

Minutes of the First Steps Working Group meeting 09/08/2018

Present: Kathy Higgins (Chair), Ron Ellis, Dave Lee, Derek Weller, Terry Weller, Cliff Green, Rosemary Englander and Sheila Taylor (minutes).

Apologies: Mavis Boatwright, Dave Boatwright, John Orr and Lesley Berry

Kathy welcomed Rosemary back after her absence.

1) Minutes of the meeting held on 12th July 2018

These were accepted by those present.

2) Matters arising not elsewhere on the agenda

2.1) Lesley not been able to contact Sinead for a full discussion about the drama classes. **Action Lesley**

2.2a) Dave sent the information about printer servicing to Cliff.

2.4.1) Ron said that the HRA grant has now been received.

2.4.2b The first arts and crafts session went well. Sarah is deciding when to do a second one.

2.4.2c) Cliff has stocked up on inks etc. He has been refunded for this but is still owed £80 that he paid for materials for the first arts and crafts session. Kathy will ask Sarah for the receipts for this. **Action Kathy**

2.4.2d) Sarah has cut down on the use of colour in the newsletter.

2.5) Dave L wrote the information on flood precautions for the last newsletter

3) Financial report

Mavis was not present so there was no formal report, but all was thought to be going well. Dave L mentioned quarterly reporting to Mavis. Ron will now follow this up with her. **Action Ron**

4) Grants update

4.1) Sheila reported that the deadline for the first MKC grant (up to £400) has now been set for 31st August. After discussion it was decided to apply as follows: £160 for two arts and crafts sessions and £120 each for an exploratory session about a drama group and a Hallowe'en event.

4.2) The next WCC grant application will be for the pantomime trip. Dave has been trying to get information from the Deco theatre about this year's production, but they have not replied to his emails. He will try phoning them.

Action Dave L

4.3) Ron suggested seeking grant funding to improve the community garden. Sheila said we have been invited to make another application for Tesco Bags of Help funding. Bill will talk to Bill Fuller about costings for this **Action Ron**

4.4) Kathy led a review of recent activities.

- There was a full coach for the last pantomime trip.
- The seaside trip went well. Sheila is doing the WCC feedback form. Derek will write some comments for it. **Action Sheila and Derek**
- 26 children attended the first arts and crafts session.

5) The Bridge

5.1) Kathy asked for items for the next edition. There will be reports on the arts and crafts session(s) and the seaside trip. For the environment, there will be an acknowledgement that there has been a reduction in the use of the wrong rubbish bags and of the fact that Ron can no longer supply blue boxes.

5.2) There was a discussion about how we can give information about the estate, including how to protect the environment, to new residents. It was agreed to draft information for a welcome pack. Rosemary will prepare some initial thoughts on this for the next meeting. **Action Rosemary**

5.3) The deadline for copy to Sarah for the next edition is Weds 22nd August. Sarah will then produce the newsletter for printing by 24th August and it will be printed over the weekend and delivered on the 27th and 28th August. Cliff will be away, so the newsletter will be printed and stapled by Kathy, Derek and Terry.

Action Sarah, Kathy, Derek and Terry

6) Regeneration Watch

RORE (Residents of Regeneration Estates) now exists and is becoming well organised. There was a discussion about the Council's standpoint that tenants are the people most affected by regeneration and their voices must be heard. Kathy felt we should be thinking of ways we in TBRA can involve Council tenants more, as they are not well represented locally or in RORE generally. She has proposed to RORE that its stance should be that Residents' Support Groups (RSGs) should be formed as sub-groups of RAs, thus enabling other members who are not Council tenants to support those who are.

Dave L reported on a useful meeting between RORE and MKC. The Council seems to be making genuine efforts to put right the problems caused by its previous approach. However, 23% of Council houses are below decent homes standard. The Council has just launched a 12-week consultation asking its tenants how the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) should be used. Options are divided into four areas and tenants are asked to prioritise them. Dave will forward information about this and write something about it for the newsletter. **Action Dave L**

After discussion, it was agreed to use our next WG meeting to decide on a strategy for using the survey as a way of getting Council tenants more involved in TBRA and RORE. It will also be raised at the TBRA meeting at the end of September. **Action All**

Dave L also said there would be another RORE meeting the following evening. A major item on the agenda would be to draft a RORE response to the Council's response to issues raised at the first meeting. Terry and Derek agreed to attend this meeting. Dave L will give them copies of the document from the Council.

Action Terry, Derek and Dave L.

7) Dates of Next Meetings

Thursday 30th August TBRA meeting 7.30 in the Meeting Place

Tuesday 4th September Cabinet

Thursday 6th September next WG meeting 7 pm Old Groveway, brought forward from 13th

Thursday 13th September Cabinet Regeneration sub-committee

Wednesday 19th September Full Council