

Haringey Leaseholders' Association Committee Meeting

Meeting held on Wednesday 20 January 2016 at Wood Green Social Club, Stuart Crescent, N22

In attendance

Committee:

Lloyd Grandson, Chair (LG)
Sue Brown, Vice-Chair (SB)
Nick Martin-Clark, Treasurer (NMC)
Peter Gilbert, Secretary (PG)

The meeting was opened by the Chair at 7.15pm

Welcome

LG welcomed everybody to the meeting.

Apologies

Apologies were received from Yvonne Campbell, Yvonne Golding and Lincoln Grandson.

Minutes

The minutes of the Committee meeting held on Monday 21 December 2015, which had been circulated to officers, were read at the meeting and, subject to minor amendments, were approved.

Matters arising

LG said that he had not been in touch with HLCCG following the meeting of the HfH Board on Monday 14 December 2015.

NMC said that the bank had sent him the necessary forms for LG to complete in order to be added as a signatory to HLA's bank account.

Leasehold Panel Matters

It was noted that Nesan Thevanesan had not replied to the letter dated 8 December 2015 from HLA's solicitors.

NMC commented that the survey undertaken by Chinyere Ugwu on which she had reported to the Panel meeting on 9 December fed into the Resident Engagement Strategy. The draft Resident Engagement Strategy did not include anything about the structure for leaseholder representation, and did not refer to the questions that Chinyere had covered in her presentation to the Leasehold Panel.

SB said that at the meeting of the HfH Board on 20 October 2014 the Board Chair had said that leaseholder representation was going to be through four separate groups.

Despite an email on 6 January in which the Chair of the Panel had said that she would be speaking to Mr Thevanesan about the Resident Involvement Agreement as soon as possible,

she had not yet replied to HLA's letter of 15 December. It was agreed that LG should write to the Leasehold Panel Chair as suggested by NMC prior to the HLA Committee meeting on 21 December.

Possible Follow-up Review by the Resident Scrutiny Panel

PG reported that he had written to Yvonne Denny, Vice-Chair of the RSP, on 22 December 2015 to complain that the Chair of the RSP had been in breach of the Panel's Code of Conduct. It was agreed that if she did not reply by 26 January (ie within 20 working days) PG should follow up the matter.

PG also reported that Charlotte Currie of HfH had advised him that she would reply by the end of the week to his FoI request of 3 December 2015 relating to the RSP.

Facebook Account

It was agreed that as Clare Richards, HLA Press Officer, was not in attendance this item should be deferred to the next meeting which she was available to attend.

Proposal for HfH Board to end arrangements for formal recognition and funding support for borough-wide/umbrella groups by Homes for Haringey

a) Contact with Association of Tenant Representatives

NMC reported that he had been in touch with members of the Committee of the Association of Tenant Representatives. (Its officers were XXXX (Chair) who did not want to speak to HLA, XXXX (Secretary), and XXXX (Treasurer)). He had also spoken to Cllr Sheila Peacock, Chair of the Supported Housing Panel, who was Haringey Council's Elderly Persons Champion.

The ATR had not been consulted about HfH Board's decision to withdraw recognition from umbrella groups, but had been told about it at a meeting with HfH officers on the morning of 14 December, just hours before the Board meeting. The ATR representatives had asked if they would be allowed to carry on without HfH funding and had been told that they would be de-recognised. In a Facebook post, Keith Dunn of Haringey Defends Council Housing had claimed that the main reason for de-recognising the ATR was to save money.

NMC added that he had spoken to XXXX and Cllr Peacock following a meeting that they had had with HfH officers on the morning of 20 January. XXXX had been very upset that the ATR was being disbanded with no promise of further funding and had been of the view that the ATR was being used. Cllr Peacock had said that the meeting had gone well and was very positive about the ATP continuing, although unfunded and under a different name, and that HfH would help them to find a meeting room. NMC said that the ATR did not want to join HLA in any action for a Judicial Review. The next meeting of the Sheltered Housing Panel would be on Wednesday 24 February.

It was agreed that HLA should make a FoI request via the Feedback Team to HfH for the minutes of the ATR/HfH meeting on 20 January.

b) Judicial Review

Meeting with Tracie Evans, Chief Operating Officer of Haringey Council

NMC reported that a further meeting with Tracie Evans and with Anne Woods, Haringey Council Head of Internal Audit, had not yet been arranged. Ms Woods had returned to work at the beginning of the week.

It was agreed to forward Ms Evans and Ms Woods a copy of the pre-action letter for Judicial Review, with a note regretting that HLA had had no option but to seek a Judicial Review as a result of HfH's decision to get rid completely of umbrella groups without any consultation.

Resident Engagement and Communication Strategy – Consultation

The Committee received a copy of the observations on the consultation on the Draft Resident Engagement Strategy that had been sent to HfH on 15 January 2016.

Social Cleansing and Demolitions

It was noted that HLA had responded on 17 January 2016 to Haringey Council's consultation paper on Estate Renewal.

Housing and Planning Bill – approach to Catherine West MP

SB said that she had still to write to Catherine West's office in relation to the Housing and Planning Bill and to ascertain where the Bill was in the Parliamentary process.

She also had to chase Cllr Alan Strickland for an answer to HLA's letter further to Haringey Council cabinet's approval in September 2015 of the renewal of HfH's contract as the Haringey ALMO for a period of 10 years from 1 April 2016. NMC would forward her a copy of that letter.

Treasurer's Report

In view of the limited time available, NMC did not make a formal report.

AGM Arrangements

It was agreed that the AGM should be on Saturday 30 April 2016 at Wood Green Social Club, starting at 10 for 10.30am.

Next Meeting

It was agreed that the next Committee meeting should be held at Wood Green Social Club on Wednesday 3 February 2016, by when HLA's solicitors should have received HfH's response to the pre-action letter for a Judicial Review.

The meeting closed at 10.20pm