



MINUTES

Meeting	Date	Time	Location
Housing Forum	13/06/2024	13:00	Zoom
Attendees			
Residents	Councillors		Staff
Jan Heaton Cllr Don Alexander Jeremy Fennell Pat Robinson Mitra Sabet Lorraine Francis Sameera Michael Foley			Mark Goodey Craig Cook Liza Joyner Ilona Marciniak David Maggs Henry Murray
Apologies		Minutes	
		Henry Murray	

Agenda

1. **Welcome and Housekeeping**
2. **Fire safety programme**
3. **EIB/NIB relaunch**
4. **Housing news updates**
5. **Future 'hot topic' ideas**
6. **Date of next meeting Autumn 2024 (16th and 19th September)**

Agenda Item	Discussion Points/ Outcomes & Actions	Actions
1	Welcome and housekeeping	
2	Fire safety programme update – Craig Cook J: Expressed encouragement with presentation. Raised story published in The Metro about lithium-ion battery exploding and expressed concern that there hasn't been	

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	<p>an update about new charging solution for e-bikes/scooters and other battery-operated devices in blocks.</p> <p>CC: Explained that battery and charging points come under safe exit points within fire safety. Explained problems with tracking batteries within council blocks. Advised on mobility scooters storage programme is currently being worked on, expressed desire to be extended to e scooters and e bikes and explained complexity with the scale of work. Assured that this issue is very much on BCC's radar.</p> <p>J: Acknowledged problems raised by CC. Expressed desire to impress upon the dangers of lithium-ion batteries. Expressed desire for seriousness to be acknowledged by BCC.</p> <p>CC: Advised on newsletters previously published by BCC making suggestions for safety routes, and how to most safely charge/store lithium-ion batteries.</p> <p>IL: Advised J that there is a scheduled meeting with Fire & Rescue services at their block and will advise them in person.</p> <p>CC: Suggested taking subject of e-scooters away as hot topic for future forums.</p> <p>PR: Suggested a list available to council advising them who have mobility scooters which would also make them aware of who may need specific help during evacuation.</p> <p>CC: Advised they will consider this.</p> <p>MG: Advised that there is a mobility scooter policy in the works which will include stipulations about mobility scooters owners having insurance for their devices. Advised the policy will come to light soon.</p> <p>PR: Expressed concern that in the meantime, there are mobility and electric scooters on estates without knowledge of their location.</p>	<p>CC</p>

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	<p>MG: Acknowledged concern. Advised that currently it's not something that can be enforced as there is nothing specific in tenancy agreements around lithium-ion battery devices.</p> <p>J: Expressed frustration of problem with e-scooters and sense of urgency required. Stressed need for issue to be taken seriously. Acknowledged that speed of policy creation will struggle to keep up with technology.</p>	
3	<p>EIB/NIB relaunch</p> <p>LF: Asked if the fund would cover lighting as they were once a housing officer for an area that was quite dark.</p> <p>MG: Confirmed it would be covered if it is on BCC land. Asked for specific location and advised they will find out and get back to them.</p> <p>LF: Asked about another location.</p> <p>MG: Advised it might be covered but that the fund must be utilised for the benefit of service charge paying tenants. Advised they will find the correct housing officer and investigate.</p> <p>Cllr Dom Alexander: Asked if funding can be used for gating access roads targeted for fly tipping.</p> <p>MG: Advised that there is an element of complication depending on who has access to the land.</p>	<p>MG</p> <p>MG</p>
4	<p>Housing news updates – Mark Goodey</p> <p>Advised that Fiona Lester has been seconded to acting director role for housing at BCC (Interim Director Homes & Landlord Services)</p>	
5	<p>Future hot topic ideas</p> <p>J: Asked if some answers could be given around the use of glyphosate to kill weeds on estates. Asked if there</p>	

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	<p>could be a presentation given or information shared on this topic.</p> <p>MG: Advised that there is a suite of products used by maintenance but will take away and bring back information or raise at next meeting.</p> <p>PR: Asked if someone could come and explain exactly who does what, in relation to maintenance of groundwork such as work around trees, walkways, or bushes.</p> <p>MG: Acknowledged confusion. Explained that there is HRA land which paid for by residents under the remit of housing. Advised that everything else that isn't private land would fall under the remit of parks. Explained that sometimes an area will appear that doesn't have a clear designation of responsibility but overall, there is a system to categorise those. Advised Martin Owen would be best to talk about HRA land but not sure about who best in Parks would be best to attend. Advised they will take it away. Asked PR for their block and for specific issue.</p> <p>PR: Explained they have trees partly on grounds and partly on parking area. Advised that trees are showing signs of damage and decay and expressed concern that branches are at risk of falling onto cars. Advised on problems with gutter becoming blocked and overflowing.</p> <p>MG: Advised this will be taken away as an action.</p>	MG
6	Date of next meeting 16th & 19th September	