

Heywood Area Panel Meeting

Heywood Magic Market
22nd November 2007

Action Notes

1 Terms of Reference

Andy Wadsworth proposed that a member of the Heywood Area Panel meet with the other 3 Borough representatives to scrutinise and agree Terms of Reference for Area Panels. Doreen Travers (Back o' th' Moss), Margaret Sweatman (Pot Hall) and Mary Deido-Raynor (Back o' th' Moss) expressed interest.

2 Training and Expenses

Andy confirmed that Panel members would be entitled to training by RBH. They would also be entitled to travelling expenses to meetings and training. Additionally, RBH would try and provide specific training if requested.

The Panel asked for RBH to provide in house 'Chair' training before the next meeting in February 08.

3 Election of Chair

Doreen Travers and Margaret Sweatman proposed for Chair. Andy suggested the panel elect Chair and Vice Chair.

Doreen Travers elected as Chair and Margaret Sweatman elected as Vice Chair – agreed unanimously.

4 Code of Conduct

The Code of Conduct sets down guidelines on behaviour and conduct at Area Panel meetings including towards RBH staff attending the events. There have been instances previously of abuse to RBH staff at meetings in Heywood.

The Code of Conduct also protects the Chair during meetings.

5 Additional Items for Meetings

The Panel would have control of the Agenda and certain items would remain as standard such as Quick Wins funding (for next 3 years) and One-off Tenant Participation Grant. Additional RBH items would appear as and when necessary.

6 Agenda for Next Meeting

Each area would have 4 meetings a year. Agenda items for the next Heywood meeting will include:

- Regeneration
- Quick Wins
- Service Charge.

7 Quick Wins (QW)

Debbie Hopwood reported that applications for QW projects can range from £500 to £20K. Area Panels are to make individual decisions. The Quick Wins Project could run alongside any major improvement projects.

Margaret Sweatman queried why repairs on fencing and joined footpaths were not on the list. She said that during one of Pot Hall's meeting Angela Havens had promised to raise this issue and feed back.

Nasreen agreed to send Margaret's e-mail address to Debbie Hopwood.

Owner Occupiers

The Panel agreed RBH to include owner occupiers in pre-consultations and offer a percentage towards costs to external repairs so all properties are of the same standard. NDC has not done this and the overall effect is disappointing.

8 One-off Tenant Participation Grant

The total number of Township properties determines the portion of the One Off grant for each area and Heywood is the smallest in terms of RBH properties. The grant application system would remain as before and the Area Panels will regain the power of approval.

Applications are currently assessed and approved between the Principal HO and Chair of the previous Area Board; and the decision making power will revert back to the Area Panels

9 Other Local Business

Mary reported that a large black dog had attacked her and a Post Office worker in the last few days. The Housing Officer she had spoken to had said that this was not an RBH matter.

Debbie agreed to discuss this issue with Cedar Avenue HO and feed back.

Margaret said that the issue of dogs has been resolved on Pot Hall through excellent service by the Dog Warden. The Dog Warden has the power to

approach and raise issues with owners and also impound the animal away if necessary.

Rochdale Safer Communities Plan

Dorothy said she could not attend the above meeting but would complete and return the attached form to the relevant section. The Panel decided that RBH send more forms to groups in Heywood who can pass them on for wider circulation.

10 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on 21st February 2008 at Heywood Magic Market from 10 am to 12 noon.

Notes taken by Nasreen Akhtar, TPO
22 November 2007