

EASEL Ward Members Working Group

Notes of the meeting held on 15th August 2007 at Unit 1, Acorn Business Park, Killingbeck Drive, Leeds 14

Present

Councillor Brian Selby (BS)(Chair)	Inner Area Committee rep (Killingbeck & Seacroft)
Councillor David Hollingsworth (DH)	Inner Area Committee rep (Burmantofts & Richmond Hill)
Councillor Richard Brett (RB)	Ward Member rep (Burmantofts & Richmond Hill)
Councillor Graham Hyde (GH)	Ward Member rep (Killingbeck & Seacroft)
Councillor Roger Harington (RH)	Ward Member rep (Gipton & Harehills)

In Attendance

Councillor Ralph Pryke (RP)	Ward Member (Burmantofts & Richmond Hill)
Michelle Anderson (MA)	East Area Regeneration Team
James Geldard (JG) (minutes)	East Area Regeneration Team
John Woolmer (JW)	East Area Management
Dave Clarson (DC)	Bellway
Anna Bowtell (AB)	East North East Homes Leeds
Mandy Askham (MAAsk)	East North East Homes Leeds
Rory Barke (RBar)	North East Area Manager

1. Apologies

- 1.1 Not applicable.
- 1.2 Cllr Brian Selby kindly agreed to chair this initial meeting and has agreed to continue to chair future meetings of the Working Group.

2. Terms of Reference

- 2.1 MA provided members with the background leading to the establishment of the group, the primary purpose being to assist officers in identifying mechanisms in which residents can effectively engage with the EASEL initiative as it develops. The idea originated from the Inner Area Committee who felt it would be more productive to set up a (time limited) focused group of members to progress the work.
- 2.2 Following on from a point raised by RB, it was agreed that there should be a separate workstream group to discuss issues surrounding the potential impact of Blight across the EASEL area and how this can be minimised.

ACTION: Members asked for a meeting to be arranged including Cllr Selby, Cllr Pryke, key LCC officers and Bellways to agree an approach (hopefully before end of August).

2.3 The Terms of Reference were agreed.

3. Priorities

3.1 MA highlighted the key priorities for the group; the neighbourhood planning process and EASEL governance. It was stated that members would be required to provide the direction and steer for resident engagement. Members commented on the fact that there are already a number of structures in place across EASEL that can be used and/or built upon as a starting point i.e. neighbourhood forums – these are still seen as a good way of engaging with members of the public.

3.2 RB stated that it was important that neighbourhood forums and tenants/residents' groups are considered and, for areas where residents are currently under-represented, we should look at leafleting every house to try and gain more interest. It was also suggested that for areas where there are no existing resident groups that work could be undertaken to try and set these up.

3.3 In relation to EASEL Governance, GH stated that it would be a good idea to establish an EASEL Residents' Panel which would consist only of local residents (including representatives from existing resident groups). RB stated that it would also be more practical, at this stage, to include Phase 1 residents only (Gipton and South Seacroft) and then as EASEL moves forward to develop the Panel to include representatives from other areas. Again, it was stated that where there is currently under or no representation from certain parts of Gipton and Seacroft, it is important that we explore ways of getting residents from these areas onto the Panel.

3.4 RP supported the approach suggested above but also felt it was important to be aware of potential disengagement from other residents living in the areas where EASEL will not take effect for a few years. As such, it is important that regular contact is made with these households in other ways to keep them fully updated.

4. Agree next steps/actions

4.1 Members felt it was more appropriate to progress the work under 3 separate workstreams with regular reporting back to the main group;

4.2 Neighbourhood Planning: This workstream will agree on the appropriate methods of engaging residents throughout the various stages of the neighbourhood planning process (taking into account existing structures).

JW stated that there is already a fair amount of work being undertaken in the key EASEL areas that will inform/contribute towards the neighbourhood planning process (through INM). It is important that the workstream group takes account of this. **ACTION: It was agreed that**

members who will sit on the Neighbourhood Planning workstream group are; Councillor Graham Hyde, Councillor Richard Brett and Councillor Jacqueline Langdale (TN) (who was put forward in her absence). Also in attendance would be representatives from the ALMO, AMT (Intensive Neighbourhood Managers and Bellways.

ACTION: MA to circulate copies of Bellway's neighbourhood planning proposals
ACTION: JG to arrange meeting for September.

- 4.3 EASEL Governance: This workstream group will look at the possibility of creating an EASEL Residents Panel, which will, to start with, focus on representation from within the EASEL Phase 1 areas (expanding as and when EASEL does).

It was agreed that the members that would sit on the EASEL Governance workstream group would be Councillor David Hollingsworth, Councillor Roger Harington and in their absence the following were also put forward; Councillor Vonnie Morgan (K&S), Councillor Mick Lyons or Councillor Jacqueline Langdale (TN). Also in attendance would be representatives from the ALMO, AMT and Bellways.

ACTION: MA to circulate copies of the Area Action Plan to members.
ACTION: JG to arrange meeting for September.

- 4.4 Blight: See item 2.2 above.

5. Any Other Business

- 5.1 It was agreed that copies of these and future EASEL Members Working Group minutes will be circulated to the Inner and Outer Area Committees.

6. Date and Time of Next Meeting

It was agreed that the EASEL Members Working Group would continue to meet on a quarterly basis to oversee the work of the various workstreams.

ACTION: JG to co-ordinate the next EASEL Members Working Group for November.