

Housing and Community Safety Select Committee

A meeting of the Housing and Community Safety Select Committee was held on Thursday, 23rd February 2006.

Present: Councillor Mrs Fletcher (Chairman); Councillors Brown, Jones, Rix, Mrs Trainer, Walmsley and Woodhead.

Officers: Mrs S Connolly and Mrs T Harrison (LD).

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf Councillors Mrs Apedaile, Baker, Miss Inman, Mrs Nesbitt, Parry and Teasdale.

Also in attendance: Inspector T Ali (Cleveland Police); P Noddings (Tristar Homes); Mrs H Moody (UNITE) and G Collins (ASB Team).

1126 Declarations of Interest

Councillor Brown declared a personal/non prejudicial interest in respect of agenda item no.5 – Anti Social Behaviour Review as he was a member of the Tristar Management Board.

Councillor Mrs Trainer declared a personal/non prejudicial interest in respect of agenda item no.5 – Anti Social Behaviour Review as she was a member of the Tristar Management Board.

Councillors Woodhead declared a personal/non prejudicial interest in respect of agenda item no.5 – Anti Social Behaviour Review as he was a member of the Tristar Management Board.

1127 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 24th November 2005 were signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

1128 Draft Minutes

Consideration was given to the content of the draft minutes of the meeting on 12th January 2006 prior to their submission to Council.

CONCLUDED that the minutes of the meeting held on 12th January 2006 be submitted to Council with the following correction:-

Remove Councillor Woodhead from those listed as present.

1129 Anti Social Behaviour Review

At the meeting of this Committee held on 12th January 2006 Members agreed to invite the below key witnesses to this meeting so that they could respond to the questions that Members had formulated at the subsequent meeting on 15th February 2006.

The following key witnesses were in attendance at the meeting and submitted written responses:

G Collins (ASB Team); Inspector T Ali (Cleveland Police); P Noddings (Tristar Homes); Mrs H Moody (UNITE).

Mrs C Wood (Housing Options Manager) supplied a written response but did not attend the meeting.

Following the submitting of the evidence, Members concluded the following recommendations:

- Committee would like to recognise the good partnership working between Thornaby Community School and the ASB team as described.
- Committee noted the positive example of an area-based partnership in Mansfield Avenue, working between all agencies involved in ASB issues. Also the importance of sustaining the work to ensure that problems did not re-emerge.
- Agreed that Housing & Community Safety Select Committee would have an annual meeting between Senior Police Representatives and Councillors. There would also be quarterly meetings with foot patrol officers and relevant Ward Members. This would be co-ordinated via Democratic Services.
- The committee notes that general communication problems between various departments of the Police Service. The need for a forum for Councillors to meet with Police representatives was also noted to address problems relating to lack of responses and urgency and liaison with Wardens, Community Support Officers and Enforcement.
- To look into budget needed for after hours working between Environmental Health, ASB & Tristar in some circumstances.
- Ask Legal Department if it is possible to redraft the 'right to buy' covenant to give more control over owners of ex-council housing, committing anti social behaviour.
- Tristar to provide monthly updates to Councillors outlining anti social behaviour issues in their wards.
- Committee noted the need for early referrals to UNITE for better a chance of a successful outcome and the relatively low profile of the work of UNITE, low number of referrals from Tristar and Councillors. It was also agreed that a seminar should be held for all Members to highlight and promote the work of UNITE.