

Middleton Area Panel
Middleton Civic Centre

6pm; Tuesday 5th February 2008

Attendance

Elaine Richardson (Rhodes TRA), Russell Richardson (Rhodes TRA), Tom Rodgers (TOMTRA), Ken Wilson (Tenant), Roy Thompson (RBH Board), Ian Adshead (RBH), Jonathan Walton (RBH), Andy Wadsworth (RBH), Vera Costello (RMBC), Sharon Wolsey (Hollin EMB), Lois Tinker (Hollin EMB), Natalie Stokes (RBH), Mary Welsby (MJBTRA), Molly Stringfellow (MJBTRA), Jay Law (RoFTRA).

Apologies

Paul Stott (Boarshaw TRA), Ann Hall (Boarshaw TRA), Julie Hall (AMTRA), Barbara Barningham (Hollin EMB). Chisholm Court & Lonsdale Court have expressed non-interest in attending Area Panel meetings as they would prefer to attend SHIP meetings to progress and make decisions on sheltered only issues.

Introductions

AW welcomed all to the meeting and introductions were made.

AW explained that he would act as temporary chair initially until a Panel Chair was elected. AW also explained that the Area Panel ToR still needed to be agreed by RBH, RMBC and RoFTRA in addition to recognised Middleton TRA's so to date the Middleton Area Panel was not a legal panel until the ToR has been agreed.

1. Election of Chair

AW explained this was not on the agenda. AW explained that in the draft ToR the proposal is to elect a fixed tenant chair and vice chair, but what would be the attendees' suggestions for chair election?

KW and RT proposed electing a fixed chair and vice chair for 1 year term to provide consistency to meetings. KW proposed nominating BB for chair at this meeting in her absence. NS explained this would be unfair as the chair election was not an agenda item advertised and there may have been a different turnout had chair election been on the agenda set. NS also explained that some attendees were new to the Area Panel meetings and did not know BB and would be unable to vote fairly without some information about nominated persons and their relevant knowledge, experience and skills.

NS suggested chair election would have to take place at a future meeting and be part of the agenda publicity.

Attendees suggested moving the ToR agenda item forward.

2. Terms of Reference

AW explained the ToR need to be agreed by RBH, RMBC, RoFTRA and recognised Middleton TRA's. AW explained that decisions made by this meeting would be implemented as these are delegated to RBH (officers).

AW explained that all TRA representatives and tenants are allowed to vote tonight. The only non voters tonight would be officers of RBH, RMBC and RoFTRA.

Sharon asked what is the quorum and whether this meeting is quorate?
AW explained it is a fixed number of tenants plus a number of estates to be represented. AW explained the meeting tonight cannot have a quorum as until the ToR are agreed the Panel cannot exist officially.

MW asked what difference would the meeting tonight's discussion of the T of R make? Would it stand or influence the decision if it still has to go to RBH, RMBC and RoFTRA?

AW explained that in the draft ToR the Chair has to be a tenant and the chair can only be elected by tenants. This was drafted so that no matter what, tenants will be in the majority to make a decision, but RBH wanted to encourage TRA reps to get involved. There are 2 votes for all recognised TRA's.

One of the aims was to encourage tenant involvement by encouraging tenants not on recognised TRA's to attend and take part.

LT queried whether it is correct that non tenants may vote on matters that are purely tenant issues. Answer – No.

MW stated that owner occupier representatives from recognised TRA's should have a vote as being part of TRA's they would have integrity.

AW referred to the draft ToR - 2nd page - tenants only vote on tenant issues but residents may vote on issues "beyond the garden gate".

LT raised concern that no TRA's had been sent the ToR prior to the meeting to read, digest and comment on.

AW explained that ToR were circulated to RMBC and RoFTRA on 23rd November 2007, explaining deadline for comments/ agreement by 10th January 2008. Neither RMBC nor RoFTRA replied by the deadline. RBH therefore had the choice to continue or not with the February Area Panel meetings. RBH took the decision to continue with meetings.

IA suggested that as the other agenda items are only for information and not decision, the agenda could be moved on.

3. Report on Environmental Improvement Programme and Quick Win Schemes.

IA introduced the "Quick Wins" report and environmental audit. Priority estates were Hollin and MJB estates. IA explained the Environmental Steering Group was set up with tenant reps because there were no Area Boards; it was an interim arrangement before area panels were set up. Some quick wins have been developed - Appendix 1 is a summary of the position to date.

IA explained the report. Middleton allocation is £110K for next financial year and it is hoped there will be at least 5 "quick wins" per year (dependent upon panel decisions). The report is for information at the moment. IA explained there is a role for both tenants and residents to vote on these "quick wins". IA explained that by the next panel meeting is hoping to have a summary sheet of the proposed schemes for decision by the panel.

IA explained "quick wins" scheme proposals can be brought to the panel through the area office or through the TPU team.

VC queried if the panel only meets four times per year can we wait 3 months if schemes need to be progressed more immediately?

AW and IA explained that we may have to move meetings forward to make decisions on the "quick wins".. Meetings may not be evenly spread out if decisions need to be made. IA explained the intention is to bring as many schemes as possible to the next meeting for decision then at further meetings progress can be reported.

NS queried what are the Quick Wins criteria? VC clarified there is no specific criteria; any proposals on environment, fencing, security issues, hedge / shrub removals, parking areas, clearance of untidy areas etc.

4. Agenda items for the next meeting.

AW explained to any TRA has the opportunity to put forward agenda items prior to the next meeting.

RT stated that other area panels were advertised in other local papers and Middleton was not advertised in Middleton Guardian. LT asked why was no advert placed for Middleton Area Panels?

AW explained that as time was spent drafting the ToR he did not place the advert in the Middleton press due to Middleton being the first meeting.

LT requested it be minuted that Middleton people have been discriminated against due to it not being advertised. AW apologised to everyone present for not advertising in the Middleton Guardian. AW also explained that due to not having an agreed T of R it was difficult to advertise.

RT suggested drafting a more personalised article about the panel rather than an advert. RT agreed to progress this.

The meeting decided to defer several agenda items to be discussed at a further meeting.

Attendees suggested a further meeting to be set to discuss the ToR, chair election and uncompleted agenda items.

AW agreed to advertise the next meeting in the pape. Will also advertise future meetings in Tenants Talkback.

5. One Off TP Grants

As the underspent budget would not be carried forward it was requested if all could vote on the submitted one-off TP grant application at tonight's meeting. Sharon explained the one off TP grant request from Hollin. Unanimous approval.

AW thanked people for attending. AW stated the date for the next meeting to be determined as soon as possible.

AW declared the meeting closed.