



**Partners for Improvement in Islington
Residents Forum Meeting**

Minutes of the Residents Forum

Held at 6.30pm on Thursday 20th September 2007

PRESENT:

Forum Members:	Susanne Lamido	(SL)	Interim Chair
	Richard Best	(RB)	
	Muriel Duncan	(MD)	
	Rosemary Hilton	(RH)	
	Michael Adedeji	(MA)	
	Lisa Crowley	(LC)	
	Suzanne Bryant	(SuB)	
	Shirley Bryant	(ShB)	
	Eugen Hockenjos	(EH)	
	Dave Gorman	(DG)	
	Chris Radway	(CR)	
	Chris Matthews	(CM)	
	Chris Graham	(CG)	
	Partners:	Tom Irvine	
	Ami-Anne Spring	(AAS)	
	Liz Voss	(LV)	
HFI:	David Selo	(DS)	
	Jane Mugridge	(JM)	

Apolpgies:	Georgina Galliers	Interim Vice Chair
	Sally Ingrey	

1. Ratifying new Forum Terms of Reference

- 1.1 It was decided that this item should be deferred until the next meeting in November, due to meeting papers not being received sufficiently early to allow proper consideration.
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2. Chairing Arrangements

- 2.1 The discussion regarding chairing arrangements was deferred until the next Forum meeting.

- 2.2 It was also decided that Susanne Lamido will continue to be the interim Residents Forum Chair at least until this discussion.
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3. Minutes and Matters Arising

- 3.1 It was discussed that Forum papers were not sent out with sufficient time for Forum members to read and make comments on. It was agreed that these minutes had in fact been sent out promptly after the last meeting. It was agreed that in future all papers should be sent at least 1 week in advance.
- 3.2 EH said that inaccuracies were recorded in the previous minutes. These included identifying a persons name when referring to a vote, and item 4, page 4, section should now read '*Anti Social Behaviour standards should apply to those who come in to our homes and not just Partners residents*'.
- 3.3 With this exception, the minutes were agreed as accurate. The other changes suggested were not agreed.
- 3.4 The Chair asked EH not to be overbearing or talk across other people, and to allow the Forum to get through the business of the meeting.
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4. HFI/LBI Consultative Panels Reports September 2007

- 4.1 DS introduced item and ran through paper, highlighting items for consultation only.
- 4.2 From page 1 the group were informed that financial incentives are being introduced for council tenants to downsize, this is not something that can be forced upon people, and is only an option.
- 4.3 DS moved to page 5, and explained that HFI have had difficulty in agreeing to a Service Level Agreement with FITA, HFI would like input on how the money available could be spent elsewhere, if an agreement with FITA cannot be reached.
- 4.4 CR expressed that he is strongly favour of option 3, Direct Funding of TRA's.
- 4.5 DS went on to discuss page 15 concerning digital switchover and the proposal to meet any financial implications. HFI have a contract with Sky to ensure that all properties serviced by a communal aerial will be switched over. It has been proposed that 25p per week will be added to tenants rental payments over a period of 10 years, to cover the cost of installation and up keep, and that Leaseholders will be required to pay the amount in full. It was pointed out that as Partners manage mainly street properties, this will not have a huge impact as most aerials are independent and not communal.

- 4.6 Arguments for this 25p charge included that this is not a great deal of money to pay when it is considered that some digital packages are quite costly, along with this the upgrade will be taken care of.
- 4.7 Arguments against the 25p charge included that some Partners residents might not want to be switched over by HFI, yet will still have to pay the charge.
- 4.8 It was decided that more information on the details of the proposal need to be provided. These were as follows: how are Leaseholders affected and are council residents being subsidised, will wiring also be upgraded, what provisions are being made for elderly and disabled people, are there any other factors that should be considered and how many Partners residents does this affect.
- 4.9 DS then went on to discuss page 11 New Build Development. HFI would like to know if members have any thoughts on areas for new build developments to be introduced. At this stage there are no plans for the properties to be made available for out-right sale.
- 4.10 Concern was expressed that council properties at 42-44 Pentonville Road have been empty for a long time and that the council have so far not been interested in investigating or solving the problem.
- 4.11 It was decided that DS will take this issue back to HFI and ask them to investigate.
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5. Works Team Update

- 5.1 TI informed the group that Partners will write to the members of the Forum with the revised Works Programme next week. The matter is being dealt with by highest level management. The group were informed that apart from the residents already affected, only very minor changes have been made to the original schedule.
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6. Partners Performance at a Glance

- 6.1 The report was noted by the Forum.
- 6.2 The issue of Emily Thornberry MP's recent "survey" was raised. It was discussed that the MP had written to tenants asking them contact her only if they had any problems or concerns to report, therefore was not a true survey and did not reflect Partners residents satisfaction/ dissatisfaction as a whole. Some members added that they had refused to comment or not responded because of the way the letter was worded.

7. HFI Comment on Partners Performance

- 7.1 JM introduced item and explained that HFI were pleased with Partners performance during July 2007 on both round 1 and round 2.

8. Partners Residents Fun Day

- 8.1 It was discussed that the Partners Residents Fun Day was a great success and that although not as many people attended as was hoped for, that those that did attend had a very good day.
- 8.2 It was noted that the venue may have been a bit out of the way for some residents and that the event could have been more heavily publicised. Along with this it was suggested that next time a similar event is held, we should look in to having it later in the day, perhaps from 2.00pm – 5.00pm as many residents may be shopping in the middle of the day.

9. Training Needs Discussion

- 9.1 It was discussed that Partners are happy to provide training to Residents Forum Members. The type of training can be opened up to the group but due to a lack of time in this meeting, the item was deferred to the next meeting.

10. Any Other Business

- 10.1 EH said he wanted to raise a major concern about Partners dealing with his personal data. The Chair advised EH he should not raise personal issues. EH said that he would have his say and continued to speak. The Chair said that EH was speaking too loudly, was being overbearing and was not allowing others to speak. The Chair closed the meeting.
- 10.2 The meeting closed at 8.15pm

Date of next meeting: 22 November 2007

Actions arising from minutes – Partners Residents Forum 20/09/07

ITEM NUMBER	ACTION FROM MINUTES	UPDATE	OWNER
1	Item Brought forward to meeting of 22/11/07.		Forum
2	Item Brought forward to meeting of 22/11/07.		Forum
4	Summary of Forum decisions and comments on HFI Consultative Panel Reports to HFI	Complete 28/09/07	Tom Irvine
4.8	<p>HFI to provide responses to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Forum commented that Council-owned properties at 42-44 Pentonville Road have been empty for a long time and the Council has not resolved this problem and appears not to have investigated the matter properly. HFI to provide response. 		Amanda Dooley, HFI
4.10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Forum decided it needed more information on the DIGITAL SWITCHOVER proposal: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How are leaseholders affected? - Are tenants being subsidised, and if so, by whom? - Will wiring be upgraded? - What provisions are made for disabled and elderly people? 		Amanda Dooley, HFI
5.1	Send revised PFI2 works programme to Forum members.	Complete 28/09/07	Tom Irvine
8.2	Pass Forums' comments about Residents Fun Day to staff who organised the event	Complete 21/09/07	Tom Irvine
9	Forum Training Item brought forward to meeting of 22/11/07.		Forum

