

# **TYISHA RESIDENTS AND TENANTS ASSOCIATION**

## **ST. BARNABUS HALL**

**24<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2009**

### **Attendees**

Rhiannon Griffiths, Peter Griffiths, Vanessa Marsh, Alan Randell, Phyllis Hobbs, Peggy Sampson, Keith Thomas, Janis Thomas, Ken Ashton, Anghared Hughes, Jane Mason, M.H. Jones, D.V. Thomas, O.Preece, Peggy Edwards, Mair Davies, Diane Melville, A. Thompson, Liz Maliphant, Esther Robson, M.Griffiths, J.Freeman, M.Freeman, A. Marsh, D.Pearce, Natasha Cody, Cllr Keri Thomas, Robin Staines Head of Housing C.C.C., Karen Gibbard

### **Welcome**

Rhiannon welcomed everyone to the meeting.

### **Apologies**

Betty Mayhill, Megan Kubit, Christine Whitley, Joanne Yeo, Carl Lucas, Roger Price.

### **Robin Staines C.C.C.**

Robin gave a thank you for the invitation that he received to come along tonight, he also thanked Vanessa, Cllr Keri Thomas and Debbie for what they have done for the area and highlighting the problems, we have listened to their views about issues to improve on.

Although these issues are in the private sector as well as Council Housing we will be working closely with the two.

There are four main housing associations and each of these have a blanket allocation system, in other words points. Each person who applies for social housing gets put on a points system and the person who has the highest

number gets priority for accommodation that is empty and suitable for their needs.

What we need to be doing is getting the right balance of people into the area, giving the properties to the people it was originally intended for.

A new letting policy will be ready by September/ October so that means we will have more power.

We will be spending more money improving communal areas to make them more presentable and to get more non emergency repairs done a bit faster; emergency repairs are done as a priority.

We are improving the areas that have a problem with Anti Social Behaviour, these are C.C.T.V. cameras in St. Pauls, Two Wardens that patrol around the Tyisha Ward.

Residents should not have to collect evidence against Anti Social Behaviour as they could suffer reprisals, that should be up to the council to do by getting professional witnesses with sound and video cameras.

Anghared asked about these professional witnesses and what it involves, will they be getting bids to have the contract. Robin stated that there are similar schemes in Birmingham and Manchester. Anghared then asked at what point these people will be involved. Robin said "they have a policy in place already". Anghared asked can you make this available for the committee in Tyisha, Robin replied that he would send it to the group, but would not be available to the general public.

If any one does have information, they can say verbally and with strict confidentiality.

Tenants who are in breach of their tenants agreement will be taken to court for eviction but the judge has to decide.

Alan Randell spoke about not being able to get grants for home improvements from the C.C. Robin said that C.C.C. has 9,000 properties and were given a £30,000,000 grant for improvements from W.A.G. and there are 68,000 private homes and the grant was £1,000,000.

If you need repairs there is a little money and you need to contact the care and repair/ home improvement department.

Vanessa spoke about nuisance neighbours and stated that the courts are too lenient with them, they seem to be on the tenant's side.

Robin stated that he would be reviewing this particular person, organize a case conference with police and collect all the evidence he can.

Mary rang the police in the early hours of the morning concerning this particular neighbour and was told that she had to ring the environmental department of the council as there was nothing they could do.

John Hill PCSO went to Mary's the following morning.

Jean wanted to know whose brainwave was it to turn St. Pauls and Old Lodge into a drugs slum area. There are in the vicinity of this area 3 infant and primary schools, 2 elderly person's complexes and a nursery, all these are very vulnerable and having to pass through this area regularly it can be quite daunting. People are afraid to leave their own homes.

If funds are limited how are you going to disperse the problem people out of this area?

We are not against young people having accommodation just against the problems that are arising. All we are asking is for something to be done, hopefully we will see it happening soon.

We are working with the Wallich Clifford that is situated in St.Pauls to try and sort this problem out. Vanessa, Rhiannon and Debbie visited the centre and were impressed by what we have seen and heard.

Karen spoke about the 24/7 support these young people get, what about the ones that are in independent homes, where is their support, they need a structured program on how to run a home successfully. If a homeless young person needs a home they get assessed by a social worker and then put into a category of needs (high) Foyer? (Medium) Wallich Clifford or (Low) Independent Living.

There is an extremely high complex problems i.e.: drugs and alcohol concentration in our area and why did Carms Council change the use of St. Pauls.

Alan Randell stated that councillors will not want these people in their patch.

Robin said that "councillors do not allocate properties they only advise and determine policies".

Jean Freeman asked what about our rights?

Vanessa thanked Robin for the support that he has pledged to us as trying to get Les James to help was like banging your head against a brick wall.

Promises are being given us and we are going to monitor the progress, we know the council haven't got a magic wand to be able to do things overnight but we hope they will give us some priority.

If you do see fighting, drugs or any Anti Social Behaviour going on pick up the phone and report it, you do not have to give your name and address.

Robin has said that he will come back to our meeting to discuss the new letting policy.

Robin went on to talk about the private sector, any landlord who is going to use their property for multiple occupation now needs to be licenced. There are two parts to this licence 1/ Condition of the property. 2/How it is managed. If they don't pass the test C.C. can close it down. One private landlord has been taken to court and fined £9,500 for not maintaining property.

Vanessa thanked Robin for attending the meeting he stated that he will come back in Sept/Oct.

### **Minutes of previous meeting.**

We were very disappointed with the B.B.C. in which we thought Tyisha was being highlighted, with the drugs and Anti Social Behaviour issues that was shown on Week in Week out. All they seemed to do is show how to correctly inject yourself with heroin, nothing was shown about the plight that we have to endure on a daily basis, Vanessa, Rhiannon and our M.P. Nia Griffiths walked the streets for an hour with the B.B.C. highlighting the areas that have

caused the most problems, endured abuse from one of the residents in the 5 Ty's and all they could show was a 10 second piece with Vanessa in it, what a total waste of everyone's time. Vanessa feels that they were ripped off and made to feel like mugs.

We will be writing to the controller of the B.B.C. and stating how disgusted we were with the program.

Karen explained about the needles that drug users are discarding and the impact it is having on the community. At the moment Llanelli has not got a needle exchange service but if addicts need new needles they have to speak go to their own doctor's practice or pharmacy to request them. Each pack comprises of 10 needles, swabs and a sharps box.

There is a new scheme that may be coming concerning dumped needles in the community it is called Don't Touch Tell, it is mainly for children who find discarded needles. If anyone finds needles contact the council on 01267 234567 they will arrange to have them removed.

Small things are happening and they will slowly mount up.

Vanessa spoke about the visit she made to the Wallich Clifford and her initial thoughts before going was it would be a dump and dependant druggies, she said "how wrong was I "they sometimes have a small amount of persons dependant on drugs but at the moment they have no one, the main people they have there is homeless youngsters due to not getting on with parents, abused youngsters and just youngsters that have no one to turn to for help in any way.

It was suggested to invite 1 or 2 of these vulnerable people to our meetings with their support workers to see what we are doing for our community. It was stated that any with drug issues would not be invited.

All were in favour of this happening.

I need to make an apology, I misunderstood about the buses that run through Tyisha I had written that the buses would only run two days a week from here but that was incorrect, they will still be running six days a week and hoping twice a week service down to Trostre. I hope that is correct now.

## **Constitution.**

The constitution was agreed by a 2/3rds majority so it was passed as the new constitution for 2009-2010.

Cllr. Keri Thomas objected to the way the Chair person, Vice Chair, Treasurer and Secretary was elected he stated it should have been a decision made by everyone not just the 12 members of executive committee. This can only be amended at an A.G.M.

Cllr Keri Thomas wishes to thank Karen for all the hard work she has done.

If anyone disagrees with this decision please let us know one month before the next one.

## **Any other business.**

Alan Randell was concerned with all the fly tipping that occurring around Margam Place and High field Terrace, he wants to know what can be done about it. It was suggested that Phil Davies from the Council be invited to discuss this problem.

Trip to the Gower Heritage Centre, flyers have been put out with the date and price per person, as it is open to everyone in the Tyisha Ward book your places early to avoid disappointment.

Natasha Cody spoke about the fair-trade Llanelli group meeting, it is to encourage people to buy local produce and to support third world countries the meeting is the 30<sup>th</sup> June at 7.00pm. Carmarthenshire is a fair trade county and it believes in sustainability.

North Dock has a sand castle competition on the 26<sup>th</sup> July for adults and children.

Morfa Family Day is the 1<sup>st</sup> August

Seaside Carnival is the 5th August

Old lodge to be confirmed.

Raffle was drawn by Peter the prizes were

1<sup>st</sup> Prize Phyllis Hobbs she chose the Flower Pot

2<sup>nd</sup> Prize Vi Thomas Candles.

**Date of next meeting.**

**29<sup>th</sup> July 2009**