

Notes of Holland Walk Area Housing Panel 13th September 2006

Present

John Slaughter Moelwyn Hughes TA
 Judith Williamson Brecknock TRA
 Michelle Breen Bowerman Court TRA
 Mr King Hilldrop Crescent
 Patricia Evangelou New Orleans TRA
 Ron Vince 1 in 1000 Rep
 Eileen Avis Associate Director, Homes for Islington

Skevos Louizos Young People's Services
 Liz Kelly Girdlestone Youth Project

Cllr Cornwell St George's Ward
 Cllr Wally Burgess St George's Ward

Baljit Sheemar Area Housing Manager, HWAHO - HFI
 Liza Durrant Performance & Partnership Officer, HWAHO - HFI (020 7527 7471)

Apologies

B Bose Hollins McCall Darren TRA
 Thomas Cooper Lower Hilldrop Community RA
 Dot Sanders Melmerc TRA
 Terry Sanders Melmerc TRA
 Cllr Janet Burgess Junction Ward

ITEM	Matter raised	Action
1.0	Introductions	
	Introductions were made	
2.0	Youth presentation	
2.1	<p>Skevos Louizos from Young Peoples Services gave a brief update on the youth activities that had been funded by the estate security budget 06. The Panel gave £26,500 total funds to Youth Service Team. Funding allocations are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Elthorne Youth Club, 2 nights a week for 8-17 yr olds. Approx 20-30 children per night 2. Miranda Youth Club at St Johns Community Centre. 3. £7500 spent on small projects in partnerships with various TRA's. 4. Girdlestone Youth club – (funded from surplus 05 budget) 	

2.2	SL to send through a report on the individual schemes. Tufnell Park will be the next area of concentration as anti social behaviour is high.	
2.3	Panel expressed concern that smaller estates seem to be forgotten about and that the issue is about access to youth services that are already in place. SK will improve on publicising all youth groups in the area.	
2.4	Panel would like to be invited to youth project open/launch days.	
2.5	SK to attend the panel in January to update further	
3.0	Previous minutes	
	Agreed	
4.0	HFI Items	
4.1	<u>Report 1 – Restructuring of Area Housing Offices</u> This report is for consultation. BS took panel through report.	
4.1.1	General comments 2.1 Some panel members expressed concern over the lack of consistency or continuity throughout the organisation. Panel would like restructure to be done effectively so that it is not required for at least 10 years. They would like to see this as the last change in a long time.	
4.1.2	One panel member expressed confusion over the closure of the Isledon road office and was under the impression that Partners were taking over. BS clarified the position that Partners were considering using the office space as a base when HFI moved out but this is no longer the case.	
4.1.3	Panel felt that customer services and repairs should be the forefront of the organisation and that the size of the teams doesn't matter, the issue is about training staff to give them more knowledge.	
4.1.4	BS emphasised that all front line staff will be equipped with knowledge and skills to answer queries on rent, tenancy management etc. More specialised queries would be referred on to relevant officers.	
4.1.5	Recommendations 2.2 Panel recommend either A or B for new catchment areas. Panel did not think it was for them to make a decision on where Canonbury should be based.	
4.1.6	2.3 Panel do not want the name of area office to change. They agreed that it would be unnecessary and a waste of resources.	
4.1.7	2.4 Panel agree to have one housing panel for each area. Panel did not want to decide on option 3 as they did not think it was appropriate to make a decision on what the east of the borough should do. Panel agreed that the East should decide on what works best for them.	
4.1.8	It was noted that Margery Fry TRA is in the derecognition process. Cllr	

	WB to help the TRA.	
4.2	<u>Report 2 - Decent Communities Strategy</u> This report is for consultation. BS takes Panel through report	
4.2.1	Panel discussed the report and in general they were very positive on the idea and agreed that all themes are priorities for inclusion but requested more information. Panel would like to know how the strategy is being funded and whether the government is funding it or if money is being cut from other housing services.	
4.3	<u>Report 3 – Estate Services Improvement Group</u> This report is for consultation. BS takes Panel through report	
4.3.1	Recommendations	
	2.1 Panel agree to proposal to disband existing caretaking service improvement group.	
4.3.2	2.2 Panel agree to proposal to establish a new estate services improvement group. Panel requested that the new group members should visit troublesome estates when invited by residents. Panel also wanted further information on how the group will be empowered to improve services.	
4.3.3	2.3 Panel nominated Michelle Breen from Bowerman Court TRA to represent on newly formed group. Chair requested regular updates from the meetings.	
4.3.4	N.b One absent panel member suggested to the Chair after the meeting that it might be beneficial to have 2 reps from Holland Walk, one for the Elthorne area and one for Whittington. Chair to raise this with panel at next panel meeting	
4.4	<u>Report 4 – Homes For Islington update</u> This report is for information only. Panel note report	
4.5	<u>Report 5 – Decision Items considered at Board Meeting 31st July 2006</u> This report is for information only. Panel note report	
4.6	<u>Report 6 – Forward Plan</u> This report is for information only. Panel note report	
4.7	<u>Report 7 – 2006/07 capital programme – 1st Quarter monitoring</u> This report is for information only. Panel note report	
4.7.1	Cllr Cornwell expressed that work on Margery Fry should start ASAP.	
5.0	AOB	
	No AOB	

6.0	Date of next Meeting	
	Wednesday 15 th November 2006 at 7.15pm	