



BEEM REGIONAL NETWORK

Minutes April 12th 2010

At Thistle House

Attendance

Jim Maryniak Eskview TRA. East Lothian (chair)
Kath Beaton Bannerfield TRA (sec) Borders
Harry Sunderland (Treas) Edinburgh Tenants Federation
Jeanette Boyd Windsor Park TRA. East Lothian
Elaine Ferguson Midlothian Tenants Forum
Lillias Reid Midlothian Tenants Forum
Peggy Ferguson Eildon Tenants Organisation Borders
Ellen Robertson Midlothian Tenants Forum
Sheila Rutherford McCallum Ratho Station RA Edinburgh

Apologies

Tina Beattie North Bughtlin TA Edinburgh
Gerry Moss Waverley Tenants Organisation (v chair) Borders
Cathie Mc Arthur East Lothian T&R Panel

Minutes of 1st March 2010 approved by Lillias and seconded by Sheila

Matters arising

Parliament visit – Jim to give evidence as a member of East Lothian Tenants and Residents Panel at the Local Government and Communities committee at the Parliament on 21st April. It was agreed that Michael would request tickets for this session for those committee members that would like to attend. This would give the committee a good opportunity to watch the stage 1 process of the housing bill. Sheila, Elaine, Jeanette, and Ellen all said they would be available and would like to attend. Michael to contact those not at the meeting and make arrangements.

Feedback from chairpersons meeting with Alex Neil

Jim gave an update on the submission of the HRA paper on the 22nd March 2010 at the chairs regular quarterly meeting with the Minister. A meeting is to be arranged with Audit Scotland and COSLA; and Mr Neil suggested that the Scottish Government could produce Revised Guidance – On Monitoring the Housing Revenue Account. Jim, Hugh McClung and George McGuinness to attend this meeting. The Bill is currently going through Parliament, and oral evidence was given by Danny Mullen, Region 4, on behalf of the networks; Danny was congratulated by the committee on his excellent performance. The next meeting with the Minister is scheduled for June 2010. It was agreed that if the chair cannot attend meetings, the vice chair must be asked to attend, if not, then must be opened to another BEEM committee member. The Minister also asked the networks for any examples regarding housing areas that were once perceived as good, and now seen as problem estates He asked the regional network Chairs to go back and speak to their committees and give him examples from their areas on this. Eric Allan agreed to compile the report .

Committee Expenses

Harry detailed the main points of the paper that had been sent to all network committee members. There was some discussion over its content. It was noted that other committees had thought this was a reasonable uniform approach to ensure equality across all the network committees.

Updates

AGM planning – Michael said after the committee had approved the draft papers they would go out following the meeting. There was only one vacancy on the committee for Edinburgh after Harry's announcement that he was stepping down. Nomination forms would be sent to RTOs in Edinburgh and if more than one nominations received there would be a postal ballot. Jim confirmed that he had contacted TIS and Kirsty wells would do a presentation and lead a discussion on the Social Housing Charter. Any amendments to the constitution to be sent to Kath. The committee agreed to a special meeting on the 10th May to finalise the AGM details.

Newsletter – This was progressing slowly as there had been little input from other committee members. Cathie had been helping Jim with the content. It

was agreed that Jim would use the local printer the Panel use in East Lothian to print the final version and the newsletter would be launched at the AGM. Feedback from final CIH training session – Jim, Kath and Gerry had attended the 4 pilot days. Feedback was generally positive however it felt that the leadership and management training days could have been more focussed and combined to cover one day. Michael confirmed that the sub group overseeing the training would take all the feedback and then make any decisions regarding changing the structure and content before it was opened to other committee members.

CIH conference feedback – Gerry and Harry helped on the Regional Network stand. Other committee members who were delegates helped at times. It was agreed the exhibition had been worthwhile though there was some disappointment about the venue particularly the lunches.

Website – Gerry reported that the content was currently up to date. Michael had made amendments to the minutes and emailed them to Gerry to put on. There is to be further training provided on this by whitespace and Gerry, Jim and Sheila all reported they would like to attend.

Policy Training day – to take place on 15th April. This would involve presentation on the national outcomes, Scotland's relations with the other devolved powers of the UK and a committee clerk from the parliament would speak about the committee process in the parliament. All those who had expressed an interest in attending should have received confirmation of their attendance.

AOB & Date of Next Meeting

No further business. Next meeting would be a non committee meeting to finalise details for the AGM on Monday 10th May at 12.30, Thistle House. The AGM was confirmed as 29th May 2010 at the Hilton Grosvenor in Edinburgh and the next full committee meeting Monday 28th June 2010, Thistle House at 12noon.

