting member), Jeanette Marling (part), Margaret Burke.

Minutes of the last meeting - OK	
Matters arising – <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Clarification of the number of tenants in Orchard House was asked for – there are 16 Tenants and 14 rehab tenants.• The latest cut-off date for grants would depend on the type of grant. If it could be purchased easily, i.e. from somewhere like Argos, or Tesco's it could be quite close to the end of March. Any application would still have to be agreed by the panel members.• There was a review of play areas happening but currently it was only focusing on Conniburrow.	
Budget – <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Currently there will be an underspend of £26,327.51 (not including any spend at this meeting).• Any money left will go back into the HRA for next years spend.	
New Applications – New projects/paperwork received this month	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Everglades, Eaglestone - It was stated that most Schemes could use a hearing loop. Some money could be committed to some of the schemes, but we would need to see how much to be spent in general. The amount of the loop is £1,357.06. All agreed this project.	£1,357.06
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Door at Almond Close, Newport Pagnell – Has been visited. Surveyor said the cost would be £1,000. A number of the quotes were given over the phone, except for Custom Glaze, who visited. The door will not be replaced by MKC but could have some parts repaired. JM wanted Potton's Windows to visit. However MB was concerned regarding the standard of the works on Bradville and TM said he was concerned regarding the	£1,005.00

<p>specification of their windows. An amount of £1005 (exclusive of VAT) was agreed by all attending, however when Potton's have quoted it should be sent to all in the panel.</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fun Day Equipment – PM had looked at equipment for Residents Associations holding fun days. All equipment would be covered by the Council's Insurance. It would need to be held at the Tenants Resource Centre. MB suggested we ask the Executive for their approvals as well as a matter of courtesy. It was suggested that an amount of £2,000 be agreed but all items should be sent to members of the grant panel for final approval. All agreed. 	£2,000
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eaglestone Fencing – The Meeting Place has recently had £68,000 worth of improvements work carried out and TM wanted to have £1,890 for some security fencing. TM The fencing was needed because people banged on the windows whilst meetings and events were being held. Many of the events were for local people, including the RA children's parties, etc. There was still an outside area which would meet fire safety regulations. TM declared an interest in this scheme so would not vote. All other members agreed to this project. 	£1,890
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resource Centre – The cooker at the TRC was not working properly. Although the other cooker worked occasionally it was not reliable and had been inherited with the TRC. Although JB presented the application it was on behalf of all tenants. The preferred cooker included delivery and fitting and was £284.49. All agreed this project. 	£284.49
<p>Previous Applications – A progress report was given on outstanding applications and requests for grant funding</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Almond Close – The work has been started (and is nearly complete). There were some issues with the wiring which needed to be changed to accommodate the new cooker but it will still be in budget. In future projects like this should have a check for electricians prior to works being carried out. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Springfield Court – It was felt that this application should be carried forward. TM said he would contact the Warden as she said she was looking for more quotes. Also TM will ask for a Sheltered Housing Rep. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pennyland Play area – JB said she would ring Phil Snell to ask about the play area survey, however this application was not thought to be suitable for the location 	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Little Brickhill play area - No paperwork received. PM will write to notify this application will not be heard this year but could be admitted for next year. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bradville play area – MB has received some paperwork from the playgroup. Funding has been requested from WREN and another source. There was no mention of funding from MKCHF Grants. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Magdalen House Makeover – No paperwork received. PM will write to notify this application will not be heard this year but could be admitted for next year. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lakes Estate Barriers – Bollards on Thirlemere Avenue have been put up by another source. 	
<p>Any Other Business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some business cards to be prepared with TRC contact details. • Representatives are promoting ideas, which has helped increase spending • Potential grant applications could be linked in with Walkabouts. • Could donate a bench to each sheltered scheme with a plaque on it. • Another suggestion was that money could be set aside for hearing loops for sheltered schemes. This idea seemed more popular, however Sandra Rankin would need to be asked for her opinion and • DDA adaptations. MB was unaware that we could have used this money for them. There was a discussion about what was needed. A budget had been identified for works but not to a standard to allow wheelchairs in there. • Applications should not be discussed without paperwork, however, help and advice could be given. • Durrans House – EMO said they would visit and notify George. • Gwynn Murphy, New Bradwell, had a possible application for some fencing for her new play area. • Hearing Loops – It was discussed that some of the balance left could be put forward for hearing loops. This needs to be checked with Sandra Rankin beforehand to see if feasible. 	
Total spent or committed for this meeting	£2174.49
Date and time of next meeting - Wednesday 11 th April 2007 @ 10.30am at the Tenants Resource Centre	