

Community & Housing Overview & Scrutiny Panel

6.00pm, Wednesday 21 April 2004
Committee Room 1, The Council House
Salisbury

Minutes

Present

Councillor Mrs M I Evans (Chairman), Mrs P Brown, B E Dalton, Mrs J A Green, Mrs J M Greville, M A Hewitt (substituting for R H Bojdys), M J Osment, P V H Paisey and B M Rycroft

Apologies – Councillor Mrs P J Bissington, Mrs E A Chettleburgh and P J Leo (Vice Chairman)

Cabinet Members

Councillor A G Peach (Deputy Portfolio Holder, Community and Housing)

Tenants Panel

Mr D Edwards, Mrs J Fazackerley and Mr T Watkins

Officers

Debbie Dixon (Policy Director), Arabella Davies (Democratic Services Officer) and Robin Townsend (Acting Head of Community Initiatives)

Minutes

36. **PUBLIC QUESTION/STATEMENT TIME** – There were no questions/statements.

37. **COUNCILLORS QUESTION/STATEMENT TIME** – There were no questions/statements.

38. **MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING** –

RESOLVED - That the minutes of the last ordinary meeting held on 24th March 2004 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

39. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** – There were no declarations of interest or whipping arrangements.

40. **WORK PROGRAMME 2004-2005**

The Panel formed three sub groups and considered potential items for consideration in next year's work programme.

During discussion of this item, Members made the following suggestions:-

1. **Dual Role of the Enforcement Officer – Abandoned Vehicles and Dog Fouling**
Although this Officer works for Environmental Health Services, dog fouling is a matter of concern for the panel as a health/hygiene/community safety issue.
2. **Community Safety**
CCTV vs Individual Cameras – do they work, do they add value?
3. **Travellers**
Consideration of individual rights, SDC's rights, WCC's rights.
Social Inclusion Implications.

4. Housing Transfer Options

What is the fourth option? (i.e. the option for the Council of directly investing in its housing stock and the introduction of an Investment Allowance).

5. Community Funding

What funding avenues/options are there?

6. Arts

The review of the Arts should be ongoing and should cover the following:-

Who decides?

Funding issues

General benefits

Rural areas

Voluntary Organisations

7. Services to Young People

Links with Community Planning and the South Wiltshire Strategic Alliance

8. Rural Transport

Enabling people in rural areas to access rural facilities, e.g. leisure centres

Development of outreach schemes

9. Housing Repairs

Quality Control

Inspections

Customer satisfaction

10. Parking on Housing Estates

Especially in rural areas

Increasing number of commercial vehicles

11. Social Inclusion

What have we achieved so far?

What can we do in rural areas?

Benefit take up

Working with Parish Councils

12. Wisecard

Comparisons with schemes in other authorities, e.g. free access for unemployed people at certain times of the day.

13. Housing Strategy

Consideration of the allocation and points scheme – is the system fair, does it need to be altered?

Introduction of “Quiet Blocks” for similar aged people

RESOLVED –

(1) That a brief position statement on each of the above topics (excluding Housing Transfer Options) be brought back to the Panel for consideration at its next meeting on 16th June.

(2) That following the presentation of these position statements, the Panel will prioritise those topics it wishes to scrutinise in the next municipal year, bearing in mind that the current work of the Panel includes the Housing Stock Option

Appraisal and the Best Value Review of Balanced Housing Markets & Decent Homes.

- (3) That the issue of Housing Transfer Options, including the fourth option of an Investment Allowance, is a matter in its own right, requiring further consideration by the Panel.
- (4) That the Policy Director offer all Political Groups a briefing on the major changes currently faced by Housing.

41. FUTURE MEETING DATES

RESOLVED – That the provisional dates for the Community and Housing Overview and Scrutiny Panel meeting be agreed as follows:-

Wednesday 16th June (to be held in Committee Room 2)

Wednesday 14th July

Wednesday 29th September

Wednesday 27th October

Wednesday 1st December

(Note: Meetings to commence at 6pm and to be held in Committee Room 1, unless otherwise indicated)

The meeting closed at 7.15 p.m.