

Appendix 1

HILL COURT BUSHBY RESIDENT MEETING 16TH JANUARY 2002

Present: Residents, Dorothy Betts, Minnie Herbert, Les Highland, Clarice Lygo, John Rooney, Dougie Ross, George Scott, Florence Wilson, Eileen Wykes.
Raj Patel- Harborough District Council, Deborah Floody- Harborough District Council

Raj welcomed residents & thanked them for attending the meeting. Residents were updated regarding the submission that has gone to the Housing Corporation. It is hoped that we shall receive some feedback and hopefully an indication of the bid's success within the next 3 to 4 weeks.

The resident profiles provided were discussed and it was confirmed that everyone had indicated a wish to remain in the locality during the development, and had indicated the importance of being housed in groups to maintain their mutual support and friendship.

The practicalities of being able to visit the three local sheltered schemes before anyone could decide finally which they preferred was discussed. All were in agreement that it would seem wise to visit all 3; Billesden, Houghton & Great Glen. Residents agreed that they felt able to visit all 3 schemes in one day, and it was then decided that Wednesday would be the best day for all concerned. The visit will be arranged in all probability for a fortnight hence.

The number of vacant bedsits in the Billesden scheme was discussed. As was the high standard of accommodation and services available at the scheme. Residents felt that Raj & Deborah were very enthusiastic about the scheme. It was confirmed that we were enthusiastic about the scheme & also about the fact that so many vacancies available at one time could result in us being able to fulfil the residents wish to relocate as a community. Residents voiced concerns about the lack of a bus service in the Billesden area, this will be clarified and information will be fed back.

The reality of voids becoming available in all three schemes was discussed and everyone understood that whilst all would have an individual preference as to where they wished to relocate, it was accepted that the creation of void properties is outside everyone's control. It was also confirmed that to further aid the

continuation of their friendships and mutual support; when all residents are resettled into the new temporary homes it is part of Deborah's role to assist by arranging get together's for the residents and transporting residents to these meetings.

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During this discussion it was agreed by those present that due to the lack of availability of 1 bedroom flats in sheltered schemes, those tenants currently in flats would be given the first option to relocate to a flat where there is one available and if this is their wish.

Those residents currently in bedsit accommodation spoke of their wish to relocate to another bedsit. At this juncture residents were assured that storage of furniture that would not fit, into their temporary new home would be safely stored.

Residents questioned who would be responsible for financing removals? It was confirmed that all removal and associated costs, eg disconnection and reconnection of telephones etc would be met by the local authority, residents were assured that the temporary move to alternative accommodation would not have any detrimental financial impact on them.

In due course Deborah will call on each resident to assess individuals needs and requirements long before any moves have to take place.

Discussion continued around the availability of accommodation in the district, to ensure that all residents are as aware as they can be of all vacancies that arise it was agreed to ensure that a copy of the Harborough Home Search fortnightly magazine is available at Hill Court. Residents also questioned the availability of sheltered accommodation within the City boundary, also the availability of RSL accommodation. These options will be looked into as soon as possible and information, clarification and available options will be presented to the residents for consideration.