

Meeting Number 1

Minutes of the Glasgow and Eilean Siar Regional Network Meeting held on Thursday 15 May 2008 at 11am at Highlander House, Glasgow

Present:

Jack McGuire	Eastpark Residents Association	Glasgow North
Donald Urquhart	Ladywell & High Street TRA	Glasgow North
Gerry Gillin	Sandyhills RA	Glasgow East
George McGuinness	Baillieston RA	Glasgow East
Greg Hine	Govan 'C' Residents association	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
Louise Kerr	Tenants Rights and Participation	Scottish Government

Apologies received :

Ann Rooney	South Toryglen TA	Glasgow South
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Item		Action
1.	<p><u>Introductions</u></p> <p>Ann Marie Stanley began by thanking everyone for attending the first elected committee meeting following the inaugural AGM. As it was the first meeting, the Committee members introduced themselves.</p> <p>The committee agreed that before proceedings began the office bearers should be appointed.</p>	
2.	<p><u>Appointment of Office Bearers</u></p> <p>The committee were invited to forward names for the office bearers positions. The positions were filled as follows:</p> <p>Chair: Kevin Paterson This was proposed by Barney and seconded by George.</p> <p>Vice Chair: George McGuinness This was proposed by Barney and seconded by John.</p> <p>Secretary: Greg Hine This was proposed by Barney and seconded by Kevin.</p> <p>Treasurer: John Banks This was proposed by Barney and seconded by Donald.</p>	

	<p>Ann Marie circulated details of the committee members. She stressed that this information was confidential amongst committee members and if they wished to use any of these details for business not relating to that discussed and agreed at these meetings, then the person should seek the approval of the individual member before using their details. Everyone agreed to this.</p> <p>At present there is no budget for the individual networks to be responsible for, however in the future this may change. The committee thought that discussions will be needed about the level of expenses as the regional structures develop. It is envisaged that there will be further discussion about resourcing the networks in the medium to long term.</p>	ALL
<p>3.</p>	<p><u>Getting to Know you Session</u></p> <p>The group took part in the 'Getting to know you' ice-breaker activity.</p>	
<p>4.</p>	<p><u>Inaugural AGM</u></p> <p>Everyone agreed that the inaugural AGM held on the 6th March was a great success. Greg thought there would have been more people at the AGM, Ann Marie suggested that the attendees were of a good mix of delegates from Glasgow and the Western Isles. The committee can discuss how to maximise attendance at the next AGM. The committee are happy for the photo montage of the Inaugural AGM to be made public and for Kevin's newsletter for the Western Isles Residents Forum to be circulated.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review and approval of the Minute <p>There were no amendments to the Minute, which was accepted as a true representation. This was proposed by Barney and seconded by Donald. The minute will be made public for transparency. It was acknowledged that the minute would require to be ratified at the next AGM.</p> <p>Copies of the AGM minutes will be sent to all registered RTOs with a copy of the photo montage and newsletter produced for the Western Isles Residents Forum</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Letter of thanks to Steering Group Members <p>A letter of thanks to those steering group members not on the committee will be sent by Kevin, as chair of the committee.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Signing of the Ratified Constitution <p>Kevin and Greg, as chair and secretary, signed the ratified constitution.</p>	KP

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Code of Conduct <p>All present signed the code of conduct and those not present will be asked to sign it at the next meeting.</p>	
<p>5.</p>	<p><u>The Role of the Network</u></p> <p>The group decided that the network should have a say in driving policy from the bottom up across the country in a joined up way of thinking. The network should raise the status of RTOs nationally and regionally and aim to standardise practice and communication. The general consensus was that the role was not as much about the bricks and mortar anymore and the role now includes being involved in developing policy which may result in new legislation.</p> <p>There was a lot of discussion about the variety of ways funds were given to groups throughout Scotland to support tenants and whether this is a role for the network to consider. Ann Marie thought that it was not for the regional networks to determine minimum standards of tenant participation resources and reiterated that their aims are as stated within their constitution and to consider what areas of policy the committee should be involved with.</p> <p>The group discussed the outcomes of the research findings as well and whether the network has a role in this. Ann Marie is to circulate the précis with recommendations and advised that the team are looking at how to implement these recommendations.</p> <p>The committee agreed that it was not a platform to raise individuals problems but to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Represent the views of their RTOs ▪ Raise awareness of the Regional Network amongst RTOs in our region ▪ Work to establish links with the other Regional Networks across Scotland, and ▪ Discuss the findings from the Firm Foundations – Review of Housing in Scotland and its implications. The Committee would like to be actively involved in outcomes of the Firm Foundations debate. 	<p>AMS</p>
<p>6.</p>	<p><u>Firm Foundations update</u></p> <p>Ann Marie gave an update on Firm Foundations. Approximately 400 responses have been submitted of which about 20% were from tenant and community organisations.</p> <p>An analysis of the responses has been published on the Scottish Government's website and can be found here:</p>	

	<p>Report: http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2008/04/02094036/7 Summary: http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2008/04/02094124/2</p> <p>Ann Marie advised that the team are trying to arrange a National Conference in Glasgow or Edinburgh where all Regional Network Committees would be invited. It is proposed that the Minister, Stewart Maxwell, would meet committee representatives, present information on the outcomes of the consultation and hear the committees' views.</p> <p>Ann Marie suggested the Minister would attend in the morning and in the afternoon, all the network committees could meet and discuss their work. Ann Marie is hoping to secure a date in July and will keep the Committee informed of any updates. The committee welcomed this opportunity.</p>	AMS
7.	<p><u>Communication Strategy</u></p> <p>It was agreed that due to time constraints, this item should be considered as the main item for the next committee meeting. Copies of the plan developed by the steering committee to be circulated with the minutes.</p>	LK
8.	<p><u>AOCB</u></p> <p>National Regeneration Conference 2008</p> <p>The National Regeneration Conference 2008 is taking place in Glasgow between the 15 and 17 September at the Crown Plaza Hotel. The team is sponsoring 2 places per region. The Committee should consider if they wish to take part and if so, how best to allocate the 2 places.</p>	ALL
9.	<p><u>Forward Meeting Schedule</u></p> <p>The next meeting will be in Donald's community hall on Thursday 7 August 2008 at 10.30am.</p> <p>The following meeting will take place in Stornoway during Thursday 11 September 2008 and Friday 12 September 2008. The group were all interested in seeing the different areas within their region. Kevin and Barney were happy to help organise an itinerary, including trips of the island.</p>	KP/ BMack