Moray Tenants Forum General Meeting

Date:	6 February at 11am
Location	The Inkwell, Elgin/ online via Teams
Chair	Liz McKnockiter (LM), tenant
Attending	 Alison Angus (AA), tenant Jane Bartecki (JB), tenant James Buchan (JBuc), tenant Bev Davenport (BDav), tenant Eileen Di Sotto (ED), tenant David Elliott (DE), tenant Dagmar Gross (DGr), tenant Alex Jappy (AJ), tenant Pat Jappy (PJ), tenant Howard Knowles (HK), tenant Isobel McNeil (IM), tenant Rachael McPhail, (RM), tenant
In attendance	 Cllr John Divers (JD), Cllr and tenant Cllr Amber Dunbar, (AD) Chair of Housing and Community Safety Committee Cllr Donald Gatt (DG), Deputy Chair of Housing and Community Safety Committee Fiona Geddes (FG), Housing Strategy and Development Manager Thomas Hampson (TH), Housing Projects Officer Rebecca Irons (RI), Customer Engagement Officer (minutes) Lindsey Kendrick (LK), Tenant Liaison Assistant Alan Kennedy, (AK) Knowledge Partnership (online) Mike More (MM), Senior Housing Projects Officer
Apologies	 Peter Cruickshank (PC), tenant Bert Duffus (BD), tenant David Macdonald (DMacd), tenant Dorothy McGoldrick (DMc) tenant Violet Milne (VM), tenant Lee Nicholls (LN), tenant David Nicholls (DN), tenant Elizabeth Williamson (EW), tenant
1. Welcome, Apologies	LM welcomed everyone to the meeting.

	LM reminded the group of <u>section 5 of the Conduct of Business or Standing</u> Orders (Appendix 1 of the Constitution).
	"that the Forum is not the platform for personal grievances with the council; these should be directed to the appropriate department outwith the meeting."
2. Approval of minutes of previous	Annual General Meeting minutes of 5 November were proposed by DE and seconded by LM.
meeting	General meeting minutes of 5 November were proposed by BDav and seconded by DE.
	RI will add the approved minutes to the website at: www.moray.gov.uk/moraytenantsforum
3. Matters arising	BDav attended Tenant Participation Strategy Monitoring Group meeting 4/2/25.
	Tenant Editorial Panel meeting arranged for Friday 14 February, 11am to 1pm, at the Council Annexe building.
4. Finance report	The Forum budget is being administered in-house until the proposed handover date to the Forum/Treasurer on the 1 April 2025. This is providing a bank account is in place and Forum/Treasurer are comfortable with the arrangements.
	The budget supports tenant participation activities, including meeting venues, catering, attending the annual TPAS conference, travel, and childcare expenses for tenants to attend meetings.
	RI has been working on guidance documentation and office bearer training is arranged for Friday 7 March, 11am to 1.30pm at the Council Annexe building. This training is open to office bearers and any other Forum members who want to learn more about the roles and responsibilities.
5. Guest Speaker	AK presented key findings from the Tenant Satisfaction Survey 2024 conducted by Knowledge Partnership on behalf of the Council. Presentation slides are available through RI for anyone interested in the details.
6. Housing Team updates	Estate walkabouts MM updated the group on projects identified during estate walkabouts in each ward at the end of 2024. Notable completed works include car park resurfacing in Den Crescent (Keith), Mar Court (Keith), and Milton Drive (Buckie), and footpath resurfacing at Sand Lane (Newmill) and New View Court (Cullen). Due to a limited annual budget of £230k some projects are identified for next year, including footpath resurfacing at Nursery Lane (Forres) and tarring at Provost Christie Drive (Rothes). High School View, Elgin is also highlighted for additional parking.
	Other issues like fencing (Hermes Road, Elgin; Stuart Street and Randolph Lane, Forres; Well Road, Buckie) poor lighting, landscaping, and gutter

	clearing are also being addressed. MM clarified that the gutter clearing programme is due to finish by March 2025, with some overspend. Asset are identifying the worst affected areas and addressing on an area-by-area basis.
	Tenants have raised concerns about flyers for gutter cleaning being sent by private companies, not the Council.
	HK raised concerns about sub-contractors not informing tenants about appointments or failing to show ID badges. MM confirmed that the issue has been raised with contractors and will be addressed, as it's important for tenants to be properly informed as they receive notification for other contracts, such as kitchen upgrades. LM highlighted the issue of scams and emphasized the importance of providing tenants with contractor details, MM will raise the issue of communications for gutter clearing with management.
	DE asked how walkabouts are promoted. RI confirmed they are promoted through Tenants' Voice newsletter, mailshots to a list of interested tenants, Moray Council Tenants and Housing Facebook page, and website www.moray.gov.uk/estatemanagement. RI confirmed that the dates are arranged by housing management and then promoted by RI.
	There is also a suggestion to move walkabouts to the end of August when it's warmer. HK suggested that walkabouts at different times would allow working tenants and those with children to take part.
	AJ raised the issue of Portgordon not having had a walkabout and MM agreed to include it in a future walkabout.
	DGr raised the issue of grass cuttings not being picked up. LM confirmed that this is not included as part of the grass cutting scheme.
	Local Housing Strategy (LHS) 2025-2030 RI made the group aware that a survey will be opening later this month on a new LHS. The strategy sets out the outcomes the Council and its partners (for example, Registered Social Landlords, Health and Social Care) want to achieve and the actions they'll take to address housing need and demand in Moray. It covers all housing tenures, not just social housing. FG encouraged the group to fill in the survey which will be promoted on our Facebook, website and paper copies are available on request.
7. Tenants	Tenant Representative vacancy LM shared there is a vacancy for a third tenant representative to attend Housing and Community Safety Committee meetings. The role would ideally be filled by someone living outside Burghead and Elgin to represent other parts of Moray. BDav expressed interest and was unanimously appointed. She will start as an official representative at the meeting on 6 May after attending as an observer at the 11 February meeting.
	ACTION: RI will inform Committee Services of BDav's appointment.

8.	None
Correspondence	
9. Any other	Inviting other councillors to meetings
business	LM proposed extending an open invitation to all Councillors to attend Forum
	meetings as observers. The group unanimously agreed to this idea.
	ACTION: RI to coordinate with Members Support to send out invitations.
	Promotion of the Forum
	There was a discussion about increasing the visibility of the Forum by having a stall at summer events like agricultural shows, with the goal of attracting more representation from areas like Speyside. LM asked for the groups ideas and for volunteers to staff stalls.
	BDav suggested including community events such as Fishermen's Hall community lunches in Buckie, where RI previously set up a stall with NETRALT (North East Tenants Residents and Landlords Together). The group agreed that piggybacking on other community events was a good strategy and were invited to suggest events that could be relevant for the Forum to attend. Volunteers to staff stalls were also sought.
	TPAS (Tenant Participation Advisory Service) Conference 2025 The TPAS conference will take place from Friday 20 to Sunday 22 June at the Golden Jubilee Hotel, Clydebank. Two fully funded places are available for tenants who wish to attend on behalf of the Forum. Those interested should contact RI for more details. LM and BDav attended the previous year and found it extremely rewarding, with valuable workshops and networking opportunities with other tenant groups.
	ACTION: Tenants interested in attending to advise RI.
10. Next Forum date	Thursday 24 April 2025 at 11am at The Inkwell, Francis Place, Elgin. IV30 1LQ