

# **Minutes of the Residents Association meeting. 26/09/19**

**Present :** John Orr, Chairman. Lesley Berry, Secretary.

**Apologies:** None.

## **Minutes of the meeting of 29/08/19.**

Approved.

### **Invited speaker.**

Nigel Long. Cabinet member for housing for Mk council.

Nigel said he would speak in two parts.

1. Housing strategy, 2. Regeneration strategy.

The funding was from two pots.

1. The housing revenue account, which is in good shape and only used for the council houses.

2. General fund. Which is not in good shape and is used for schools, roads and non council housing . This fund is derived from the council tax.

### **Housing strategy**

Working on five strands.

1. Homelessness funded by the general fund which is £2.5 million overdrawn.
2. New build £120 million.
3. Council house investment programme. £165 million
4. Regeneration programme
5. Housing strategy.

Nine problems facing MK

1. Huge homelessness problems
2. Failure to deliver affordable housing
3. Affordable housing not affordable
4. Much housing provision lacks security
5. Inequality/poverty/skills/health.
6. Council failure to invests in housing stock
7. MKDP control of land
8. Housing and planning interface (tensions)

## 9. Housing core stripped out by Tories.

Key priorities are:

- .Great places to love.
- .Increase housing supply including truly affordable housing.
- .Safe and secure
- .High quality homes and landlord services.

## Regeneration strategy

### Principles

- .No longer planning to pull house down to start from scratch.
- .Councils approach will be easy to understand.
- .Council want local people to be involved.
- .Council will find solutions that are affordable and achievable.
- .Implement structures to ensure partnerships are embedded into development plans.
- .Use accurate and up to date evidence to inform decisions.
- .Open and transparent about what we are doing.

### Councils commitment.

- .Build strong relationships in our community.
- .Look at how we agree priority areas
- .Focus on the non physical aspect of regeneration such as improving jobs, skills and life chances.
- .Invest in existing homes and build new homes
- .Continue with planned regeneration programmes in Fuller Slade and the Lakes Estate.
- .Create a plan for each community that sets out how we'll tackle local challenges, the resources we can use to do so and the priorities for investment.

### Nigel Long asks:

- .why can't the council aim higher than decent home standard ?
- .Close down the MKD partnership and transfer money back to council ?

### Question.

Is green space going to be respected in regeneration.

**Nigel's answer**

Policy used to be destroy community's and start from scratch but not any more.

**Rosie asks**

What is the council doing about bad landlords.

**Nigel's answer**

The council is not very good at it.

**John** and **Rosie** agree that the council wilfully ignore this problem .

**Nigel** ended on this note. Council need to learn to respect its clients more.

**Sheila** asked for a vote of agreement to apply for funds for things like the Halloween event, Christmas Party and the pantomime. Everyone agreed by a show of hands.

**Next meetings:**

.Working group 9th Oct. umm Cliffs house.

.Residence meeting. 31st October. 7.30