

Welcome to this edition of Forum Highlights. These highlights cover the main topics discussed at the Forum's meeting held on Monday 19 September 2016 at the Beverley Leisure Centre. They are just a brief summary, if you wish a more in depth version of any of the topics then contact Bob Blair on 01482 396151. The Forum is considered as the umbrella group for all tenants and tenants groups across the East Riding. Any East Riding tenant can attend and we are always keen to see more tenants at meetings so why not come along and support us.

Chair— *Allan Botham*

Forrest- Electrical Contractor

Forrest have been contracted to carry out electrical work for East Riding Council. E Tempest gave a brief history about the firm. It has an annual turnover of over £100 million. He explained how the danger from electrical items in housing has grown due to new technologies and the ever increasing use of electrical appliances. Forrest carry out reactive repairs and electrical testing on behalf of the council. They have excellent customer service reports and aim to settle any disputes on site. All complaints are guaranteed to be resolved within 10 days. They have taken on 2 apprentices to meet the social value criteria of the contract. They had not considered offering local employment first to social tenants, but may consider doing so in the future.

Rents – *Steve Fulstow*

Initially all rents were included in the 1% decrease announced in the Welfare Reform and Work Bill. However, at a late stage the Government decided that Sheltered Housing Rents would be exempt for one year so did not receive the 1% decrease (Government said it cost more to administer sheltered housing). However, now Government has reversed its decision and the 1% reduction will apply to sheltered scheme tenants for the next three years. Steve did say that one years increase boosted the Housing Revenue Account by £151k. In regard to sheltered housing the council is to spend £6 million.

Next Forum Meeting

Monday 21 November 2016

Beverley Leisure Centre,
Flemingate, Beverley -
10am to 2pm



Forum Member Feedback

Tenant Inspector Programme - is now beginning to pick up with 31 inspections being carried out over the last 3 months. It was noted inspectors were being sent to voids before they were ready for re-letting.

Efficiency North—has now opened their Grant Funding for the year. Applications for a community grant can be downloaded from the Efficiency North website - www.energycouncil.org



Forum Committee Members 2015 -2016

Colin Loveday –Leven

Mavis Vines - Market Weighton

Mike Loveday - Beverley

Louise Mulvaney - Bridlington

Tony Smith - Snaith

David Vaughan - Stamford Bridge

Allan Botham - Beverley

Maureen Cox - Barmby Moor

(co-opted member)



Sheltered Housing Review –

John Marginson & Helen McEgan

A review into sheltered housing is currently taking place. A consultation exercise is under way closing on the 24th October. All tenants living in sheltered accommodation will have received a questionnaire. John confirmed that he had received 500 replies within the first week.

The aim of the review is to help set out priorities for improved housing offers and make sure that all buildings are fit for purpose. New innovative designs are being considered to suit peoples changing needs and demands.

The East Riding council has around 1800 sheltered properties in 47 schemes across the East Riding.

Two main challenges - the ageing population whose aspirations are changing and people living longer.

Housing Strategy team ensure these aspirations are considered. The vision is to maintain high standards in attractive places and to ensure independent living is achieved. A number of options are being considered. Good accommodation also needs good links to health and social care. John has researched other Local Authorities and housing providers, looking at good and bad practises.

It is important to East Riding Council that all decisions made are transparent and include statistics to help understand how decisions are reached.