

# MINUTES OF TENANT LIAISON FORUM MEETING – 10<sup>th</sup> JULY 2007

## Present:

Chairman – Mrs M Horn, Grange Park Residents' Association  
Mrs J Feeney and Mrs C Thornber, Boston Way Tenants' Association  
Mrs A Stringer, Mr J Moulton, Mr S Johnson and Miss J Nelson, Grange Park Residents Association  
Mr M Christian, Ingthorpe North Tenants' and Residents' Association  
Mrs C Hardiman, Linden & Edmonton Residents' Association  
Mrs D Wightman and Mr B Rogers, Melbourne, Brisbane and Hobart Residents' Association  
Mrs A Allen, Mereside Tenants' and Residents' Association  
Mr C Randall, Munsters Residents' Association  
Mrs G King and Mr C Baker, Queens Park Residents Association  
Mr T Clayton, Washington Court Residents' Association

Councillor Tony Lee

Councillor Ron Bell

**In Attendance:** Mr P Jefferson, Mr T Fitzgerald, Ms S Grundy and Mrs J Grimshaw, Blackpool Coastal Housing  
Miss G Atkinson, Legal and Democratic Services

## ACTION

### 1. Welcome

The Chairman, Mrs M Horn, welcomed all representatives and staff to the meeting of the Tenant Liaison Forum.

### 2. Apologies

Apologies were submitted on behalf of Ms C Cook, Mrs S Wilson, Mrs M Cornall, Mrs D Williams, Mrs N Kilgallon and Mr C Holland.

### Minutes of the Previous Annual General Meeting

The minutes of the previous meetings of the Tenant Liaison Forum held on 11<sup>th</sup> July 2006 were agreed as a correct record.

### Chairman's Report

The Forum received a verbal report from the Chairman who thanked all Members and officers for their contributions to the Tenants' Liaison Forum's successful period of sustained growth during 2006/07. It was felt that significant changes would be occurring in Blackpool over the forthcoming year and that the Forum would be successful and positive in addressing and accommodating these changes.

### Election Of Officers

(At this point Mrs Horn vacated the Chair and Mrs Stephenson, as Clerk to the meeting, presided.)

Nominations for the post of Chairman had been submitted for Mrs M Horn and Mrs C Cook, and in light of this, the Forum took a vote for the election of Chairman. Mrs M Horn was duly elected as Chairman of the Tenants' Liaison Forum for the year 2007/2008.

At this juncture Mrs Horn retook her position as Chairman of the Forum, and announced that Mr C Randall was the sole nomination for the post of Vice-Chairman and had received two nominations.

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Mr C Randall was duly elected as Vice-Chairman of the Tenants' Liaison Forum for 2007/2008.

### **Dates of Future Meetings**

It was agreed that the dates of the meeting for the year 2007/2008 would take place as follows: -

Tuesday, 11<sup>th</sup> September 2007

Tuesday, 13<sup>th</sup> November 2007

Tuesday, 15<sup>th</sup> January 2008

Tuesday, 11<sup>th</sup> March 2008

Tuesday, 13<sup>th</sup> May 2008

Tuesday, 15<sup>th</sup> July 2008 (Annual General Meeting)

The Chairman closed the meeting at 10.15 a.m.

(The meeting ended at 10.15 a.m.)

Any queries regarding these minutes, please contact:  
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**In Attendance:** Mr P Jefferson, Mr T Fitzgerald, Ms S Grundy and Mrs J Grimshaw, Blackpool Coastal Housing  
Miss G Atkinson, Legal and Democratic Services

	<b>Action</b>
<p><b>1. WELCOME</b></p> <p>The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.</p>	
<p><b>2. APOLOGIES</b></p> <p>Apologies were submitted on behalf of Ms C Cook, Mrs S Wilson, Mrs M Cornall, Mrs D Williams, Mrs N Kilgallon and Mr C Holland.</p>	
<p><b>3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING – 8<sup>th</sup> MAY 2007</b></p> <p>The minutes of the previous meeting of the Tenant Liaison Forum held on 8<sup>th</sup> May 2007 were agreed as a correct record.</p>	
<p><b>4. HOUSING MATTERS</b></p> <p>(a) <u>Blackpool Coastal Housing (BCH)</u></p> <p>Members were informed that Blackpool Coastal Housing would be undertaking consultation work to engage the town's minority groups to ensure that all residents had equal awareness of and access to available housing services. Following the receipt of applications, the same points and priority selection process for available services would be utilised for all residents.</p> <p>It was agreed that the Residents Groups would publicise the work of the Tenants Liaison Forum in their community and encourage minority representatives to join the Forum.</p> <p>With regard to Performance Indicators, it was reported that these would be circulated to Members once released with accompanying information to assist the understanding of results. Performance in the area of rent arrears continued to be adversely affected due to the new Housing Benefits system, which was hoped to be fully functional by the end of July 2007. The system successfully implemented and created new benefit claims but was significantly slower when dealing with change of circumstances applications.</p> <p>The Forum discussed the idea of appointing a Panel that would meet</p>	<p>All</p> <p>Tony</p>

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prior to each Forum meeting to consider and agree on agenda items. Members would be informed of future dates for the Panel meetings.

Fitzgerald

(b) Grange Park Youth Group Presentation

The Forum received an update from the Grange Park Youth Group on the community work that had been recently undertaken by members.

A 'litter pick' at Blackpool Victoria Hospital to improve the outside areas for staff, patients and visitors had been carried out which would be increased to up to four nights per week to target litter created from the recently implemented smoking ban.

The Youth Group now provided a photography course, which had received funding support from Blackpool Victoria Hospital and Blackpool Coastal Housing. The course was extremely popular and had approximately 30 children attending on a regular basis. Photographs taken by the children would be displayed in the main wards areas of the hospital in the near future.

The Forum acknowledged the hard work and achievement of the Youth Group and it was felt that they be encouraged to apply for volunteering awards as recognition for their work.

(c) Blackpool Coastal Housing Business Plan

It was reported that both the new Business Plan and Delivery Plan for 2007/08 were currently being developed. The Business Plan was an important document which highlighted priority areas for future budget allocation, service enhancement and improvements for tenants.

Members of the Forum were invited to attend a Workshop meeting to discuss the Business Plan. This had been scheduled for 1<sup>st</sup> August 2007, commencing at 5.30 p.m. at Sevenoaks.

(d) Young Adults Board Update

The Forum was informed that the Young Adults Board would be established early in 2008 following the inspection by the Audit Commission.

(e) Sheltered Housing and Community Centres

It was reported that the Council had now adopted a smoking ban for all Council buildings and land utilised by staff and customers. This included Community Centres and signage both inside and outside the venues would be installed to remind users of the ban.

In response the queries raised regarding enforcement procedures, the Forum was advised that the ban would be enforced by the Council's public protection officers. As Council Policy, Blackpool Coastal Housing would have to adhere to the terms for all public buildings. Further information on the smoking ban Policy and enforcement would be brought to a future Forum meeting.

Peter  
Jefferson

(f) Performance Indicators

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The Forum noted that this item had been discussed earlier in the meeting under Item 4a.

### 5. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mrs Grimshaw reported that the Customer Suggestion Scheme would be a regular item on the Tenants Liaison Forum agenda. The comments from the suggestion cards were read out and the following actions were agreed:

1. That the Tenants Liaison Forum establish its own web site providing information and advice for Blackpool Coastal Housing tenants. A Workshop meeting would be arranged to discuss the item further.
2. That certificates be issued to volunteers to thank them for their help and assistance.
3. That the Council's Leisure Services be contacted to gain further advice on the establishment of a training circuit around Mereside football pitch.
4. That the Council's Planning Department be contacted for further information regarding increased parking provision at Mereside football pitch.
5. That consultation be undertaken with the Council's hostels to explore the possibility of facilitating a toy / book library.
6. To explore the possibility of providing a number of computers in hostels.

Julie  
Grimshaw

Julie  
Grimshaw

Peter  
Jefferson

Julie  
Grimshaw

Members updated the Forum with news and events from the Residents Associations that they represented.

Queries were raised regarding the level of power that the Council had over abandoned properties. Members were advised that if the rent on a property continued to be paid and was not in breach of the Tenancy Agreement then it would not be possible to evict a tenant, even if they were absent from the property for the majority of their occupancy.

The Forum was advised that the Allocation Policy for Sheltered Housing was currently being reviewed by the Adult Social Care and Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee as it had been recognised that problems had occurred with a number of tenants.

### 6. DATE AND VENUE OF THE NEXT MEETING

It was noted that the next meeting had been scheduled for Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2007 at 10.00am in Committee Room B, Town Hall, Blackpool.

(The meeting ended at 11.50 a.m.)

For any queries regarding these minutes please contact:  
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