

**TENANTS PANEL
21 FEBRUARY 2017
COUNCIL CHAMBER, WEELEY**

Attended by: Dennis Smith (Chair), Teresa Retter, Brenda Bragg, Carol McDougall, Ron Weyda, Ashley Purvis, Linda Bradnum, Angie Payne, Sid Payne, Roy Payne, Tony Williams, Patrick Gafney, Judy Heath, Brian Jones, Garry Champion, Pauline Kent, Michael Wyatt and Jon Langfield.

Also in attendance: Emma Norton (TDC), David Black (TDC), Matthew Wicks (TDC), Lynn Lee (TDC). Damian Williams (TDC), Steve Pearce (TDC) and Lisa Andrews (CVST) and LCA recipients.

1. Welcome and introductions

Dennis Smith welcomed everyone and thanked Panel members and other representatives for attending the meeting.

2. Apologies for absence

Emma Norton advised that apologies for absence had been received from John Johnson, Iris Peacock and Christian James.

3. Minutes of meeting held on 20 December 2016

The minutes were agreed as a true and accurate record

4. Presentation of Local Community Award

David Black outlined the background to the awarding of Local Community Awards and Matthew Wicks outlined the circumstances of this case.

In response to a query from Jon Langfield, David Black advised that eviction is viewed as and pursued as a last resort but, where this is necessary it requires the collection of evidence and compliance with court procedures which can take some time.

In response to a query from Dennis Smith, one of the LCA recipients advised that she would have liked there to be more support in place for one of the perpetrators of the anti social behaviour as they had mental health issues and could be considered to be vulnerable.

Matthew Wicks also gave an update on the current situation following the granting of the possession orders to illustrate that this does not always result in the situation being resolved.

A certificate and bouquet was presented to each recipient of the Local Community Award and Dennis Smith thanked them, on behalf of the Panel, for attending the meeting to discuss their experience and for the assistance they had provided the Council with in taking this legal action.

5. Community Voluntary Services Tending

Lisa Andrews, Vice Chair, outlined the role of the CVST as well as the range of activities that they support and are provided in the district. Details of all activities are available from the CVST offices in Clacton and are also publicised via their weekly email bulletin.

6. Housing Investment Programme 2017/18

Damian Williams, Head of Building and Engineering Services, presented to the Panel the draft Housing Investment Programme for 2017/18 that is proposed to be recommended to the Portfolio Holder and highlighted the differences between this and the 2016/17 budget.

In response to a query from Tony Williams, Damian Williams advised of the Council's procedure for managing or disposing of asbestos in its properties.

Members of the Panel noted the contents of Damian Williams' report and agreed that the proposed budget allocation and outline programme are put forward for consideration by the Portfolio Holder.

7. Disabled adaptation policy

Glen Follon, Special Needs and Adaptations Officer circulated a copy of the draft revised disabled adaptations policy and highlighted the proposed changes from the existing policy.

Members of the Panel agreed the proposed changes and Michael Wyatt and Pauline Kent gave very positive feedback on their experience of having this work carried out.

8. Credit union emergency loan fund

Lynn Lee, Commercial Manager, circulated a report regarding the proposed introduction of an emergency loan fund within the budget already set aside for the credit union, to assist council tenants in a crisis situation.

In response to queries from Carol McDougall, Linda Bradnum and Pauline Kent, Lynn Lee explained how the credit union currently operates and how the emergency fund would differ from this.

Lynn Lee also advised that a member of the Customer Support team is willing to attend local groups to promote the credit union if this would be a benefit.

Members of the Panel agreed to the recommendations to be put forward for consideration by the Portfolio Holder.

9. Feedback from themed sub groups

Ron Weyda gave feedback from the planned maintenance and improvement programme meeting held on 24 January 2017.

Dennis Smith gave feedback on the Tenants Performance and Scrutiny Group meeting held on 7 February 2017.

10. Any other business

Lisa Andrews advised members of the Panel of the Health and Wellbeing event being held at the Park Pavilion in Harwich on 18 March 2017.

No further issues were raised.

Next meeting of the Tenants Panel to be held on Tuesday 25 April 2017 commencing on 2pm in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Weeley.