

## **Pennines Area Panel (Inaugural Meeting)**

**Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> November 2007**

**Butterworth Hall, Milnrow**

**Present:** Alwyn Smith (Bentgate Community Association)  
Keith Churchman (Birch View Tenants & Residents Association)  
John Sharp (Birch View Tenants & Residents Association)  
Keith Barker (RBH)  
Councillor Irene Davidson (RMBC)  
Steve Edwards (RoFTRA)  
Andy Wadsworth (RBH)  
Deborah Jamieson (RBH)  
Nigel Allan (RBH)

### **1. Introduction**

Andy Wadsworth gave a brief introduction to the background to the establishment of the Area Panels and outlined possible issues that they would be involved in, including one off grants and quick win grants (previously Estate Design Improvements).

### **2. Terms of Reference**

- Common core terms of reference for all Area Panels
- To be agreed by RBH, RMBC and RoFTRA & recognised groups; consultation on-going with a timescale of 10.01.08 for responses.
- Voting procedure – two votes for each recognised group in attendance with additional votes based on the number of properties on the estate (cap will be used to ensure tenants have the majority vote where there is a split decision). Other members will have one vote. When signing attendance list members must state their name, estate represented and whether a tenant or resident.

### **3. Matters Arising**

- Keith Churchman expressed concern at residents/owner occupiers being able to have a say in respect of facilities on estates funded out of the HRA. Andy Wadsworth commented that the voting procedure would address this issue.
- Keith Churchman stressed the need for the Area Panels and Township Committees to avoid duplication albeit it was acknowledged that there would be some discussions where there were overlapping issues. RMBC had raised this issue during consultation.
- Alwyn Smith expressed concern that RMBC were so involved in the Terms of Reference for the panels which were essentially an RBH function. Deborah Jamieson asked that these issues be raised as part of the consultation process.
- Keith Barker felt that the Terms of Reference should exclude ad hoc items of business being introduced.

### **4. Training and Expenses**

Specific budgets will be identified for formal tenant participation structures in 2008/09 and this will include training for Area Panels who will be asked to identify what training is required.

### **5. Election of Tenant Chair**

Given the quorum had not been fixed at this meeting it was **agreed to defer this item to the next meeting.**

## **6. Code of Conduct**

Andy Wadsworth circulated the code of conduct for information

**Agreed in principle.**

## **7. Quick Wins**

Andy Wadsworth explained that a surplus in the HRA should provide £10 M for environmental improvements on estates with just under £2 M of that being designated for 'quick wins'. It was estimated that the budget for the Pennines next year would be around £127,000.

Keith Churchman expressed concern regarding a decision over funding for a play scheme on Birch View estate which had been proceeding with the apparent full support of officers and a resolution of Township Committee but which had then been blocked by a Steering Committee.

Andy Wadsworth explained that this was an issue for the Council rather than RBH but Deborah Jamieson noted the concerns and confirmed that there would be further dialogue between Birch View and the Steering Committee.

Councillor Davidson confirmed that this issue had come up at a number of meetings including Township Committee but it did not appear to be common knowledge that funding had been blocked, therefore suggested that it needed to come back to Township Committee for an explanation of the problems.

**Agreed - that Deborah Jamieson would contact Donna Bowler (Chair of the Steering Committee) regarding the issue.**

## **8. One Off Tenant Participation Grants**

Andy Wadsworth asked whether any group required a copy of the application form and criteria and urged members to utilise this resource as otherwise it would get subsumed back into the corporate budget. It was estimated that the Pennines budget would be around £ 2,200.

## **9. Day, Date, Time and Location of Future Meetings**

The Area Panel will meet on a quarterly basis. Andy Wadsworth asked for suggestions for possible venues, whether the meetings should be at a fixed venue or should rotate and preferred days.

**Agreed – Next meeting, Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2008 at 6.00 pm (Wednesdays are preferred day), possibly at Thistleyfield, Milnrow or Meadowfields.**