

Serpentine Court Regeneration Group

Tuesday 9 January 2018

Minutes

Residents: Gemma Bryjika, Zara Bryjika, Nicola Cox, Cassy Elliott, Joan Forsyth, Robyn Goodwin, Stella Hoskin, Sharon Jordan, Shannon McCaul, Chel Parker, Becky Pollard, Mohammed Rohim, Danielle Slaymaker, Amber Styles, Pauline Wright, Mercy Zvenyika

Anne Bircham (YourMK), Kevin Farrell (Tpas), Chair

1. Welcome, introductions and ground rules

Kev opened the meeting with a welcome and introductions and a reprise of the ground rules:

- Appreciate people's opinions
- One person only speaking at a time
- Honesty
- There is no such thing as a silly question
- Give the correct answer and if you don't know, say so

2. Space standards

At the SCRG meeting on 5 December, HTA offered to put together a short summary on space standards. This has not been produced as yet. Anne will contact HTA. Anne

3. Terms of Reference

Some SCRG members objected to having to sign the Terms of Reference as it was seen as patronising. Also, some members said they could not agree to the point about no swearing. The point was made that members should be able to talk in the way they are used to, and should not have to change the way they like to communicate.

A discussion followed and points were made about needing to respect members who do not like to hear swearing; not swearing when children were present, and what words were unacceptable.

Kev appreciated the members' views about having to sign the terms, and said that what really mattered was that members wanted to participate and cared enough about their community to attend SCRG. Anne also accepted the point on behalf of YMK and it was agreed that YMK would not insist on signatures.

On the point about swearing, it was agreed to keep an eye on the situation and it was up to the SCRG as a group to manage members' behaviour and agree what was acceptable.

4. 18th December Exhibition

A SCRG member raised a concern that HTA Design might have reported to a Cabinet meeting on 2 January 2018, that the tenants were happy with the options that had been exhibited. It was pointed out that many different opinions have been given by tenants and there were lots of issues that needed to be sorted out. Anne said she was certain that options for Serpentine

Court were not discussed at the meeting but she would go on to the MK Council website, check the minutes and circulate them. Anne

Anne circulated HTA's report on the exhibition and agreed to send electronic copies to those with email. Anne

Kev provided a verbal report on the feedback gathered by Tpas from residents and business owners who attended the event.

5. **Repairs**

A SCRG member reported that two repair operatives had visited her home in recent weeks and queried whether the work would be carried out because the block was due for demolition.

Anne read out a statement regarding repairs and maintenance from YourMK and she circulated to the SCRG members. It read:

"YourMK is committed to ensuring all council properties are safe, warm and dry. All repair and maintenance works will be carried out to homes within all regeneration areas to the same standard and timescales, 28 days for routine repairs and 4 hours for an emergency. Planned work programmes such as replacement of bathrooms, kitchens and heating systems will continue where these components are no longer serviceable through our repairs service. Communal and health and safety works such as lighting, gas safety, and electrical checks will be carried out to ensure compliance with all health and safety regulations.

For all repair related enquiries please call our team on 0330 113 2522 or email repairs.miltonkeynes@mearsgroup.co.uk to report a repair or to enquire about we your repair will be attended to".

6. **Waste Management Sub Group**

The sub group met before the SCRG meeting and it was reported that the members are to prepare a Powerpoint presentation for the ward councillors. A letter inviting the ward councillors to a private meeting with some of the sub group members will be drafted later in the week. Tpas will continue to support the sub group.

7. **Project update**

Anne reported that the project is on track and keeping to the planned timetable. The engagement levels to date were at 42% flats and 34% of people. January onwards will see an increased level of engagement with stakeholders in the area and following a project meeting with HTA next week future event dates will soon be agreed and made available. Anne

Kev asked YMK to produce a timeline diagram which the SCRG can look at every time it meets.

8. **Election of SCRG Chair and Deputy Chairs**

Kev asked the members present to nominate themselves for the positions.

He also checked that no one who was unable to attend the meeting has expressed an interest. It was confirmed by Anne and the members that no one who was absent had expressed an interest.

Danielle put herself forward as the Chair, and Cassy and Sharon put themselves forward for the two Deputy positions. The meeting voted unanimously in favour of the appointments by a show of hands. There were no abstentions.

Emma Flynn, Tpas, has agreed to provide mentoring for the three, and Kev will contact Emma to set up the first meeting. Kev will also provide regular support and advice.

Kev

9. **Fullers Slade Policy Guide & Draft Resident Offers**

Kev pointed out that YMK has published the Fullers Slade Policy Guide & Draft Resident Offers (November 2017) on its website. This guide has been developed for residents living in Milton Keynes that have been designated 'regeneration areas', including Serpentine Court. He suggested that the SCRG takes a look at the document in more detail over the next few months and in training sessions.

Kev

10. **Training**

SCRG identified the following subjects for training by Tpas:

1. Rents and regeneration funding Compensation and residents' rights including leaseholders
2. Right-to-Buy

Members would like to meet in the evenings between 7 – 8.30pm on a Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday. There was a preference for Tuesdays as they seem to work for everyone.

Kev to prepare the first session and confirm a date with Danielle.

Kev

11. **Refurbishment of Spotlight**

Anne reported that Spotlight was due to undergo refurbishment from w/c 15th January for about 5 weeks. Information about the short term availability of the building would soon be made know by the Parish Council. Anne had provisionally booked the Warren for the next SCRG meeting on 6th February in case Spotlight was not available. Anne had also arranged with Sir Herbert Leon Academy to use an area for the two days/week drop in on Wednesdays and Thursdays 11am-1pm.

12. **Date and times of future meetings and information sessions**

- 6th Feb - SCRG 7.00-8.30pm (coffee 6.30pm onwards)
at The Warren
- 6th Mar - SCRG 7.00-8.30pm (coffee 6.30pm onwards)
at Spotlight

Kev/

Anne