

District Forum Meeting & Community Get Together

Evaluation Report

2nd July 2007

Community Get Together's are an opportunity to meet with other Westlea Tenants and Residents out in the community. This meeting was held at the Neeld Hall in Chippenham.

The meeting was divided into four sections:

- A Main District Forum meeting.
- Mr Dave Ashmore (Chief Executive) attended and spoke to tenants and residents about the proposed partnership with Oxford Citizens Housing Association (OCHA), giving residents the opportunity to ask questions. This was part of Westlea's resident consultation process which the District Forum are taking a leading role in.
- A 'Meet and Greet' where tenants and residents could get to know the District Forum and showcase the ways to become involved at Westlea.
- The District Forum used this event to consult and ask tenants and residents about the District Forum's proposed logos. All attendees were given five dots and stars, as there were six logos to choose from.
- There was a raffle to raise money for the District Forum account. The use of money in this account will be decided by the District Forum.

Mr Ashmore gave a summary of the proposed partnership between Westlea and Oxford Citizens Housing Association (OCHA). He explained why Westlea and the Board had taken this decision at this time. He emphasised that although tenants and residents do not have a vote (with the exception of shareholders) Westlea and the Board wanted to fully consult with tenants and residents. With the

number of tenants and residents in attendance, it was decided to keep the question and comment session as an open one, as this would produce the best outcome giving all those in attendance a chance to ask questions and comment. Their questions and comments were presented back to Mr Ashmore and he answered them. All the questions from this session will be typed up for the District Forum and will be published in HOME magazine, in September. The vote for a District Forum logo was very well supported and residents were keen to vote, as evidenced by the number of votes.

Cost

The cost for this event was fully met by Westlea H.A.

Input

The inputs of these events were:

- venue & refreshments;
- staff & officer time; and
- District Forum & tenants and residents time.

Output

This event had some key outputs:

- Minutes of the formal meeting;
- An evaluation report;
- Residents' opinions and queries were given on the OCHA proposal; and an
- Increase of funds in the District Forum bank account.

Outcome

- It was an opportunity for the District Forum to meet other residents and give information about the role of the District Forum and involvement opportunities at Westlea.
- Everyone had an opportunity to obtain information, learn more about and be consulted on the partnership proposal with Oxford Citizens Housing Association (OCHA).
- The District Forum having a logo chosen by residents.
- Raffle proceeds from this event were £39.02 which will be deposited into the Westlea Tenants District Forum bank account.

Impact

With the residents who were present, it was an opportunity for the District Forum to engage with other tenants and residents to show and evidence how they communicate effectively with Westlea. District Forum members circulated and spoke about involvement opportunities at Westlea to encourage residents to look at other ways to be involved.

All those that attended were able to gain information and learn about a service Westlea provides. This better understanding will improve the feedback and communication between the organisation and its residents.

Those who were present will be able to take away the information and share it in the wider community.

The money raised can be used to help the District Forum and other tenants and residents.

This event clearly showed how Westlea cares and actively engages with tenants and residents in the community and is committed to improving the life of tenants and residents.

Learning Point

What can the District Forum do differently or better in the future?

- Better advertising – use “HOME” magazine and inform other resident involvement groups of our meetings;
- A District Forum newsletter would be a good way of giving information to tenants and residents about the work and impact of the District Forum.
- Try not to use the Neeld Hall due to the cost.

Christine Jones – DF Finance Officer

5th July 2007