

Acock's Green Housing Liaison Board

**Minutes of the Biennial Meeting (AGM)
held at 6.00 pm Tuesday 17 September 2019**

Needwood House Sheltered Housing Scheme Common Room

Present	Derrick Novell Chair Brenda Hurdman – HLB Maggie Novell – HLB Gwen Johnstone – HLB Brian Jones – Vice Chair Bob Musticone – HLB Pauline Farnham – HLB Pauline Connolly – HLB Leon Bailey - HLB John O'Shea – Councillor Zafar Iqbal - Councillor Salim Miah – Housing Manager Mandy Williams – TPO
Apologies	Roger Harmer – Councillor Joe McKeown – HLB Phil Lee - HLB Derek Fellows - HO Jenny Poole - Wates

1+2	<u>Welcome, Introductions and Apologies</u> Derrick chaired the meeting Derrick welcomed all to the Acocks Green HLB AGM.
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3.	<p>Minutes of the last Biennial meeting – 15 November 2016</p> <p>Group agreed minutes</p>
4	<p>Chairpersons Report</p> <p>Derrick gave a brief description of the area covered by the Housing Liaison Board.</p> <p>He advised that the board had completed a number of projects over the last three years :</p> <p>The last AGM meeting for Acock’s Green HLB was on 15 November 2016.</p> <p>Tenant Panels</p> <p>The City Council has recognised Housing Liaison Boards as its Tenants Panels. The Council is required by the Government to co-regulate housing together with tenants and leaseholders representatives on tenant’s panels; hence Acocks Green HLB is the official tenant’s panel for Acocks Green Ward.</p> <p>City Housing Liaison Board and Yardley District Strategic Housing Panel.</p> <p>During the last three years Derrick Novell has represented Acock’s Green HLB at meetings of the City Housing Liaison Board. During 2014 and 2015 as Chair of the HLB Derrick also joined Yardley District Strategic Housing Panel. This Panel was responsible to District Committee and looked at the strategic housing issues across the District. Derrick also represented the HLB on the Welfare Reform Group</p> <p>HLB monthly meetings</p> <p>Over the last three years the Housing Liaison Board has continued to meet on a monthly basis. The HLB is supported by the local Housing Officer for Estate Services and the Tenant Participation Officer, plus the local Councillors, police officers and a representative from Wates normally attend</p>

meetings. The aim of the HLB is to improve housing and neighbourhoods, to monitor the performance of housing and to resolve any common issues which board members bring to HLB meetings.

The Housing Liaison Board Improvement Budget

Acock's Green HLB also has a budget for improvement projects which benefit council tenants and leaseholders. The projects are spread as widely as possible across the ward so that as many areas benefit as possible. For example some of the many projects which the HLB has supported during 2016-2019 are:

1. Fitted metal gates on access way to Gayle Grove
2. Installed access gated to River at Oakhurst Rd
3. Bought 2 cabinets for St Mary's Close
4. Bought extension cable for Needwood House
5. Installed bin store for 5 & 7 St Mary's
6. Donated funding to Yardley Gardening competition in 2016
7. Installed carpet for ground floor at Needwood House
8. Donated funding to Acocks Green Village in Bloom
9. Donated funding to Yardley Gardening Competition 2017
10. Installed barrier at rear access way for Haybrook Drive
11. Supplied additional CCTV camera in Hollypiece House
12. Installed wooden flooring & carpet in Needwood House Common Room
13. Installed windbreaker at Needwood House
14. Installed metal fencing on Pemberley rd

15. Installed gate at Ninfield Rd
16. Supplied and fitted padlock to gate at Dorsington Rd
17. Donated plants to Warwick Rd
18. Donated funding to East Quadrant Gardening Competition 2018
19. Donated funding to Acocks Green Village in Bloom 2018

Estate Walkabouts

In addition to monthly meetings many members of the HLB have attended monthly Estate Walkabouts led by Derek Fellows the Housing Officer and also often attended by the Police, Environmental Health Officer and Tenant Participation Officer. The ward has been divided into six neighbourhoods and so there is a walkabout in each neighbourhood twice a year. The walkabouts often highlight problems for the Housing Officer or other agencies to deal with and reveal areas where the improvement budget can be used to fund projects.

Yardley Gardening Competition

Acock's Green HLB together with the other three Housing Liaison Boards in Yardley District continue to sponsor East Quadrant Gardening Competition. This competition compliments Birmingham In Bloom the City Wide Gardening Competition and gives tenants and leaseholders in Yardley District the chance of winning in both competitions. Members of the HLB attended the awards ceremony at Community Centre in Shard End for East Quadrant Gardening Competition in September 2018.

It's your Neighbourhood

Members of Acocks Green HLB are keen supporters of the It's your Neighbourhood Competition. In 2018 representatives from St Marys Close, and Radley Court attended the Award ceremony at St Mary's Church in Acocks Green in September 2018.

Acocks Green In Bloom

Acocks green HLB support Acocks Green Village In Bloom by donating funds towards the upkeep of Acocks Green Village. Acocks Green Village In Bloom won Gold again in 2018.

Derrick explained about the Gardening Competition in Yardley which now includes Hall Green and Hodge Hill Districts and how successful Acock's Green residents have been in this competition which the HLB restarted.

Derrick said it had been an honour to be Chair of the HLB

Derrick explained that the board of members had to stand down and passed the meeting over to Salim Miah – Housing Manager

5. Annual General Meeting

Salim Miah took over as Chair of the meeting

Salim introduced himself and apologised for not attending many HLB meetings

Salim explained that Acocks Green covers a large area with dispersed stock

Acocks Green have completed a large range of projects and when carrying out walkabouts the members views are welcomed when environmental projects are raised

Salim shared that Police resources are very stretched and the team has a good relationship with the local Sargent. The ASB team deal with Acocks Green and work very closely with the Police

Brian said people were negative where Police were concerned as they do not respond to call outs

Leon shared that older people are afraid to go out

Salim said he understood their frustration but when he walks around Acocks Green he is proud of the area.

Cllr O shared that cuts have affected the Police and that crime has increased and that there is a shift in crime and focusing more online and how Councillors are campaigning for more Police Officers

Salim explained the purpose of Housing Liaison boards, the constitution, and code of conduct and equalities policy and asked each member to read through the document.

Salim asked the board to stand down and explained that the board should exist of 75% BCC / leaseholders and 25% other.

The HLB budgets were:

HLB = £8297.61

Environmental = £34710.00

Salim explained training is available and if anyone wanted to top up their knowledge to get in touch with the TPO and transport would be arranged

6. Election process

Salim explained that under the current constitution a minimum of 6 residents and a maximum of 20 (with least 75 % being tenants and leaseholders) were needed to form a HLB.

He explained that any tenant or leaseholder that lives in Acocks Green can vote for members.

The following were elected to the board :

Derrick Novell

Brenda Hurdman

Maggie Novell

Gwen Johnstone

Brian Jones

Bob Musticone

Pauline Connolly

Leon Bailey

Joe McKeown

	<p>The new positions were elected as follows:</p> <p>Chair - Derrick Novell – 8 votes Vice Chair - Brian Jones – 8 Votes CHLB Rep – Derrick Novell – 8 Votes CHLB Reserve Rep – Brian Jones – 8 Votes</p>
7.	<p>Any other business</p> <p>Paula who came into the meeting after the board had been elected had asked if she could say something and the board agreed. She said that the chutes in Needwood House were regularly being blocked up</p> <p>Brian said tenants were ramming stuff down the chutes and this was becoming a fire hazard and the caretaker Carl was very good – the chutes smell very unhygienic.</p> <p>There are signs by the chutes to state what can be put down them to advise tenants</p> <p>SM shared that this is a health and safety issue</p> <p>Leon said that the chutes are on the inside of each building and Brian said anyone can put a lighted match in the chute</p> <p>Brian suggested paying from the HLB budget to clean the bins</p> <p>SM suggested DF and Carl have a chat and see what suggestions they can come up with</p> <p>A discussion took place in trying to educate residents in recycling as Cllr O said recycling from blocks was not going very well.</p> <p>SM suggested maybe asking someone from recycling to visit residents and maybe have a couple of sessions to try and educate them about recycling.</p>

SM shared each day he receives Position Statements concerning all blocks on the East and that each block is checked daily and he has to inform Waste Services about issues that have been raised and try and get them resolved

Leon asked why are bins being missed

Cllr O shared that vehicles are breaking down

Brian shared that Needwood House used to have 2 collections per week and now they only have 1.

SM said he would inform Les Williams and Cllr O emailed him whilst at the meeting.

Bob shared that his rubbish was collected today and 2 signs have gone up about dog fouling and that the gate has been done by the brook.

Brenda asked if we could donate £150 from the HLB budget to Acocks Green Village in Bloom – everyone at the meeting agreed for this to be donated

CCTV was discussed and SM shared that all will be removed from blocks as the GDPR is being reviewed. BCC have to justify the need of CCTV at a high level, who looks the recordings, how they are secured etc legislation has made it very difficult. Those that still have CCTV may be okay for now but cannot promise it will stay.

Brian asked Cllr O if road sweepers could go round Needwood House and Cllr O said that Housing would have to pay for it.

Cllr O said there was no budget for leaves coming off trees and clearing up of them.

SM shared maybe allow the leafing to happen and maybe get a costing from Waste as it is not cost effective at present as more leaves will fall. SM suggested maybe split the cost between HLB and Housing by match funding.

	Cllr O said he could get bags distributed and get them picked up as and when needed
12.	<u>Date and Time of next meeting:</u> AGM to be arranged Next HLB meeting is on Tuesday 22 nd October 2019 6.30pm – 8.00pm at Needwood House Common Room