

Umbrella Group Meetings

Wednesday 4th November Moreton Group

Attendance

Pat Gannon – Yew Tree
Eileen Jones – Eastway & District
Peter Epstein – Sandbrook
Barbara Epstein – Sandbrook
Richie McFerran – Sunningdale
Joan McFerran - Sunningdale
Lorraine Anderson – WPH
Jane Thompson – WPH
Graeme Roberts - WPH

Introduction and Background

Lorraine welcomed those present to the meeting and started to explain the background to why we were holding these meetings, as a result of the meeting with all groups in May at the Wirral Multi Cultural Centre in Birkenhead. As a result of that meeting it was agreed and voted on, by those present to stop funding the Federation, and the outcome was that as WPH groups, there was a need to set up The Umbrella Group format. Lorraine gave an update to those in attendance on the current status of the Federation and how the building would be used moving forward.

Lorraine explained why the individual groups have been placed into the Moreton group due to the geographical nature, and the same applies to Birkenhead, Rock Ferry/Tranmere and The Wirral group which comprises of groups that don't necessarily fall into the above categories.

At this point Barbara Epstein explained that she is happy that this is now going ahead and that WPH is correct in setting up these structures.

Frequency and Location

Those in attendance agreed that they as The Moreton element of The Umbrella Group would meet three times a year in addition to the Wirral (WUG) Umbrella Group, which would bring all groups together twice a year to catch up, network, share best practices and discuss relevant issues affecting the groups. It has been proposed that we could invite other agencies such as PCT, ASB, Streetscene, Police etc. One of the WUG events would also take the form of a Tenants Conference and would have members of WPH Executive Management Team and Board Directors in attendance. The location of future meetings was agreed to be shared between Yew Tree and Eastway venues.

Governance

Lorraine had asked if the groups wanted WPH officers in attendance. If so, how many meetings would you want our presence and whether it was required for a Chair and minute taking. Lorraine added that she didn't feel that the meetings didn't require a Chair, Secretary or vice chair. It was agreed that we would attend the first couple of meetings to assist in getting them off the ground, to assist with minute taking, they would be happy to Chair their own meetings and this would become the responsibility of the hosting venue. Those in attendance agreed to the code of conduct, but altered the terms of reference to reflect an 'aim' – to do the best for all WPH tenants. This would be posted out along with a copy of the Code of Conduct and proposed planned future dates of meetings.

Standard Agenda Items

Obviously as the meetings formulate and grow, this is something that can evolve with the requirements of the groups, but it was suggested items could be Repairs/Maintenance, ASB issues and to include agency involvement. It was suggested by Pat Gannon that it would be a good idea to bring a list of all agencies to the meeting.

Comments and Questions

Barbara Epstein asked whether the funding that had been used to fund the Fed annually was now going to be made available to be split between the groups. This was explained that due to the financial climate, the Council wouldn't be funding the fed, WPH would have reduced our funding dramatically, to basically just the paying of the utility bills. So that money in essence is no longer budgeted for.

Richie McFerran asked what the building at 10-12 Bentinck St was now going to be used for.

Lorraine added that we are looking to use the building as a resource, other groups and agencies could come in and use it and hopefully we could use the training rooms for our groups and communities, but this is a work in progress. We will continue to update all groups as to how this is progressing.

Pat Gannon added that the Training Room could and should be utilised, that Computer Training would be an ideal course to be started up. As the size, access and facilities of the building are excellent.

Barbara Epstein again stated that they as groups should be able to have access to the building to hold their own Training sessions etc.

The issue of access to the upstairs area was discussed at length, again, regarding the offices upstairs and the second training room. As access for the disabled is an issue, Lorraine and Jane advised that there was no need for the upstairs element to be accessed as these offices could be turned into offices for WPH officers to work from, this could then provide the facility for the building to be opened permanently and managed by the staff in the house.

The subject of installing a Stairlift was brought up because those in attendance felt that they should have access to the upstairs, as if the building was to be utilised fully, training sessions could take place upstairs as well as downstairs.

Richie, Pat and Barbara all expressed interest in WPH looking into the feasibility of this and subsequent cost involved.

This concluded the meeting.
Attached

- Code Of Conduct
- Proposed dates for group meetings.