



Southwark Group of Tenants Organisations

Campaigning for Housing Rights and Council Homes

Bells Gardens Community Centre
19 Buller Close, London
SE15 6UJ

Group Meeting Minutes from Wednesday 26th July 2023 on zoom

Staff: Amanda Carey, Ahmed Kabba, Joe Snazell-Holding

Attendees: 19

Apologies: Margaret Onwuta, Ygerne Price-Davies, Colin Harrison, Julz Jones, Coralie Allison, Carol Vincent

1. Welcome & Introductions

Chris welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Minutes of Group Meeting held on 24th May 2023

Agreed as a true record
Proposed by: Saidat Oketunde
Seconded by: Johnson McCalthly

Matters Arising

Action: Chris to obtain and electronic version of the Terms of Reference for the Repairs Improvement Resident Board, which is then to be circulated to the membership by SGTO office.

Chris provided this and was distributed to membership by office.

Action: Schedule of next meeting with Cllr. Darren Merrill on Participation Structure should be received by 5th June '23.

Darren on leave at the moment, asked for meeting to be scheduled on his return. Meeting will be around the end of October when they are back from their holidays.

Action: Ahmed to reignite the SGTO Youth Forum

Ahmed started a WhatsApp group and began outreach. Ahmed has organised a preliminary informal meeting with excited attendees. Continuous process of recruitment. Issue now is that Ahmed needs resources for refreshment for face – face and reimbursement for travels.

Ahmed suggested that TRAs could approach young people in local estates to invite them to TRA meetings. Further conversation on how SGTO can provide more guidance on youth engagement, specifically for young people in temporary accommodation continues.

SGTO desires to support young peoples' initiatives across the whole borough but we can only do so much with our current staff capacity. Therefore, it is important to have decentralised structures where local TRAs take up the lead to organise these activities themselves and SGTO would provide necessary support. TRAs should equally reach out to other local stakeholders in the community who can support local young people to engage in regular activities on estates so that youth engagement is sustainable.

Action: Ahmed and Joe to have conversation with Saidat, Sam and others who are interested about how SGTO can help advise TRAs more with youth engagement moving forward.

Action: Althea to contact Southwark Young Advisors to ask them if they want to be involved in SGTO young people initiatives.

Action: Ahmed and SGTO staff to look into options of other local sports initiatives, e.g. local cricket group mentioned by Althea.

Action: Joseph to send an email to Kiri to discuss minibus young person initiative.

Action: Josiah to forward email from council indicating that they are to merge with Tabard South.

Josiah potentially going to attend a meeting with the council if he can make it. He will let SGTO know if there are any updates.

Discussion from Peter about issues of bullying and harassment between TRA members.

Action: Chris M. and Peter to discuss the Tabard South merge issue further outside of the group meeting.

Action: to show exhibition video of the Aylesbury Estate at a SGTO group meeting. This was done in June, and on agenda to show again today.

Action: Chris agreed that Tanya to share details of meeting with Cris, so board can decide if the SGTO can get involved in the Housing for Action Day.

Board agreed and Ygerne attended the Housing for Action Day.

Informal Meeting on 28th June 2023

Meeting was not quorate, so notes not required to be agreed.

Meeting was poorly attended – SGTO needs to work out how to improve this for future.

Feedback from Events subcommittee through Saidat – impossible to have an event this summer, but the priority should be to look into funding for an event for next year.

Action: Events subcommittee to put together recommendations on this event and funding to be discussed after AGM.

3. Update on SGTO & Tenants' Conference /AGM 2023

Chris explained that the working group is being set up comprising of 2 Council staff members, 2 SGTO staff members and the tenants reps. Some members expressed concern on the selection of this committee as undemocratic. Discussion opened on the format and content of the conference as it is replacing the SGTO repair conference originally planned.

Action: Ygerne, Ahmed, Chris, Althea, Louis and others to set up a committee and organise the SGTO/Tenants conference.

This group will put together a proposal for the rest of the group to feedback on and approve/critique.

4. Feedback from the Resident Participation Structure (Cllr Darren Merrill)

Previously discussed in Actions section.

5. How to increase participation in our meetings?

Chris presented the key issues of low attendance in our previous in person group meeting and how we can improve attendance at future meetings.

Joe discussed how we can get SGTO's name into public consciousness – using a public campaign to advertise SGTO's services.

Discussion about how members voted in favour of zoom meeting.

Suggestion of face-to-face meeting 3 or 4 times a year and how this was more community minded and helps to build a stronger sense of community and that it is easier to connect with people face to face.

Comment about community group meetings face to face where 100+ people will attend.

This is due to making meetings more exciting, hosting them in exciting locations, e.g. AGM on a boat, having an interesting speaker, etc.

Suggestion about in person meetings being on a different day and making it a more social event.

Action: After AGM, SGTO group to figure out what action plan is required for trialling different forms of meetings in the future to encourage better participation.

Action: After AGM, SGTO group to discuss option of 'meet and greet' format on a boat or in another location to make future meeting more exciting.

6. Aylesbury Estate Exhibition Video

This was played over zoom for the participants to see and floor opened for comments.

Discussion about issues raised in the video, debate about refurbishment vs demolition.

7. Any Other Business

Issue of the APPG issue raised by Joe and discussed about how SGTO can collect evidence on this topic.

Ahmed raised the issue of the Peckham Festival and another call out for participants to be involved.

Action: SGTO staff to put together a way of collecting information about people's experiences of council housing

Meeting closed: 9:15pm

Date of next meeting: 27th September 2023

Actions

Item 2.

Action: Ahmed and Joe to have conversation with Saidat, Sam and others who are interested about how SGTO can help advise TRAs more on youth engagement moving forward.

Action: Althea to contact Southwark Young Advisors to ask them if they want to be involved in SGTO young people initiatives.

Action: Ahmed and SGTO staff to look into options of other local sports initiatives, e.g. local cricket group mentioned by Althea.

Action: Joseph to send an email to Kiri to discuss minibus young person initiative.

Action: Chris M. and Peter to discuss the Tabard South merge issue further outside of the group meeting.

Action: Events subcommittee to put recommendations on next the SGTO event and funding together to be discussed after AGM.

Item 3.

Action: Ygerne, Ahmed, Chris, Althea, Louis and others to set up a committee and organise the SGTO/Tenants conference. This group will put together a proposal and feedback to the group for approve/critique.

Item 5.

Action: After AGM, SGTO group to figure out what action plan is around trialling different forms of meetings in the future to encourage better participation.

Action: After AGM, SGTO group to discuss option of 'meet and greet' format on a boat or in another location to make future meeting more exciting.

Item 7.

Action: SGTO staff to put together a way of collecting information about people's experiences of council housing