



Minutes of the meeting of the HOUSING IMPROVEMENT TEAM MEETING on NEIGHBOUR NUISANCE AND TENANCY AGREEMENT held on TUESDAY 14 DECEMBER 1999 at 6.30 pm in Room 2 at Saxon Court

Present : Councillors Burke, Saunders and Woodcock

Officers : D Nickless (Head of Neighbourhood Services - Housing), S Aslett (District Housing Manager), B McKay (Lakes Estate Housing Officer) R Callow (Community Safety Officer), C Jones (Tenants Participation Officer) and W Marsden (Senior Committee Manager)

Tenants

Representatives: J Blake (Central Area Housing Board)
J Marling (Bletchley Area Housing Board)
B Moore (Netherfield/Newport Pagnell Area Housing Board)
M Simm (Bradville/Greenleys Area Housing Board)

Also Present: D Payne (Community Mediation Service)
J Kenny (TMS Insight)

Apologies: G Greaves (Netherfield/Newport Pagnell Area Housing Board)
P Prop (Netherfield/Newport Pagnell Area Housing Board)
H Taylor (Bradville/Greenleys Area Housing Board)
D Hunt and A Guy (TVP)
N Finney and D Biko (NBHA)

1.0 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 15 November 1999 were approved as a correct record, subject to it being noted that apologies had not been recorded from Councillor Burke, R Callow, C Jones and J Marling.

2.0 GOOD PRACTICE IN DEALING WITH NEIGHBOUR NUISANCE AND ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

John Kenny of TMS Insight led this session, the first part of which was to view a video produced by the Panorama programme.

The 'Panorama' video highlighted how Sheffield City Council evicted people for Anti-Social Behaviour. The City Council used new legislation to deal with "Neighbours from Hell" by implementing the Housing Act 1996, which made it easier to take proceedings, gather evidence and fast

track evictions. The City Council stressed that publicity was a powerful weapon in the fight against Anti-Social tenants.

Rotherham Council held regular meetings with the Police and attempted to take action against people, whether they were or were not tenants. Rotherham Council used Injunction Orders and undertook evictions and sent people to prison.

The Crime and Disorder Bill will introduce tougher penalties for people causing Anti-Social Behaviour.

Members made comments on the video programme. Alan Richardson felt that, in general, society was breaking down with a lack of discipline in the home.

John Kenny stated that Injunction Orders could be placed on a number of family members, and not just the instigator of Anti-Social Behaviour.

Rob Callow mentioned a system in Scotland where an estate totally comprised of people who had been previously evicted.

Alan Richardson stated that under the Children's Act, a Local Authority has a duty to re-house when children are involved.

Anti-Social Behaviour Orders

John Kenny produced a handout on Anti-Social Behaviour Orders, which is attached as an **Annex** to the Minutes.

The Team requested that John Kenny produce an overview and overall report to a future Housing Improvement Team meeting. Alan Richardson requested that the Introduction of Probationary Tenants be an area for John Kenny to cover in his report.

Work Programme

The Team looked at the grouping of topics in a work programme and potential service involvement for the next few Housing Improvement Team meetings. The Team agreed the following subject areas:

(a) Anti-Social Behaviour Orders and the use of Curfew Orders

This would also cover Youth Issues and Youth Justice. Rob Callow and Richard Solly to discuss Partnership Working with the Police under the Crime and Disorder Act.

Victim Support Group and the Legal Department to be involved, as well as the Police in the use of curfew orders.

(b) Introductory Tenancies

This is to be linked with Joint Tenancies and Succession Tenancies. This area will cover professional witnesses, new technology and signing-up procedures.

Witness Support and Victim Support teams to be involved.

(c) Homeless and Allocations

(d) Specialist Team to Cover Training of Staff and Members
In-house Legal team and Court Users Group to be involved.

(e) Monitoring and Publicity Strategy

(f) Good Practice from Elsewhere

This will cover good ideas from other Local Authorities and a consultant may be brought to a future meeting.

3.0

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting will be Monday 17 January 2000 at 6.30 pm in Room 2 at Saxon Court