

Orkney Residents' Panel

Minutes of meeting held on Wednesday 13 February, at OHAL Offices, Kirkwall

Present: Kate Barrett (Tenant OHAL) Alma Murray (Tenant OIC) Linda Lennie (Tenant OIC) Inga Ross (Tenant OIC) Chris Soames (Tenant OHAL); John Foster (Sharing Owner, OHAL) Ria Leslie (Tenant Participation Officer, OIC) Suzy Boardman (Communication & Engagement Officer, OHAL)

Apologies: Jon Barker (Tenant, OHAL) Glenys Brooke (Tenant, OHAL) Jen Boam (Tenant OHAL),

Facilitator:

Minutes: Suzy Boardman

Item	Action
<p><u>Welcome</u></p> <p>– SB thanked everyone for coming</p>	
<p><u>Next Steps for Procurement Project</u></p> <p>The group discussed the training session and spoke about possible ideas for the next project.</p> <p>Following looking at the OHAL garden & grounds maintenance contract the group decided they would like to carry out a visit to some of the joint OHAL/OIC areas. SB suggested that if they wanted to do this the group would start by looking at the Estate management policies of both OHAL and OIC to see what services they say they will deliver to tenants.</p> <p>Suggestions for places to visit were; Liberator Drive, Kirkwall; Jewadale Drive, Finstown.</p> <p>It was also suggested that they could visit Grieveship in Stromness and speak to the Community Association to hear how they get on and keep their area looking cared for.</p>	<p>SB to circulate copies of Estate management policies.</p>
<p><u>Winter Maintenance</u></p> <p>AM said she would be keen to look at how to improve the understanding of how the grit bins work, getting a message out that people should be mindful of their neighbours and look out for others. She thought that some people might be put off as they think they become liable if they put down the grit and someone subsequently falls and hurts themselves.</p>	

<p>It was suggested this would be a useful thing to include in newsletters and could also be put out over OHAL & OIC facebook and twitter.</p> <p>A discussion followed about empowering tenants and letting them know what they can do locally to keep their area looking nice.</p> <p>SB & RL had spoken previously about trying to get something arranged at Liberator Drive to get the residents together, could be something unrelated to housing and could ask Myrtle from Grieveship to come and speak about how they work together for the good of the community.</p>	
<p><u>Tenant Day</u></p> <p>Dates were discussed for the Tenant Day and everyone agreed that Friday 30th August would be the most suitable date to avoid, holidays, cruise ship visits and local festivals.</p> <p>Some ideas for the day include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cyber security – trading standards/nationwide • Make a Stand – Womens Aid and include help for men • LGBTQ • THAW • Wick Interested Tenants 	
<p><u>AOCB</u></p> <p>IR asked about Council Tax discounts and if it was possible for older people and those with disabilities. She went on to say that she had since found out that there are discounts that people can apply for at the OIC benefits office.</p> <p>KB mentioned the design of properties and whether consideration is given at the time of design as to how it will be lived in? SB suggested that all new properties are built to meet set criteria in terms of insulation and room size etc. The group felt that more could be done at the design stage to make sure that tenants can enjoy their homes.</p>	
<p>Session concluded: 4pm</p>	
<p>Date of next meeting: 13.05.19 2.30pm</p>	