

WEST STRATHCLYDE REGIONAL NEWSLETTER



Issue 2: July 2010

REGION 7 HAS BEEN KEPT EXTREMELY BUSY SINCE OUR LAST NEWSLETTER WITH MEETINGS ON VARIOUS ASPECT OF THE NEW HOUSING BILL. WE ARE CURRENTLY ABOUT TO START WORK ON THE HOUSING CHARTER IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE OTHER EIGHT REGIONAL NETWORKS.

THE CHAIR AND SECRETARIES MEET QUARTERLY TO DISCUSS ISSUES OF A NATIONAL BASIS. SINCE OUR LAST NEWSLETTER WE HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN MEETINGS WITH THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING AND COMMUNITIES ALEX NEIL WHOM WE NOW MEET ON A QUARTERLY BASIS.

THESE MEETING HAVE BEEN EXCEPTIONALLY PRODUCTIVE FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF THE TENANTS MOVEMENT AND THE FACT THAT THE MINISTER IS KEEN TO PARTICIPATE ON THIS LEVEL WITH YOUR NETWORKS ONLY BODES WELL. THE LATEST MEETING WAS ON MONDAY 22nd OF MARCH IN HIGHLANDER HOUSE GLASGOW. THE MAIN TOPIC WAS THE HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT (HRA). WE WANT TO SEE THE HRA RINGFENCED FROM THE GENERAL FUND AND STOP THE USE OF TENANTS MONIES FROM THEIR RENTS BEING USED FOR THINGS OTHER THAN HOUSING. CHARGES BETWEEN DEPARTMENTS NEED TO BE CLOSELY SCRUTINISED, FOR EXAMPLE, ROADS, PAVEMENTS, CLOSE CLEANING WHERE HOME OWNERS AND PRIVATE LANDLORDS TENANTS DO NOT PAY TOWARDS THESE SERVICES THEY RECEIVE, BUT WISH TO KEEP, WITHOUT PAYING FOR THEM.

THE MINISTER HAS ALSO ASK THAT WE TAKE A LOOK AT THE HOMELESSNESS STRATEGY, HE HAS RECEIVED A LOT OF COMPLAINTS REGARDING THIS ISSUE AND WOULD LIKE US TO ASK ALL OUR RTOs TO COME FORWARD WITH THEIR THOUGHTS ON THIS MATTER. HE WISHES TO SET UP A COMMITTEE WITH OFFICIALS FROM

COSLA, THE SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT AND THE REGIONAL NETWORKS, TO RE-EXAMINE WHAT THE PROBLEMS REALLY ARE AND WHAT ISSUES HAVE BEEN THROWN UP BY THE HOMELESS POLICY.

SATURDAY THE 27th MARCH WAS THE 3rd AGM FOR WEST STRATHCLYDE IN THE GLYNHILL HOTEL PAISLEY.

TWO MEMBERS RECENTLY LEFT REGION 7'S COMMITTEE AND I WOULD LIKE AS CHAIR TO THANK LIZ JENKINS, INVERCLYDE FOR HER CONTRIBUTION OVER THE LAST THREE YEARS ON THE COMMITTEE AND ALSO JOHN BUNCLARK, FROM EAST RENFREWSHIRE FOR HIS ASSISTANCE OVER THE SAME THREE YEAR PERIOD WITH WEST STRATHCLYDE REGION. THANK YOU BOTH VERY MUCH.

I WAS EXTREMELY PLEASED WITH THE TURNOUT WE RECEIVED ON THE DAY. EACH OF THE FOUR AREAS ELECTED A NEW REPRESENTATIVE ONTO THE COMMITTEE FOR THE COMING YEAR:

- HEATHER CUTHBERT, AUCHENBACK RTO EAST RENFREWSHIRE COUNCIL,
- CAROL MACINTYRE , FITRA, INVERCLYDE,
- JOAN BRECKINBRIDGE, QUARRELTON TARA, RENFREWSHIRE
- NEIL SMITH, BARRIE TERRACE AND HUNTER AVE, NORTH AYRSHIRE

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS AGM WERE READ AND APPROVED BY FRANCES KEAN, AND SECONDED BY ALICE McCAUGHEY.

AND A BIG THANK YOU IS DUE TO ANN MARIE STANLEY FOR ALL HER HARD WORK DURING THE PAST YEAR; AS WELL AS THE WORK PUT IN FOR THIS THE REGIONS THIRD AGM.

EAST RENFREWSHIRE (ERC) REPORT

A LOT OF WORK HAS BEEN UNDERTAKEN BY VARIOUS TENANTS AND TENANTS ASSOCIATIONS.

THE FIRST TENANT LED INSPECTION WAS CARRIED OUT WITH ONE INDEPENDENT TENANT AND TWO TENANTS FROM RTOs. THIS LOOKED AT TENANTS MOVING INTO A NEW HOUSE AND THE FIRST VISIT BY THE HOUSING OFFICERS. THERE WERE A FEW HICCUPS TELEPHONING THE NEW TENANTS, AS TLIs WERE USING THEIR OWN PHONES AND FOUND THIS TO BE RATHER COSTLY. ERC HOUSING PROVIDED THEM WITH MOBILES TO COMPLETE THE INSPECTION.

THE ANNUAL TENANTS EVENT TOOK PLACE IN THE THORNTREE HALL ON THE 12th SEPTEMBER WITH SHARON DONOHOE, FROM TIS TAKING A WORKSHOP ALONG WITH THE FEDERATION CHAIR. A SECOND WORKSHOP WAS CONDUCTED BY IAIN MACLEAN HEAD OF HOUSING AND ASSISTED BY LISA ROBERTSON.

THE TENANT PARTICIPATION STRATEGY WAS UPDATED WITH THE RTOs WORKING WITH THE TENANT PARTICIPATION OFFICER.

RENT AND BUSINESS SETTING WORKING GROUP MEETINGS WERE HELD SPASMODICALLY DURING THE EARLY PART OF THE YEAR AND LATER ON WE MET WITH THE HEAD OF HOUSING AND HIS TEAM SEVERAL TIMES BEFORE WE MET WITH ILENE CAMPBELL FROM TIS FOR INDEPENDENT ADVICE. THE TENANTS ARE VERY UNHAPPY ABOUT THE LACK OF CONSULTATION AND DIALOGUE WITH THE COUNCIL AND WILL CONTINUE TO PURSUE THE COUNCIL UNTIL THEIR VOICES ARE HEARD AND APPROPRIATE CONSULTATION ENTERED INTO.

NORTH AYRSHIRE REPORT

FRIDAY THE 4th JUNE WAS THE TENANTS EVENT IN THE MENZIES HOTEL IRVINE TO WHICH GERALD CASEY WAS INVITED TO ATTEND. WILLIAM FLEMING AND ANN MARIE STANLEY

FROM THE TENANTS PRIORITIES TEAM OF THE SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT WERE IN ATTENDANCE. WILLIAM GAVE A PRESENTATION ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE NEW TENANTS CHARTER AND A QUESTIONS AND ANSWER SESSION.

AMONGST THE SPEAKERS WERE ALEX YOUNGER VICE CHAIR REGION 7 REPORTING BACK ON THE HOUSING CHARTER, CATE WEIR REPORTING ON HER INVOLVEMENT IN REPAIRS AND MAJOR WORKS, NADYA WAGLAND ON THE ROLE OF TENANT ASSESSOR. DAVID BLACK SALTIRE ON GAS SAFETY UPDATE. BRIAN KIRKBRIDE & STEWART SHAW, CAPITA SYMONDS REVIEW OF BUILDING SERVICES.TP STRATEGY /INVOLVEMENT UPDATE BY TRACEY WILSON TPO NORTH AYRSHIRE. THIS WAS AN EXTREMELY EFFICIENT CONFERENCE WITH NUMEROUS STALLS PROVIDING INFORMATION ON NUMEROUS TOPICS FOR TENANTS AND OWNERS.

RENFREWSHIRE REPORT

THE TENANT & RESIDENT ASSOCIATION HAS AN ONGOING CONSULTATION WITH THE COUNCIL ON THE CRITERIA FOR THE TENANT PARTICIPATION CUSTOMER ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY. AT A RECENT COUNCIL WIDE FORUM MEETING THE COUNCIL WERE ASKING FOR A COUPLE OF CHANGES ON OUR RE-REGISTRATION AND WE ASKED FOR A FURTHER MEETING TO DISCUSS THIS, WE ALSO ASKED IF WE CAN HAVE INDEPENDENT ADVICE TO BE PRESENT. THE COUNCIL ASKED LESLEY BAIRD CEO OF TPAS TO COME. IT WAS AGREED BY THE CHAIR AND TPAS THAT A SUB-GROUP SHOULD BE SET UP AND THAT WE SHOULD ASK THE COUNCIL TO INCLUDE IN OUR TP STRATEGY WHAT WE THE MEMBERS OF THE SUB-GROUP HAVE AGREED TO.

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