

HARROGATE DISTRICT HOUSING FORUM

6 December 2007

Committee Room, Council Offices, Crescent Gardens, Harrogate

WHO WAS THERE:

Madeleine Anderson – HBC
Pauline Harrison - HBC
Sue Baker – HBC
Sylvia Purser – Harrogate CAB
Abigail Burns – NYCC
Christine Dobson – HBC tenant
Susan Hobbs – Broadacres Housing
Eve Hartley – Stonham
Janette Parker – LFHA
Melanie Coward – YMCA
Cllr Margaret Atkinson – HBC
Judy Field – Barnardo's
John Honneyman – NYYPCT
Stuart Whyte – Accent Group
Derrick Armstrong – Foundation Housing
Ceredwyn Evans – HDWA
Karen Deegan – HBC
Jenny Wood – HBC
Cllr Pat Jones – HBC
Jo Kilburn - HBC

APOLOGIES:

Sue Royston
Cllr Jean Butterfield – HBC
Lance Gilroy – NY Police
Chris Lord – Yorkshire Housing Assoc
Vicky Metheringham – NYCC
Gill Keighley – Barnardos
Denise Rooney - HARP
Gill Warner – Supporting People
Lindsey Ellis – Sanctuary HA
Keith Watts – HBC
Beverley Brotherston – HBC
Eryl Welton – NYYPCT
Andrew Harrison – HADA
Rowena Richardson – HBC
Mark Bavister – Yorkshire Housing
Carol Loftus – HBC
Kath Kay – Housing Corp
Julie Burrows – Accent Group
Liz Hancock – Harrogate Homeless Project
Tony Shepherd – St Paul's Church
Wendy Merry – Foundation Housing
Carol Loftus – HBC

AGENDA:

1. Apologies
2. Minutes from last meeting
3. Housing Needs Survey 2007 – Update
4. Homelessness Review – Update
5. Foundation Housing – AIRS
6. Harrogate District Local Strategic Partnership Update
7. NY Housing Forum Update
8. County Homelessness Group Feedback
9. Information exchange/ any other business
10. Meetings for 2008:
13 March
12 June
18 September
4 December

1. Minutes of last meeting and matters arising

1.1 The minutes were agreed as a correct record.

1.2 There were no matters arising.

2.0 Housing Needs Assessment 2007

2.1 Jenny Wood, the Council's Principal Development Officer, gave an update on the Housing Needs Assessment, Regional Spatial Strategy, and the local development framework progress.

2.2 The Housing Needs Survey showed a shortfall of 830 affordable dwellings per annum for each year from April 2006 to March 2011.

2.3 The Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) – a Government approved document that sets out planning targets for the whole region – sets a limit of 400 dwellings of all tenures per annum across Harrogate District each year to 2021.

2.4 The Local Development Framework (LDF) – the new planning system which is currently being developed and approved to replace the old Harrogate District Plan - uses the RSS as the basis for future housing growth across the region, ie 400 homes per annum.

2.5 The Core Strategy of the LDF, which includes policy on settlement growth, homes for local people etc, has been approved by Council for submission to the Secretary of State, along with objections. In Spring 2008 there will be an Examination in Public where final objections/comments can be lodged.

2.6 The Preferred Options for Site Allocations (i.e. sites identified for housing or employment development) was approved by Council in December 2007. A six-week public consultation period on the preferred sites will start 20 January 2008. Objections lodged will be considered by the Council, which may revise the sites if deemed necessary.

2.7 Homes for local people (proposed changes to planning policy) –

- 50% affordable housing target on developments of 2 or more houses
- Developers of single dwellings to pay a commuted sum towards affordable housing
- Allocate sites for 100% affordable housing in villages with local services

2.8 Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA)

The Government requires that all Housing Sub-markets undertake a Strategic Housing Market Assessment in order to inform planning documents by better understanding how the local housing markets operate. The Council expects to have its SHMA finished by Spring 2008.

3.0 Homelessness Review Update

- 3.1 The Homelessness Consultation event held in October 2007 went well, with a lot of good input from all the participants. The notes have been written up and sent out those who attended. If you would like to see these, please contact Jo who will send them out to you.
- 3.2 Jo is waiting for the last of the user surveys to come back in from partner agencies that have been conducting face to face surveys on behalf of the Council.
- 3.3 Approval will be sought from Cabinet in January 2008 to sign up to a North Yorkshire Joint Homelessness Strategy and Action Plan.

4.0 Harrogate and District Local Strategic Partnership Update

- 4.1 Stuart Whyte provided a written update from the HDSP meeting in October 2007. The most important issues for housing related to the Local Development Framework.
- 4.2 Local Area Agreement
The Local Government White Paper 'Strong and Prosperous Communities' published in October last year set out fundamentally different arrangements for Local Area Agreements. Although a North Yorkshire Local Area Agreement was only agreed last year, the Government requires a new one to be produced, in accordance with the new guidelines. This needs to be done by April 2008.

The LAAs will continue to be three-year agreements with priorities agreed between all the main public sector agencies working in the area and with central Government. The stated benefits are supposed to be more emphasis on area based service delivery, more freedom in spending decisions (funding will no longer be ring fenced for specific purposes), fewer central targets and reporting systems.

The HDSP have provided comment on preferred indicators.

The County Homelessness Group and the Supporting People Core Strategy Group have come to an initial agreement about which housing, homelessness and Supporting People indicators should be included. See Gill's written update for more information.

5.0 Foundation Housing – AIRS scheme

- 5.1 Derrick Armstrong from Foundation gave a presentation on the new AIRS scheme that they are setting up for ex-offenders across North Yorkshire. AIRS = Area Intensive Resettlement Scheme.
- 5.2 The AIRS scheme is aimed at 5 main priority groups of offenders,
- * prolific and priority offenders
 - * offenders with serious substance misuse problems
 - * Domestic abuse perpetrators
 - * mentally disordered offenders
 - * high risk offenders

Part of the brief of each AIRS housing support worker will be to carry out pre-tenancy work with offenders referred to the scheme, which will include, where appropriate, helping to access accommodation for those who present either homeless or in unsuitable accommodation.

5.3 Operational across North Yorkshire

Contact:

Harrogate 01423 554380

Craven 01756 701110

Scarborough/Whit/Ryedale 01273 361100

Hambleton/Richmondshire 01845 522222

6.0 North Yorkshire Housing Forum

6.1 Most of the items covered under the headings of Harrogate and District Strategic Partnership, and County Homelessness Group.

7.0 County Homelessness Group Feedback

7.1 The last meeting of the County Homelessness Group was 9 October 2007. Minutes attached. Jo gave a quick update on the issues currently being looked at by the Group.

7.2 Gypsies and Travellers

North Yorkshire Supporting People has commissioned Horton Housing Association to provide an accommodation related support service. The service will include helping people from the gypsy and traveller community making planning applications for new sites.

Research, being done by arc4, is well underway on the housing needs of gypsies and travellers in North Yorkshire. A final report will be available in May 2008.

7.3 Ministry of Defence – Catterick Garrison

The No.4 Mechanised Brigade will be coming back from Germany replacing the 19 Light Brigade currently stationed at Catterick. This will mean that there will be large movements of army staff and their families resulting in a net increase of households, and shortfall of housing (approx 200 houses).

The Army will be leasing approximately 150-200 properties from Annington Homes to accommodate the extra households. Annington Homes are currently in the process of purchasing properties for this purpose. These properties will be located mainly in Darlington (two thirds) and with a smaller number in and around Catterick and Thirsk.

7.4 Choice Based Lettings

The Council has decided at this point in time not to proceed with implementing a choice based letting scheme. However, a bid has been submitted by City of York, Yorkshire Coast Homes, Scarborough BC, Broadacres, and Hambleton BC for government funding to set up a joint

CBL scheme.

8.0 Supporting People Update

8.1 Apologies had been received from Gill Warner but a written update paper had been circulated (appended at the end of these minutes).

8.2 Also attached is the report resulting from the SP consultation event – Picnic in the Park – that was held in September 2007.

9.0 Any Other Business

9.1 Crashpad

- A new micro-site has been set up for Crashpad – www.barnardos.org.uk/crashpad
- Crashpad are holding an open day on Monday 10 December 2007

9.2 Volunteers are wanted to take turns in chairing the Housing Forum. Please contact Jo if you are interested.

10.0 Date of Next Meeting

13 March 2008 – Committee Room, Council Offices, Crescent Gardens, Harrogate, 2pm-4pm