

Fourth Regional AGM Glasgow and Western Isles GHA Stockwell St. Glasgow 19th May 2011

Welcome to The AGM

Kevin Paterson made the introductions and welcomed everyone to the event. He thanked those members standing down, Rena Dowling and Barney MacKay.

Kevin then gave an outline of the merits of national engagement its background and some of the highlights from the past year. Including the region's involvement in a number of working groups held with government and other housing professionals. He thanked all members involved in these groups.

Kevin thanked GHA for kindly hosting the network's AGM again, and for the hard work put in by committee members and GHA staff to ensure the success of this AGM. He especially thanked Marie O'Brien who had worked tirelessly to ensure the meeting was a quorum.



"who would have thought a few years ago that we would have Registered Tenants Organisations, via the Regional Networks, on government advisory groups with the same influence as COSLA, SFHA and other national organisations"

REGION 9

Kevin Paterson	WI
George McGuinness	G
Greg Hine	G
John Banks	G
Lillian Wolfries	G
Marie O'Brien	G
Margaret Henderson	G
John Goldie	G

The Year Past and The Year Ahead

The committee have been involved in a number of consultations in the past year including The Housing Bill and The Scottish Social Housing Charter. George McGuinness MBE was a member of the Allocations Sounding Board, looking at the allocations guidelines. Kevin Paterson continues to be a member of the Housing Minister's Housing Policy Advisory

Group. Greg Hine is on the web steering group, and Lillian Wolfries and Marie O'Brien were invited to the Garden Party at Holyrood Palace.

The year ahead will be spent mostly guiding the Scottish Social Housing Charter and engaging with the new Scottish Housing Regulator Board.



"The Commitment to The Regional Networks by the Scottish Government is as strong as ever"

The Presentations

Anne Cook gave a presentation on the Social Housing Charter which covered the background to the charter, the regions input in to the housing bill, challenges for the charter, and the consultations which will be happening in the year ahead. She gave the regional networks an A for effort and a B for the future. She added the credibility of the Regional Networks have increased dramatically within the Civil Service.

John Maciver gave a presentation explaining that HHP has 2200 homes spread over 150 miles throughout the Western Isles. 60% are rural or very rural with most located in small groups of properties. He explained some of the challenges and opportunities they faced due to their location and the fragile economy. He also explained the difficulties involved in their engagement with tenants and tenant groups and the approaches being taken to overcome these barriers.

Maureen Dowden, gave a presentation about tenant involvement within GHA. In the early 1980s they had 180,000 properties and will shortly have approximately 50,000 properties. She gave more information about the second stage transfers and the factoring services they provide. She also explained their draft three year strategy, working with Schools in Glasgow covering a number of areas and their plans for digital inclusion. She explained the RTO federation supports 30 RTOs and provides grants and top up grants to enable the federation and RTO members to achieve accredited skills.

Anne Cook



John Maciver



Maureen Dowden



Your New Committee Members

The committee welcomes two new members:

1. **Mark Joseph** - Mark is from Stornoway in the Western Isles where is a member of the Cearns Community Association and the Western Isles Forum of Tenant and Residents Associations. He was until recently a Social Policy Advisor to the CAB.
2. **Thomas Cassidy** - Thomas is a member of Househillwood Tenants and Residents Association in Glasgow. He is also a member of Glasgow Housing Association's Tenants and Residents Federation and their Tenants Panel.