



PBHA Forum

Minutes: Wednesday 13 August 2014



Present: Eight residents, Pam Frost, Clare Norton, Brian Jones, Mandy Mansfield

Chair: Tyron Sembu

Apologies: Kitty O'Leary, Precious Martini-Brown

Agenda

- 1. Matters Arising from last meeting**
- 2. VCS Update/Deposit for courses consultation (Pam)**
- 3. Update on premises move (Clare)**
- 4. Big Lottery Application (Brian)**
- 5. Wish List (Mandy and Brian)**
- 6. Tenant Fundraising activities**
- 7. TV and DVD matinees at Stamford Works**
- 8. Internet Cafe/Access**
- 9. Tenant Buddying**
- 10. Request for weekend sandwiches from Fareshare**
- 11. Trip to Southend – Deadline for booking and mobile numbers**
- 12. TPAS Regional Meeting - 25th September**
- 13. Catering service feedback**
- 14. Cranstoun Women's and Islington Mind Services**
- 15. AOB**

1 Matters Arising from last meeting

Two tenants attended the Board Meeting last month. Clare reported that The Board found it useful and will be inviting tenants and participants in the future. PBHA are looking into providing a dedicated pot of money for participation.

The Committee will resume tenant surgeries once the new members have been trained.

Isledon Canteen is now open following successful launch. A photo appeared in The Islington Gazette of the unveiling of the quilt.

The forum would like some photos of the launch on the walls at Isledon. **ACTION:** Mandy will speak to Zanna about arranging this.

It was clarified that communal lights are on 24/7 at 179. **ACTION:** Mandy to follow up with Property team.

2 VCS Update/Deposit for course consultation

Pam updated the forum of courses that are planned for September. These include IT, literacy and numeracy, photography, clothes making, trips out, joinery and catering.

VCS have been working in Hackney in partnership with WEA (Workers Educational Association), and are looking to extend provision to Islington. Art and exercise classes are planned for Isledon. However, there needs to be at least 8 people for the courses to go ahead. The same applies for Learning Trust classes. The timetable is currently being put together.

Pam reminded the Forum that several summer courses are available at The Arsenal Learning Zone.

Pam advised the forum that there is an issue of non-attendance, and is looking at ways of ensuring people turn up. For example, the creative writing course had to be cancelled due to non-attendance, which can be disappointing for others as well as irritates funders. Pam asked for feedback about charging participants £5.00 deposit to attend courses. This would be returned once a participant has completed 80% attendance. It was suggested that people would take attendance more seriously, and would consider commitment before signing up if they had to pay a deposit. There was general agreement that £5 is a reasonable amount, and the idea was considered fair. Further consultation will take place before a decision is made.

3 Update on Premises Move

Clare was pleased to announce that contracts have been exchanged on the new premises on Kingsland Road, Haggerston. The move is definite and should take place around Jan/Feb, once the building is complete and refurbished. The forum asked to see some sort of plans of the building. Clare is working on a consultation strategy that will include tenant and participant feedback to include what sort of cafe and reception area it will have, the decor, types of chairs and artwork etc.

There will be no joinery as there are residential flats above the premises. PBHA are looking for a separate premises for joinery workshops.

Clare will be talking to the press about the move in September.

Clare asked the Forum what they think of the name 'Peter Bedford Housing Association'. Does it reflect the work we do? The tenants responded that they are often asked 'Who is Peter Bedford?' It was suggested we have something about him

at Reception at Legard Works. It was pointed out that Peter Bedford has a good reputation amongst the voluntary and housing sectors (though it is not widely known by the general public).

4 Big Lottery Application

5 Wish List

Brian introduced himself to the Forum as Fundraising Manager. Brian is working on an application for a large grant to the Reaching Communities aspect of The Big Lottery (or BIG). This will be for funding VCS services. One of the criteria is that tenants and participants are involved in the planning and running of the services.

Brian asked for suggestions for activities and how they can get involved. Suggestions included music workshops, Internet cafe, suggestions boxes, mobile job club and careers advice surgeries at Isledon and Clissold. Other ideas were filmmaking, jewellery making, mosaic making, exercise classes, trips to Arsenal(!), men and women only health groups, and an over 50s Project.

Brian distributed a questionnaire asking for further suggestions. These can be forwarded to Brian or Mandy. **ACTIONS:** Mandy to forward the ideas that were on the Suggestions Board to Brian, and to put the questionnaire in The Rising Star. Mandy to look into ordering suggestion boxes.

In addition to the above, the forum asked for a TV, DVD and sofa for Isledon. The forum would like the Isledon canteen to be open every day.

6 Tenant Fundraising Activities

The forum discussed ways for tenants to get involved with their own fundraising. Suggestions included jumble sales, cake stalls, sponsored walks or sport events. Mandy will be writing to local theatres and cinemas for complementary tickets. It was suggested we also contact record companies, art galleries, write to Curries or Argos, as well as ask local celebrities to get involved with an activity.

7 Film matinees at Stamford Works.

Voluntary Action Islington has donated a large TV and DVD player. The idea is to hold film matinee afternoons at Stamford Works. The Forum would rather the TV goes to Legard Works. Mandy will get wider feedback around where it will go.

8 Internet Cafe/Access to Computers

The Forum asked if PBHA could provide an internet cafe/s for people to use on a drop-in basis. Mandy will feedback to management.

9 Tenant Buddying

Mandy is working on a role description for people to be a buddy to new tenants. This would involve making them feel welcome, chatting, popping round to check they are ok, or maybe give them a tour of Stamford or Isledon, for example. Two members expressed an interest in volunteering for this. Mandy will be advertising for volunteers in The Rising Star.

10 Fareshare

A tenant (not present) had asked that we contact Fareshare for sandwiches at Isledon or Clissold over weekends. Mandy will look onto this.

11 Trip to Southend

The deadline to book the trip is Friday 15th August. The coach is planned to pick up from Legard Works at 9am and Stamford Works at 9.30pm. Final details of the trip will be made available shortly.

12 TPAS Regional Meeting

Info was given out about a networking meeting organised by TPAS, who assist with Tenant Involvement. This will be a good way to network with other organisations and get new ideas. Mandy will take any interested tenants and participants on Thursday 25th Sept.

13 Catering Service

The Forum fed back that catering volunteers wanted the opportunity to cook a meal as they progress through their placement. Mandy will pass this on to Sopie.

There was some general feedback about the food and catering service

14 Cranstoun's Women's and Islington Mind services.

Posters for the above services were distributed.

15 AOB

- Pride exhibition launch is aimed for Wednesday 10th September at Outpost.

- Patrick is organising a tenant BBQ for the Sunday 24th August for the bank holiday weekend.
- A phone was requested for the Isledon canteen in case of emergency. Mandy will speak to Emma.
- The Forum requested a noticeboard for Isledon Canteen. **ACTION:** Mandy to follow up.
- The forum is happy to alternate days for the next Forum. **ACTION:** Mandy to liaise with Patrick and Sopic to ensure food is provided.

Date of Next Meeting: 1pm, Tuesday 16th September at Legard Works.