

North East Tenant Voice (NETV) Meeting

Friday 26 March 2021 10:00 – 12:00

held via Zoom Conference Call

Minutes

Attendance

Name	Tenant (T) or Organisation (O)	Housing Association
Abi Pocklington	O	Livin
Alan Black	T	Livin
Alan Wright	T	Gentoo
Andrea Malcolm	O	Bernicia Homes
Ann Potts	O	Karbon Homes
Anthony King	T	Darlington
Ashleigh Fullwood	T	
Brenda Naisby	T	Gentoo
Catherine Loftus	O	Gentoo
Dave Fidgeon	T	Bernicia
Des Mahon	T	Broadacres
Emily Thomas	O	Broadacres Housing Association
Emma Peat	O	Gentoo
Grace	TBC	
Helen Hall	T	Gateshead
Ian McKenzie	O	Gateshead Housing Company
Jackie Greenwood	T	Your Homes Newcastle
Jane Hobbs	O	Thirteen Group
Jim Martin	T	Thirteen
Jo-Anne Parkinson	O	Gentoo
John Johnston	O	Bernicia
Julie Carter	O	Bernicia Homes
Kathleen Newell	T	Jonnie Johnson Housing
Lewis Rimington	O	Karbon Homes
Lisa Bennison	T	Gentoo
Louise Bassett	O	Gentoo
Louise Grogan	O	Your Homes Newcastle
Matthew Hufford	O	Darlington Borough Council
Melvyn Thompson	T	Gentoo
Michael Lisle	T	Karbon
Michelle Hoggins	T	Livin
Nigel Wilson	O	Gentoo
Pam McIvor	T	Thirteen
Pedro Bengalinha	T	Broadacres
Rachel Edmunds	O	Believe Housing
Sheila Capuano	T	Bernicia
Val Scollen	T	Thirteen

Val Smart	T	Bernicia
Vicky Miller	O	Livin

Minutes

Alison Haynes	O	Gentoo
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The attendance list reflects the individuals who could be identified on the zoom call. Please let Alison Haynes know any amendments so an updated list can be circulated.

1. Welcome and Introduction

John Johnston and Nigel Wilson welcomed all to the meeting.

Nigel Wilson noted that remembering the difficulties of the past year, it was wonderful to see the resilience of communities. Nigel Wilson and John Johnston both remarked on their hopes to see the transitioning of this group to be more independent.

2. Minutes

Subject to some minor amendments to the attendance list, the minutes of the last meeting held on 25 February 2021 were agreed as a correct record.

3. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

4. TPAS Proposal

Nigel Wilson outlined the key aspects of the proposal from TPAS to support the work of the North East Tenants Voice (NETV) group.

The TPAS proposal set out the support and costs for an initial four months, which would then be reviewed. The initial phase included the facilitation of four meetings (organising the meetings, agendas, minutes, providing materials for, and following up after meetings).

Gillian McLaren would facilitate the sessions with support from her colleague Leanne Farrell, and Leanne would provide the administrative support for the meetings. Aims and objectives for the meetings were proposed along with the production of a headline report after the fourth meeting, and an action plan for moving forward.

It was proposed that this would comprise 6 days' work, with the two members of staff facilitating, at a fixed cost of £1,800.

Nigel Wilson indicated that he and John Johnston had approached the Housing Associations represented on the NETV Group and asked for contributions to funding, on a very simple structure based on organisation size. This would allow financial resources to build up to enable NETV to fund its framework and activities.

The NETV group agreed that it was essential to have the activities and administration of the group covered by an independent organisation and that TPAS were a well-known tenant organisation within the region. Feedback from group members was that the costs were reasonable. Members agreed that an initial four-month phase would allow sufficient time to review the work of TPAS before committing to a further period. In the future, the Group could consider ensuring its future independence and transparency, e.g. setting up its own governance, bank account and funding structure.

Nigel Wilson agreed to feedback to TPAS and to progress the approval of the proposal for the initial four-month phase. Nigel will circulate the TPAS proposal and the proposed Housing Association funding contributions.

5. Finalising the Draft Framework and Structure of the NETV Group

Group Breakout Discussions

Nigel Wilson explained that the attendees would be divided into four break-out groups and asked to consider the following two topics:-

- 1) Finalising the Draft Framework
- 2) Structure of the NETV Group

The breakout groups were aligned in their comments and views about the draft framework and the structure of the NETV Group. The main points arising from the breakout groups included:

- Previous positive experiences with TPAS, and that the initial phase gives time and space for the Group to develop its focus and structure.
- Small, steady steps were required.
- Strong messages that NETV should be tenant-led, and have its own voice and identity, and feel engaged and empowered to drive the Group forward, under the guidance of TPAS.
- That the Group develops strong governance while also retaining its informality – there was a balance to be struck.
- The idea that NETV Group operates a board-like structure, and that all tenants become board members.

6. Funding & Resources

Nigel Wilson explained the proposal which had been made in relation to funding contributions to NETV from the Housing Associations represented within the Group, was based around the size of the organisations. A very simple structure was proposed:

- £1,000 15,000 and over units
- £750 5,000-14,999 units
- £500 below 5,000 units

An update on the responses from the organisations approached for funding will be circulated with these minutes.

John Johnston noted that the discussion at his breakout group highlighted that having a good level of funding would ensure that the focus of meetings would not be on finances and funding.

It was noted that the proposed fee from TPAS was for a four-month initial project as 'starting point' and that the Group, as it moved forward, could begin to understand its value, and what its structure could look like in the future, which could then would shape discussion about what the future funding requirements could be.

7. Any Other Business

The meetings schedule for 2021/22 was circulated ahead of the meeting. Nigel Wilson expressed a hope that future meetings would be able to be held in person, depending on the relaxation of COVID restrictions, but he reassured the Group that meetings could still be offered virtually via Zoom for those who were anxious about attending in person or unable to attend in person.

Nigel Wilson agreed to circulate with the minutes, a list of attendees of the meeting with 'T' for tenant, or 'O' for organisation after their names.

It was agreed that Group members should let Alison Haynes know if they wished to remain involved with the agenda setting and Task & Finish groups.

Nigel Wilson wished the Group members a very happy and safe Easter holiday.

8. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 6 May 2021, 10:00-12:00, by Zoom.