



South
Cambridgeshire
District Council



Minutes of TPG meeting held at Denson Close, Waterbeach on 3rd June 2019

| Attendees (Members) | Address |
|------------------------------|-----------------|
| Wendy Head (WH) (Chair) | Balsham |
| Patti Hall (PH) (Vice-Chair) | Cottenham |
| Les Rolfe (LR) (Temp Sec) | Bourn |
| Adrian Prentis (AP) | Cottenham |
| Carol Akribi (CA) | Impington |
| Dave Hammond (DH) | Great Abington |
| Edna Ingrey (EI) | Great Wilbraham |
| Glynis Goff (GG) | Waterbeach |
| Howard Pheasant (HPh) | Cottenham |
| Jim Watson (JW) | Willingham |
| Joan Ball (JB) | Histon |
| Keith Nash (KN) | Willingham |
| Paul Bowman (PB) | Willingham |
| Ron Ryan (RR) | Cottenham |
| Gillian Payne (observer) | Girton |
| Maureen Crabbe (observer) | Girton |

Initials are used in the minutes to indicate those who were involved in discussions

| Attendees (SCDC Representatives and guest speakers) | |
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| Peter Moston (PM) | Resident Involvement Team Leader |
| Helen Pagram (HPa) | Resident Involvement Officer |
| Julie Fletcher (JF) | Head of Housing Strategy |

| Agenda item | Topic | Action by - |
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| 1 | <p>Apologies Received from (TPG members) Angela Lewell, Val Hickey, Bob Petch and Nancy Chisholm.</p> <p>Please advise Wendy by phone on 01223 894394 or email wendymhead@yahoo.co.uk if you are unable to attend the next meeting.</p> | All |
| 2 | <p>Minutes of the previous meeting The minutes of the previous meeting were otherwise taken as read,</p> | |

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| | agreed as a true record, and signed by the Chair. | |
| 3 | Matters arising There were no matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting. | |
| 4 | Mears Nobody from Mears was present and no report had been received. | |
| 5 | <p>Julie Fletcher - SCDC</p> <p>Julie began by explaining that there was considerable rearrangemnets of staffing in progress at SCDC offices and because of that there were shortages in some departments.</p> <p>New higher-level staff are being recruited soon, starting with a new CEO.</p> <p>Following reports from outside consultants it is hoped that new staff positions will be taken up at director level for planning.</p> <p>Our Resident Involvement Team Leader, Peter Moston, will be leaving in July but will be replaced as early as possible. Meanwhile Helen will be operating the department on her own. Chelsea, currently on maternity leave, will be working within the Ermine Street business and Martyn has also changed departments.</p> <p>A new housing strategy for SCDC has now been published. The aim is to increase the delivery of new homes with affordability in mind. Latest techniques including pre-built sections delivered and effectively bolted together on site could speed up the process. It is planned to make at least two hundred new homes available over the next five years but hopes are that that figure could be doubled. The council will also be looking at the private renting sector and the availability of self-build sites. Discussions are taking place with housing associations to make sure enough affordable housing is available.</p> <p>New energy policies are coming into force and the aim will be to help fight fuel poverty.</p> <p>The possibility of retirement villages, already in place in other parts of the country, is being considered.</p> <p>Asset management priorities are being considered when it comes to overall spending.</p> <p>On the subject of resident involvement the Best-Kept Garden Competition will be judged over the coming months. The five-yearly elections for TPG members is due in the Autumn. It is hoped that a new scrutiny system will be introduced for TPG.</p> <p>CA asked about the possible retirement villages. Would it be everything from general needs housing to care home level all on one site whereby residents would be able to be housed according to their level of need and care. JF explained that it was always difficult to know what future needs would be. PM added that getting the right staff and staffing level would be the biggest problem.</p> <p>EI pointed out that East Anglia was the driest area of the UK. How were the shortage of water and lack of food production areas going to be resolved if continual building was going to continue to increase the population and reduce the amount of land available.</p> <p>JF said that larger sites would be designed with all available and</p> | |

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| | <p>required facilities built-in such as shops, doctors. Meanwhile much building work was slowing, especially for larger properties, whilst the implementation of Brexit continued in its present form.</p> | |
| 6 | <p>TPG Election</p> <p>Chair asked for confirmation that all those present would be standing at the election.</p> <p>PM announced that, following the latest magazine article there had been no new applications. There were currently eight remaining elected members and nine co-opted members, with an additional four observers at recent meetings. For those standing on the election a short profile and photo would be required as soon as possible. The nomination form is available on the council's website.</p> <p>Voting forms, along with a list of candidates, will be in the next issue of Tenant & Leaseholder News. There will be a restriction of one vote per household and results are expected to be announced by November/December.</p> <p>It was reminded that, in the constitution, co-opted members must apply for election at the first available opportunity, or stand down. Co-opted members who stand down may be able to be re-co-opted at a later date.</p> | |
| 7 | <p>Training</p> <p>Two training sessions have been arranged.</p> <p>Monday 10th June at the Marketing Suite near SCDC offices, and in July at SCDC offices.</p> <p>Both sessions will run from 10.00am to 1.00pm.</p> <p>Those who had not already confirmed their attendance were asked to do so as soon as possible.</p> | |
| 8 | <p>Any other business</p> <p>Chair made a suggestion that TPG meetings could be reduced from the current ten per year to bi-monthly. This was put to those members present who voted by a large majority not to change the frequency of meetings.</p> <p>Chair then reminded those members attending other meetings as representatives of TPG - forums, contractors, SCDC - that reports of each meeting should be presented at the following TPG meeting.</p> <p>There was a request made for suggestions for speakers at future meetings, either SCDC departments/officers or outside organisations. Several suggestions such as the Police, Bobby Scheme and Universal Credit, were forthcoming and will be considered.</p> <p>One of the new observers from Gorton asked why every village didn't have their own representative on TPG. The system of electing and co-opting, and the numbers involved were explained.</p> <p>Chair asked HPa if she could produce an explanation of how Village Voices and Tenant Inspectors operated.</p> <p>It was also asked what Sheltered Estate Officers do.</p> <p>JM said that there was now full information regarding solar panels online at the council's website. PM said that leaflets were available explaining how to get the best results. He also pointed out that the companies responsible for installing solar panels were completely</p> | |

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| | <p>independent from SCDC and that several different companies had been used over the years, some of whom had since folded, and the panels had been transerrred to other companies.</p> <p>HPH commented on the quality of grass-cutting in Cottenham. He was asked to give a report to Chair for the next SPLandscapes contractors meeting.</p> <p>LR asked for verification and an update on the assisted collection of wheelie bins from Communal Rooms on each Sheltered Scheme. Some did not happen.</p> | |
| <p>9</p> | <p>Next meeting</p> <p>Monday 2nd September, 6.30pm-8.30pm, Denson Close, Waterbeach</p> | |