

HARROGATE DISTRICT HOUSING FORUM

8 March 2007

Committee Room, Council Offices, Crescent Gardens, Harrogate

WHO WAS THERE:

Karen Deegan – HBC
Rowena Richardson – HBC
Cllr Jean Butterfield – HBC
Sue Baker – HBC
Lindsey Ellis – Sanctuary HA
Janette Parker – LFHA
Bob Evans – LFHA
Catherine Clough – Northern Counties
Jo Bowles – Chevin Housing
Melanie Coward – YMCA
Sarah Ellaby – HADA
Helen Teale – HADA
Carol Rawson – Barnardos
Beverley Brotherston – HBC
James Allen – Foundation Housing
Pauline Harrison – HBC
Susan Hobbs – Broadacres Housing
Madeleine Anderson – HBC
Stuart Whyte – Accent Group
Abigail Burns - NYCC
Lance Gilroy - Police

APOLOGIES:

Wendy Merry – Foundation Housing
Julie Spink
Eve Hartley – Stonham
Ruth Bain – HBC
John Honneyman – NYYPCT
Debbie Skowronski – Accent
Judy Field – Barnardo's
Christine Dobson – HBC tenant
Sylvia Purser – Harrogate CAB
Lyndsey Betley
Liz Hancock – Harrogate Homeless Project
Keith Watts – Howztalk
Eryl Welton - NYYPCT
Sue Royston
Avril Hunter – Supporting People
Gill Keighley – Barnardos

AGENDA:

1. Apologies
2. Minutes from last meeting
3. Local Housing Allowances – Update
4. Homelessness Review – Update
5. Harrogate District Local Strategic Partnership Update
6. NY Housing Forum Update
7. County Homelessness Group Feedback
8. Format of future meetings
9. Information exchange/ any other business
10. Meetings for 2008:
11 June
18 September
4 December

1. Minutes of last meeting and matters arising

- 1.1 John Honneyman requested that the minutes be corrected to reflect the questions he had raised regarding the reason for the large disparity between the Housing Needs Assessment showing a need for 830 affordable dwellings per year and the LDF's aim for 160 per year.

The minutes have now been changed to read:

John Murray raised the question of why there is such a large difference between the need for 830 affordable homes a year (as stated in the Housing Needs Survey), and the 160 affordable homes a year that has come out of the Regional Spatial Strategy.

Jenny Wood replied by saying that the Regional Assembly is the decision making body responsible for producing the Regional Spatial Strategy and allocating housing numbers by local authorities. The current RSS includes a broad development strategy for the region, setting out regional priorities in terms of location and scale of development, including:

- Economic development
- Housing
- Transport and communications
- The environment (including water, minerals and waste, energy generation and use)
- Tourism and leisure
- Urban and rural regeneration

As part of this strategy it is targetting housing growth in those areas where economic regeneration is needed, such as Doncaster, and restricting growth in environmentally sensitive areas such as North Yorkshire. Through this it is hoped that the economic markets within the area will be evened out.

The RSS has set a housing growth figure of 390 dwellings per year. Based on past delivery of affordable housing and forthcoming planning policies, the council expects to secure 40% of the 390 as affordable housing, ie 160.

It is accepted that this is in no way meets the Harrogate and District affordable housing requirement.

- 1.3 There were no matters arising.

2.0 Local Housing Allowance - Update

- 2.1 John Murray (Head of Revenues and Benefits) gave an up date on the introduction on the Local Housing Allowance, which will come into effect 7 April 2008. A copy of his notes is attached.

3.0 Homelessness Review Update

- 3.1 Jo Kilburn gave an update on the progress of the local homelessness strategy. A handout was given out summarising the main findings and key actions.

- 3.2 The key priorities that have been identified are:
- Reducing homelessness through prevention
 - Reducing the use of and improving the standard of temporary accommodation
 - Reducing the incidence of youth homelessness
 - Improving access to support services to prevent homelessness
 - Increasing the supply of affordable housing

3.3 Work on the County Homelessness Strategy has started, through the County Homelessness Group. Work done at a local level is being fed into the development of this county-wide strategy. Sign off by each of the local authorities is needed by the end of July 2008. JK to feed back at next meeting. JK

4.0 Harrogate and District Local Strategic Partnership Update

4.1 The HDSP Annual conference has been set for 3 July 2008, 9:15 am at the Ripon Leisure Centre. Please contact Ann Duncan at Harrogate Borough Council for more details.

4.2 North Yorkshire Draft Community Plan
The Sustainable Community Strategy for North Yorkshire 2008/18 sets out the overarching strategic direction and long-term, sustainable vision for the economic, social and environmental well-being of North Yorkshire. It also sets out the key priorities for public, private, voluntary and community sector partners in order to improve the quality of life for all the communities of North Yorkshire in the medium term (2008/11). These priorities then inform the Strategy's delivery agreement - the North Yorkshire Local Area Agreement (LAA).

This document is currently out for consultation (*now finished and final draft available at <http://www.nysp.org.uk/html/policies-and-consultation/>*).

HDSP Website

Two designs have been progressed and decision on which one to run with should be made at the next HDSP meeting in June 08.

HDSP Minority Ethnic Forum Project Officer

A project worker has been appointed and is based at CVS. The forum thought it a good idea to invite the worker to the next meeting. JK

5.0 North Yorkshire Housing Forum

5.1 No one was able to feedback on this.

6.0 County Homelessness Group Feedback

6.1 The last meeting of the county Homelessness Group was held 22 January 2008.

6.2 Local Area Agreement2 – Draft Indicator Sets

The deadline for feeding into the new set of indicators was 22 February and the group were to lobby to ensure homelessness indicators are included. JK confirmed that at the moment the Supporting People

'Planned Moves' indicator has been included and work is being done to try and get the homelessness prevention indicator in as well.

6.3 Joint Protocols – Update

Joint Protocols for 16/17 year olds, families with children and care leavers have all been updated and signed off by the Chief Officers Group. Protocols still to be reviewed and updated are Ex-offenders, Armed Forces, and Mental Health.

County Homelessness Directory

6.4 This has been updated, new services added, and will be web-based.

7.0 **Supporting People Update**

7.1 Apologies have been received from Gill Warner.

8.0 **Future Format of Forum**

8.1 A brief discussion was held on how people felt about the current format of these housing forums.

8.2 Stuart Whyte said that he would like to see the forum take on a more lobbying role for affordable housing. This would involve raising the profile of affordable housing to counter the messages being put out by the nimby- action groups. Also there is a need to ensure that housing is sufficiently represented on all the decision making bodies and forums.

8.3 Most people would like to see an annual housing/homeless event, with a market place type so people could find out more about different agencies and to network.

8.4 In terms of chairing the meetings, Wendy Merry/Foundation, and Stuart Whyte have offered to help.

9.0 **Any Other Business**

9.1 Lindsey Ellis from Sanctuary asked the forum whether the Council and the RSL's operating in Harrogate would like to do some benchmarking on service areas such as rent arrears, repairs and void performance. RSL's said they would ask their management, and Jo Kilburn said that she would ask the Council's mgmt team.

**RSL's
JK**

9.2 Northern Counties are now 'Guinness Northern Counties'

9.3 Karen Deegan gave a quick update on the new Homebuy Plus scheme that is being funded by the Golden Triangle Partnership. The scheme provides an equity loan of between 35% and 45%. Up until 31 June the scheme will be offered solely to existing council or housing association tenants. After that, it will be opened up to other first time buyers.

9.4 Cllr Butterfield asked that tenant representation on the Forum to be reviewed to ensure that enough tenants are attending. Jo Kilburn to follow this up.

JK

10.0 **Date of Next Meeting**

11 June 2008, 2-4pm, Crescent Gardens, Council Chambers

