

Appendix B

BEST VALUE REVIEW OF HOUSING MANAGEMENT – SUPPORT FOR RESIDENT INVOLVEMENT AND THE TENANT FUND – DRAFT VISION

Recommendations of Neighbourhood Forums

Abbeyfield (08 July 2003/19 August 2003)

Deferred until 19 August due to insufficient time.

(19 August 2003) – Deferred again until next meeting when it is hoped that a presentation will be given.

Acorn (30 June or 28 July 2003? – no Agenda papers received)

Alfred Salter (15 July 2003)

The matter be referred back to Tenant Council for further consultation and presented to a future neighbourhood forum for consideration.

Cherry Gardens (15 July 2003)

Meeting inquorate.

Crown House (19 June 2003/07 August 2003)

Crown House Neighbourhood Forum will set up a Special Forum to discuss.

(07 August 2003) – Crown House Neighbourhood Forum make the following recommendations:

1. Tenants are being railroaded down the wrong road at a very fast pace.

None of the suggested changes were thought of or agreed with by tenants, therefore this is not tenant participation, it is information.

It seems that the Council is out to destroy the tenants' movement and put an end to it because they are a thorn in their sides. It seems that the Federation will be a tokenistic organisation which is just a scapegoat for the Council's mistakes.

The plans to change how the tenants fund is administered will result in abuse as there are far fewer checks in place. Tenants should have a role in monitoring the fund as it's tenants' money.

We want 16 Neighbourhoods, Council Community Development Section, tenants monitored tenant fund, and help given to the SGTO to reform.

2. The vision is so broad that many important details are missing, which makes it very hard for tenants to see the vision clearly.

A compromise needs to be made between vision stage and action plan stage to provide more detail, which would inspire confidence in the vision.

Denmark Hill (15 July 2003)

Harris Street (30 June 2003)

Harris Street Neighbourhood Forum reiterates it's previous recommendation that we will not take any items to do with the Best Value Review, until the Council enters into full and meaningful discussion on the level of Consultation with tenants/leaseholders.

In the interim this Forum requests that all the background information and documents which led up to these 'Final Visions' are made available to all delegates, these are to include minutes of meetings with tenants/leaseholder representatives, facts obtained from visits to comparable authorities, results of Mori Polls and exact questions asked, minutes of meetings held with members of the Tenant Fund Management Committee, and relevant minutes of the Tenants and Residents Panel, Stakeholders Forum and Project Review Board.

Leathermarket Gardens (11 August 2003)

Leathermarket Gardens Forum receive and note the report.

We request the background papers from the BV Team to enable the Forum to make an informed decision. Without these we will not make any comments/recommendation on the Draft Vision as appropriate.

Library Street (15 July 2003)

1. Library Street Neighbourhood Forum rejects the idea of a federation.

1.2 More resources should be put in to Southwark Group of Tenant Organisations (SGTO) and Southwark Black & Minority Ethnic Tenants and Residents Organisations (SBMETRO) to make it work better.

Lynton Road (17 July 2003)

Lynton Road Neighbourhood Forum:

A new approach to increase resident participation

- Agree the transfer of the housing community development function to housing management.
- Agree a new post in housing management to deal specifically with resident Involvement issues.
- Agree a new post to provide link with the new federation.
- Agree new ways of involvement to be encouraged/set up.
- Agree other housing staff to provide day-to-day support to T&RA's.

A fresh start for the tenant and residents' movement

- Agree a single residents' federation representing all residents.
- Agree the provision of a resident resource centre, but with local support training as well.
- Agree a new method of electing residents to the new federation board.
- Agree the federation to provide membership of the consultative bodies - Tenant and Leaseholder Council.
- Agree the federation to take on the support, development and training of residents.

Better use of resources

- Agree provision of a resident involvement budget.
- Agree funding to T&RA's to be agreed by tenants and administrated at area level.
- Agree funding to be managed through use of a simple annual health check.
- Agree funding and monitoring of the new federation to be undertaken in line with procedures for grant aid.
- Agree any surplus resources, following funding of the core activities to be allocated to the areas for wider participation activities.

Parkside (10 July 2003)

The Parkside Neighbourhood Forum unanimously rejects the report on the following grounds:

1. The proposed structure does not meet the needs of the tenants and residents in a properly structured participation arrangement
2. The consultation on the proposed changes to the structure has not been properly carried out
3. The proposed structure removes the independence of the tenants movement and puts it under the control of the Council
4. The Neighbourhood Forum supports the funding of an independent tenants federation namely the Southwark Group of Tenants Organisations

5. This neighbourhood Forum had no confidence in the proposals for the meeting scheduled to take place on 19th July 2003 because it has not been properly publicised and we therefore reject its validity.

Pelican (29 July 2003)

Pelican Neighbourhood Forum received the report and passed the following recommendations:

- 1) This Forum wishes to know which T&RA's were involved in the three focus groups (2 funded and 1 unfunded).
- 2) The tenants' levy should be itemised on every rent book so that tenants are aware of their contribution.
- 3) This Forum is very concerned about the centralisation of the funding as we feel it will devolve power from the tenants to the Council.
- 4) Years ago centralisation of services did not work, hence the 17 Neighbourhoods which now work well, so why change?

Rodney Road (17 July 2003)

The Rodney Road Neighbourhood Forum feels that proportional representation instead of area representation would be an appropriate means of encouraging participation.

We also feel that it is inappropriate for any new federation to be funded through the Grants Department, and that the new federation should administer the Tenant Fund. We feel that the funding structures and the proposed annual health checks needs to be jointly monitored under an agreed system, by officers and the new federation.

We recommend that Tenant Council and Leaseholder Council remain as they are.

Rosemary Gardens (29 July 2003)

The Rosemary Gardens Forum received the report on Best Value Housing Management – Support for Resident Involvement and the Tenant Fund Draft Vision.

The Rosemary Gardens Neighbourhood Forum accept the proposals for support for resident involvement and the Tenant Fund, as outlined in the report.

Taplow (19 August 2003)

1. Taplow Neighbourhood Forum reject the development of a newly formed Residents Federation as the council's plan is to control the tenant movement, while we virtually need to maintain our independence and therefore the proposal should be referred back for a rethink.

2. We recommend that nothing should be considered until all the T&RAs and every Southwark boroughwide body such as SGTO have discussed and agreed a future plan.

West Camberwell (18 June 2003/30 July 2003)

West Camberwell Neighbourhood Forum reserves the right to comment and do not expect to be penalised for not making comments.

We wish to discuss this report further with our ward councillors present. Due to lateness of receiving the report we have had insufficient time to digest and consult.

(30 July 2003) – The West Camberwell Forum received the report on Best Value Housing Management – Support for Resident Involvement and the Tenant Fund Draft Vision.

We do not consider this report Best Value for tenants/residents of Southwark. We feel that there should be major improvements in the systems, and consultation procedures etc, that are currently in place, with a major emphasis on consultation. We would like the attached list of comments, questions and suggestions to be taken forward seriously.

We are totally opposed to Southwark Council's proposals under the Best Value Review of Housing Management Services and the Best Value Review of Housing Management – Support for Resident Involvement and the Tenant Fund Draft Vision. Decision on funding for T&RA's and support groups, ie: SGTO and SBMETRO, should be made by tenants and the running of these two organisations, should be done by tenants for tenants.

West Walworth (10 July 2003)

Report was noted and Forum awaits detailed discussion on these proposals.