

**Minutes of the Glasgow and Eilean Siar Regional Network Meeting  
Held on 15<sup>th</sup> September 2010 at Aurora Building, Glasgow**

**Present:**

Lillian Woolfries	Banner Residents Association	Glasgow North
Margaret Fawcett	Ladywell & High Street TARA	Glasgow North
George McGuinness	Baillieston RA	Glasgow East
Greg Hine	Govan 'C' Residents association	Glasgow South
Rose Marie O'Brien	Sandyhills RA	Glasgow East
Kevin Paterson	Western Isles Residents Forum	Western Isles
Rena Dowling	Partick United Residents Group	Glasgow West
John Banks	Prince Albert Residents Group	Glasgow West
Ann Marie Stanley	Tenants Rights and Participation	Scottish Government
Heather Wilson	Tenants Rights and Participation	Scottish Government

Item		Action
1.	<b><u>Welcome</u></b>	
2.	<b><u>Apologies</u></b>  Barney, John Goldie	
3.	<b><u>Previous Minutes</u></b>  Proposed: George McGuinness, Seconded: Lillian Woolfries	
3.1	<b><u>Matters Arising</u></b>  Previously Barney had asked about the number of RTOs mentioned in the minutes, KP raised this again and update was given advising that a new RTO is expected to register in Benbecula shortly and that there is now a new village voice in Barra meaning every island is now covered.  Correct spelling of Mary Cahill to Mary Scahill  AMS to add information regards the Housing Minister update and presentations from the AGM to be sent out  6.1 (SHR) the SHR has now agreed to join the Charter events with kick off being in Inverness. New representative on TRAG is Greg Hine replacing John Banks. AMS asked if there were other regional representatives on TRAG, Greg advised yes, himself for R9, Rena, Rose and others for other regions. A brief discussion	

	<p>ensued. Item 6.2 remove Ann Cook from the minute</p> <p>Item 8. Regarding Marie attending the GHA meeting, Rose asked Linda about inviting the region to the meeting but no response to an email had been received from the chair. The committee discussed the fact that there were three members of the committee who attended the federation meetings so we should be able to manage reporting and input without formalising the process further.</p> <p>KP gave GH a copy of the Ethnic Minorities register for him to browse for contacts for the region when thinking about including wider views and demographics.</p> <p>Item 9, CIH is definitely proposing amendments to the Housing Bill.</p> <p>AMS had circulated RTO list to everyone as requested, JB pointed out ironically his own RTO was missing.</p> <p>Treasurers report to be added as a permanent item on the agenda, error on GH's part.</p>	
4.	<p><b><u>Treasurer's report</u></b></p> <p>A Treasurers report was distributed amongst the group.</p>	
5.	<p><b><u>Report on meeting with Minister</u></b></p> <p>Greg gave an update on the meeting with the Minister and Chairs &amp; Secretaries meeting.</p> <p>During some work undertaken across departments it had been identified that some problem areas and expense in housing and other social aspects could be attributed to a relatively small number of postcodes. This may form the basis of future strategy in the community.</p> <p>Several amendments to the bill have been tabled including one for Police Houses not being retained after the role has ended. Likewise and extension of RTB for Housing Associations beyond 2012 does not have a majority so this will not be tabled. Tenants will have places on the SHR board SHR will not be charging a fee</p> <p>An idea to fund building using pension fund monies at favourable terms is still being considered but is in early stages. Tenant deposit scheme is at secondary legislation already One area for consideration with regards to the HRA is making landlords post or declare any spend over £500 making the use of monies more transparent. This was a popular idea with the meeting</p>	

	<p>GH raised the issue of the setting aside of contracts for LSVTs and the fact that one (maybe more) smaller landlords were considering this. GH had asked two Scottish Government employees at the meetings to get back to him regarding the reasons and issues surrounding this and the Minister agreed more investigation needed to be done.</p> <p>GH also raised the issue for landlords using the ring-fenced monies of transferred stock outside of that stock. The minister replied this should be referred to the SHR.</p> <p>Minister received the document on Decline of Communities and Estates by Eric Allan. GH to send out copy of document if anyone requires it.</p> <p>Another idea was to use Housing Tribunals to speed up processes for tenants and this met with approval from all present.</p>	<p>GH</p> <p>GH</p> <p>GH</p>
<b>6</b>	<p><b><u>Chairperson's report</u></b></p> <p>KP met with both HPAG and Alex Neil on the 14<sup>th</sup> September. The Minister was keen to open finance of new build housing and exploring new avenues of funding. One idea mentioned was 25% shared equity for new build, however this did not meet with the groups approval because it has some dimensions similar to RTB. Land supply &amp; Land Banking was discussed.</p> <p>Question: Should the Scottish Government be building any social housing and should it be mid-market rental.</p> <p>Differing HAG rates of 38% as opposed to rates of 68% were raised as constricting the ability of landlords to build.</p> <p>SST was brought up along with the idea of tenancy reviews and means testing. The group did not agree with this and at the later ministers meeting (item above) the idea was dropped.</p> <p>Minister also discussed the idea of mixed type and tenure property builds and there were conflicting views regarding this. It was thought working closer with Bill Scott from Inclusion Scotland might help in this area.</p> <p>Another area was the rationalising/standardisation of rent and rent setting. In the Western Isles as an example two sides of the same street might have rents that differ by 19%.</p> <p>Aids &amp; Adaptations budget has been cut.</p> <p>CIH is filming a documentary and has asked KP to participate. Therefore there is a possibility that there may be cameras at the next meeting.</p>	
<b>7</b>	<p><b><u>TRAG report</u></b></p> <p>GH gave a brief report detailing that although some ideas the TRAG members had come up with were good, the SHR board appears to dismiss without any explanation. A historical look at documentation and the meeting he attended confirmed a view that the SHR is keen to keep the group unstructured and 'advisory' therefore retaining automatic control of its functions.</p> <p>Also that similar to the meeting with the SHR (meeting 14) the approach is passive rather than active when considering the fact that the SHR will have to work out how to measure and manage performance of landlords based on the Bill &amp; the Charter</p>	

<b>8</b>	<p><b><u>Charter Update</u></b></p> <p>AMS advised 4 events have been held.</p> <p>TIS &amp; TPAS are being given grant funding to host charter events in rural areas and to minority groups.</p> <p>A copy of the attendee list is to be sent out by AMS and the committee agreed that if Heather needed to she could send some forms to the committee who would try and chase unrepresented RTOs.</p> <p>KP mentioned that WIFTRA was not invited to the event, AMS will check the omission.</p> <p>KP asked AMS for a list of those who attended.</p>	
<b>9</b>	<p><b><u>FED Update</u></b></p> <p>The AGM was held on the 13<sup>th</sup> September and all three of our members are still represented at the Federation. The meeting had some 'stormy' moments.</p> <p>Mary Scahill is keen to work with the region so AMS was asked to check if GHA RTO Federation is an RTO although we could co-opt if necessary.</p> <p>GM is our primary point of contact to GHAF the other members will substitute when required.</p>	
<b>10</b>	<p><b><u>WIFTRA Update</u></b></p> <p>The AGM contained a lively debate on the Charter. KP remains as Chair, and has also met with TIG (Western Isles Development Company) to see how they can help by working with the Forum.</p> <p>John McIver from Hebridean Housing Partnership attended the WIFTRA meeting to talk about ongoing developments and plans</p>	
<b>11</b>	<p><b><u>Biographies</u></b></p> <p>Still awaiting information from John Goldie who has not attended any meetings since the AGM</p>	
<b>12</b>	<p><b><u>Newsletter</u></b></p> <p>Request that we use a minimum of 12pt text in all communications</p> <p>Correct spelling mistake of 'nantipathy'</p> <p>Add contact details, secretary is OK with landline number for use.</p>	
<b>13.</b>	<p><b><u>AOCB</u></b></p> <p>Lilian asked whether there were any further training sessions planned for those that have missed them or any new 'modules'</p> <p>GH trying to arrange a web sub-group meeting about problems with the website.</p>	

14.	<b><u>Forward Meeting Schedule</u></b>  <b><u>18<sup>th</sup> November</u></b>	
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