

Central Region Network Committee – 26 May, 2009

Minute Number: 10

Venue: Thistle House, Edinburgh

Present:

Hugh McClung (Chair)	Stirling Tenants Assembly
Alex Lamb	Stirling Tenants Assembly
Therese Mullen	LOBS T&R Association
Danny Mullen	LOBS T&R Association
Susan Robertson	Delphwood T&R Association
Helen Forrest	Clackmannanshire T&R Federation
Moira Robertson	Strathfillan Housing Group
Helen Campbell	Paragon T&R Association
Jean Murray	Paragon T&R Association
Geoff Morgan	Breton & Corentin Court T&R Association

In Attendance:

Michael Boal	Scottish Government TP Development Team
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Apologies:

Mae Barker	Chapelle Crescent Residents Association
Donald Budge	Stirling Tenants Assembly
Jack Hardman	Clackmannanshire T&R Federation

Item	Subject Matter	Action
1.	Welcome Hugh welcomed members and expressed his regret that he was unable to attend the Networks Conference on the 12 May due to being in hospital at the time. He thanked members who had attended and who had expressed themselves so well on the day.	
2.	Minute of Previous Meeting	
2.1	Moira questioned the minute regarding item 5.2 which should have stated “not enough seating was provided”. Members agreed to amend.	
2.2	Amended minute of 21 April was subsequently agreed on a motion by Susan Robertson seconded by Alex Lamb	
3.	Matters arising	
3.1	Hugh informed members that a meeting of the Regulation Sounding Board has been arranged for Thursday 2 July in Thistle House, Edinburgh. This would be the final meeting of the Sounding Board and would reflect on the proposals included in the draft Housing Bill consultation.	
3.2	Hugh advised members he had asked Stirling Council to provisionally book a suitable venue for the Central Regional Members meeting on the 23 June.	
3.3	Danny advised that an invitation had been extended to William Fleming to give a presentation on the draft Housing Bill to members on the 23 June. As the invitation had only recently been sent to William, his reply was still awaited.	

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3.4	Members considered options available to them in the event William could not attend the meeting on the 23 June. It was agreed to issue a special issue of 'The Voice' newsletter with content pertaining to the draft Housing Bill proposals. The newsletter would be made available to members attending on the 23 June and thereafter sent to all members. The newsletter sub-group would meet on 15 June in Thistle House to finalise content.	Therese/ Geoff/ Helen
3.5	Danny was instructed to draft a letter of invitation for members meeting on the 23 June. Letter to be distributed to all members next week.	Danny
4.	Correspondence	
4.1	<u>Email from Ann Baillie regarding Regional Networks website.</u> Ann advises that the Tenants Priorities Team will receive all enquiries from the 'Contact Us' gateway on the website for the first three months. All enquiries received during this period will be passed to the relevant Regional Network for them to respond to. Ann also advises that an email account for each Regional Network is in the process of being set up. It is necessary therefore that each network provide the name of one committee member willing to receive such enquiries. Following the first three months each Regional Network will assume control of its own webpage and so a nominated administrator will also be required.	
4.2	Members agreed Hugh should assume responsibility for receiving enquires and to act as administrator for Central Region webpage. Danny to notify Ann of the committee's decision.	Hugh/Danny
5.	Networks Conference 12 May - Feedback	
5.1	Moira presented Members with a written summary of the Ministers presentation and other main events of the day. The following points were noted.	
5.2	Pros <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Members were impressed with the manner in which the Minister handled his presentation and audience ✓ The Minister was open to answering a diverse range of questions ✓ Overall the content of the programme was fine and allowed for some opportunities to network ✓ The venue and catering was excellent 	
5.3	Cons <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Networking session was a bit chaotic – perhaps due to Chairs not being properly briefed on their role ❖ Some of the workshop leaders experienced fallout from the networking session ❖ Our two volunteer workshop leaders (Therese and Moira) were pressured by two delegates in their workshop. Both delegates persistently hogged the debates and continually expressed the view that they were best experienced to speak on all matters pertinent to tenants interests. This 	

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5.4	<p>assertion upset many of the other delegates present who were made to feel their contributions were inferior, incompetent and less valued.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Geoff raised his concern that some delegates were expressing views in regard to moving towards a national framework and he considered this to be detrimental to the regional networks. Hugh restated his opposition to such a move being promoted at this point in time. <p>Members agreed that Danny should email Anne Cook expressing the committee's concern that individual delegates should behave in such a manner. Furthermore, Danny is to point out to Anne the committee's view that no single person (no matter their position or standing) should presume they are capable of speaking on behalf of all tenants in Scotland.</p>	Danny
5.5	<p>Hugh expressed his thanks to Moira for her excellent summary and welcomed the observations made by other members in attendance.</p>	
6.	<p>6. Communication with CRN Members</p> <p>6.1 Hugh expressed his view that committee members should consider acting as ambassadors for the Region in areas out with their own local authority area. Members recognised there was merit in Hugh's concept but also identified a number of practical obstacles, for example, inadequate transport links, time constraints, perception by RTOs that we would be intruding in their area.</p> <p>6.2 Members did agree that they should do all they can to spread the message of what the Regional Network is trying to accomplish and to keep RTOs in the loop as regards national issues through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • producing more regular 1 sheet briefings; • producing newsletters; • informing through webpage and regularly updating it; • producing news briefs for publication in local press, Council and local RSL publications. 	All
7.	<p>7. Establishing Bank Account – Update</p> <p>7.1 Members agreed signatories to the bank account to be: Hugh, Helen and Susan.</p> <p>7.2 Susan produced a mandate and all signatories signed it.</p> <p>7.3 Once account is set up Michael will arrange for monies to be transferred to the account</p>	Hugh/Helen/ Susan Michael
8.	<p>8. Local Authority Roundup</p> <p>8.1 Due to time constraints Hugh asked members to forgo this agenda item on this occasion. Members agreed.</p>	
9.	<p>9. Any Other Competent Business</p> <p>9.1 Hugh reported that TPAS were holding a briefing on 28 May in Glasgow on the Government's response to the consultation paper on <i>Investing in Affordable Housing</i>. Members noted the notification of the meeting was too short.</p>	

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10.	Close of Meeting There being no other business Hugh closed the meeting with a vote of thanks to members for their attendance. Next meeting would be a Members meeting in Stirling on 23 June at 10am.	
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