

Minutes of the Glasgow and Eilean Siar Regional Network Meeting
Held on Thursday 11th September 2008 at 11:30 am at
Hebridean Housing Partnership Boardroom, Stornoway, Western Isles

Present:

Jack McGuire	Eastpark Residents Association	Glasgow North
Ann Rooney	South Toryglen TA	Glasgow South
Gerry Gillin	Sandyhills RA	Glasgow East
George McGuinness	Baillieston RA	Glasgow East
Greg Hine	Govan 'C' TRA	Glasgow South
John Banks	Prince Albert Residents Group	Glasgow West
Rena Dowling	Partick United Residents Group	Glasgow West
Barney MacKay	Cearns Residents Association	Western Isles
Kevin Paterson	Western Isles Residents Forum	Western Isles
Ann Marie Stanley	Tenants Rights and Participation	Scottish Government

Apologies received :

Donald Urquhart	Ladywell & High St TRA	Glasgow North
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Item	
1.	<p><u>Welcome</u></p> <p>Kevin gave a warm welcome to everybody to the island. Kevin distributed passes that he had prepared for the visit, copies of the minutes, Hebridean Housing Partnership (HHP) newsletter and information from HHP along with the agenda.</p>
2.	<p><u>Apologies</u></p> <p>Donald Urquhart.</p>
3.	<p><u>Matters Arising</u></p> <p>The letter of thanks to personnel at Highlander House for their work on the Firm Foundations update had not been completed. Kevin to progress.</p> <p>Page 4 the comment re 'smoke signals' referred to a spurious line in the communications document that is to be removed.</p> <p>Check that Donald is happy for his name to be against the last paragraph in section 6 from the 7th August. Barney requested that the last paragraph in section 6 be reworded in a more positive way. Also to add that it is the handling of the Q&A session that may have been misinterpreted as the chairs had agreed for the inclusion of supplementary questions from the floor, so one of the areas to address in the future was communication.</p>

	<p>Regards the list of RTOs, Ann Marie has sent some information to Kevin and she advised that the validation exercise to check contact details etc is still ongoing. Communities Scotland, as was, held a central database of every RTO and it's members however there are needs to comply with in terms of data security as the committee is keen to have these details available on the web site when this is up and running. Ann Marie to check.</p> <p>Should a database be put into place a clear disclaimer should be added advising all that it is not to be used for any purpose other than legitimate regional network duties.</p> <p>Q: Has Docherty consulting finished their checks yet on the list of RTOs? Ann Marie said this was still ongoing and would check when the exercise is due to complete.</p> <p>The code of conduct to be signed by Ann at her next attendance.</p>
<p>4.</p>	<p><u>Previous Minutes</u></p> <p>Carried subject to the amendment to the last paragraph in section 6.</p> <p>Proposed: Barney. Seconded: Rena.</p>
<p>5.</p>	<p><u>Communication Strategy</u></p> <p>It was agreed that minutes of the meetings be sent to every RTO and regional chairs and secretaries should be emailed the minutes. This should be reciprocated across the network.</p> <p>There were further discussions around the use of lo-call and freephone numbers to allow for flexibility and privacy of personal contact information for the committee.</p> <p>Greg will attempt to locate the details of his previous supplier and see what the Ts & Cs are for the newer freephone numbers.</p> <p>(So far, in line with previous experience the rates for 0844/0845 are 3.95p/1.5p/1p per minute)</p> <p>Members of the committee raised the issue that certain telco providers charge a 10p per call termination fee. Subsequent investigation has shown that this is unavoidable and is down to the individual telco company. Also it does not affect inbound calls unless the caller is on the same deal.</p> <p>(note: the traffic expected is assumed to be low).</p> <p>Agreed to review in 6 months.</p>

<p>6.</p>	<p><u>Firm Foundations Update</u></p> <p>Ann Marie will arrange for circulation of notes etc to the workshop leaders, and feedback documents, action points and key activities to regional chairs.</p> <p>Regarding the gathering of tenants representation (item 5) protocol: Ann Marie asked for views on how to get RTO reps onto working groups and committees. The chairs have received a letter advising that tenants views are being gathered, and that 2 representatives are requested from the network. (See letter attached to previous minutes dated 3rd September).</p> <p>Because the request is for 2-3 representatives from the whole network, how do we manage 18 potential applications? Kevin & George proposed that the regional group puts forward the most capable of applicants.</p> <p>One area that was also discussed was the fact that region 9 for instance does not have Local Authority Landlords as such and would it therefore always lose out in areas requiring representation on this front.</p> <p>The committee had agreed to review the document at the last meeting. It was universally agreed that the document was a hard read, and that members were at differing stages of completion in this task. As other groups are also reviewing the document there is a good chance that most points will be evaluated and questions raised accordingly.</p>
<p>7.</p>	<p><u>AOCB</u></p> <p>Donald has expressed an interest in representing the region on matters dealing with the right to buy.</p> <p>Remove the characters +H from the entry for John Banks in the skills matrix.</p> <p>Ann Marie mentioned a statement made by Nicola Sturgeon in the Scottish Parliament and will forward transcripts of the notes.</p> <p>Jack was nominated and agreed to put something together regarding this visit to the Western Isles.</p> <p>Greg noted that he had received a telephone call from a group asking when the next meeting was due and it's location. This was positive.</p> <p>Where a conference etc is to be held such as the Firm Foundations meeting, it was agreed that groups and facilitators should be able to consider valid questions to be presented on the day or for presentation at a latter date. The discussions need to be open, and it was also agreed that RTOs and other groups should be able to raise questions. If the questions are not valid or appropriate, then it was agreed that there should be a response explaining why. Region 9 to consider a mechanism for managing this process.</p> <p>There was a discussion about the fact that RTOs were supposed to keep</p>

	<p>their contact information up to date but do not all appear to do so. Q: Do we need to consider this further, does Communities Scotland, as was, need to do a yearly check?</p> <p>Skills matrix to be updated annually.</p> <p>An in depth discussion surrounded the processes by which the committee and region should operate, and its protocols. Greg will develop further.</p> <p>Kevin raised the issue and status of the Village Voice and a discussion took place surrounding how it integrates with the region and communications. It was agreed that the village voice is a valid method, and that the Forum was an accepted point of contact. It was agreed to add the Forum to the communications document as a medium for contact.</p> <p>Glasgow Housing Association is due to have a meeting soon about the possibility of creating a federation as was in place previously. George will update the committee.</p> <p>Greg to create a new action plan document for the meetings.</p>
<p>9.</p>	<p><u>Forward Meeting Schedule</u></p> <p>9 October in Ladywell Community Centre at 10.30 am.</p> <p>4th December at Highlander House at 10:30 am.</p>
<p>10.</p>	<p><u>HHP Presentations</u></p> <p>Members of the HHP Board introduced themselves to the committee, and presentations were given followed by a tour of the developments on the Island.</p> <p>Stewart Wilson, who is the director of HHP's development partner, gave a presentation on the developments undertaken on the island and gave an insight into the types of development constrains experienced on the island and the difficulties they encounter to provide affordable housing.</p> <p>There was inclusion of the measurements, criteria and funding options available in the Western Isles, and also a view of the challenges faced in rural developments. A good example of this was seen in the developments of schemes of 10 units.</p> <p>There are no set building firms available to carry out development projects, and the current funding rules do not have any mechanism for including facts such as the increased cost of building in an island/rural environment.</p> <p>HHP currently work closely with tenants and prospective tenants on building design and scheme developments.</p> <p>Because of the challenges faced in the locations, services availability etc,</p>

	<p>HHP and its partners have spent a long time developing the properties and service delivery.</p> <p>The presentation showed schemes where different types of energy management had been used, geothermal, heat pump, under floor, and air pump.</p> <p>A section was given over to HAG funding and its reduction, detailing the average costs to build, old and new funding and the potential negative equity involved.</p> <p>As with the issue surrounding builders and net pricing of materials the current funding also does not consider the inability of an island/rural RTO to have access to fundamental benefits such as scale costs which other regions may have access to.</p> <p>All of the committee agreed that the presentation delivered the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ An insight into the challenges in the Western Isles ➤ Understanding of the affect static/non-fluid funding can have ➤ Knowledge of the way HHP approach development ➤ The inflexibility of current and proposed funding, and ➤ The inability of the current model to meet the regions need.
<p>11.</p>	<p><u>Close of Meeting</u></p> <p>Barney thanked the chair for the level of organisation at the meeting.</p> <p>Kevin advised that the personnel at HHP had had a great input into this including the making of the badges etc.</p> <p>The Glasgow visitors thanked Kevin very much for all the hard work that he had undertaken in arranging the programme for the visit and to the staff of HHP for their support and informative presentations.</p>