**Harkness Crescent TRA**

**Open Meeting**

**held on 16th March 2023 at 2.30pm**

**At Loch Centre**

**Present:**  V Towsey (Chair), A Wilson (Vice Chair), L Duff, J Veitch, K Malcolm, A and A McCann, J Liddell, M Young, R Rickis (ELC), Cllr Dugdale, S Cairns (ELTRP)

**Apologies**: S Hogg, P Grant, Cllr Menzies, Cllr McGinn, Cllr McLeod, A Bourhill

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| **No.** | **Description** | **Action/Responsibility** |
| **1.** | **Welcome and Apologies** |  |
|  | VT welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted the apologies.  | VT |
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| **2.** | **Previous Minutes**  |  |
|  | The previous minutes were agreed: AW/JV.**Matters Arising:****Parking/Speeding** – parking is still an ongoing issue for tenants at Harkness Crescent; RR did contact wardens about an additional presence, particularly during school start end finish times, however this doesn’t seem to have made a difference. The group discussed ‘residents’ parking again. RR will look into this further. c/fIt was again noted that cars still go via Harkness Crescent to avoid the speed bumps – they also drive quite fast, causing ongoing concerns for tenants. c/fA suggestion of double yellow lines was raised. RR will contact the Community Wardens to see if they can help at all. It was also suggested that someone raises this at the next CAPPs meeting. Cllr Menzies offered to do this. c/f**Clearing Snow/Leaves** – A BIG thank you again to AB as this has continued throughout.**Trees** – Forestry work is now a priority so they will have to wait for the trees to be maintained. c/f**Compost bin/Planters** – VT has been in discussions with the Payback Co-ordinator who has said they will be able to do both the compost bin and planters if they can source the materials. VT agreed to contact AB about pallets, soil for the planters and some plants c/f. **Survey**VT updated the group:* At the last meeting PG suggested a Gas Monitoring Officer assesses the radiators/heating in the properties: PG requested names from VT = 8 properties. The Central Heating Team has informed VT that they are currently low on staff and staff are involved in ongoing priority maintenance. Therefore they expect things to ease up when the spring weather arrives and this will give the GMO (Gas Monitoring Officer) the opportunity to visit Harkness Crescent then.

The group highlighted that the properties are at their coldest during the winter, hence why the tenants have continually raised this issue during the winter months. While they will still be cold come the spring weather, they will not be as cold as through the deep winter, subsequently giving a different outcome. This raises a serious concern for the group. c/fThe group also raised that when some of the boilers have been serviced, the condition of the boiler on the report sheet has been marked as ‘poor’ – what does this mean? Who is it reported back too? What can be done?* PG suggested that an assessment takes place with regard to the insulation: A desktop assessment has confirmed that every property is showing as having external wall insulation (these properties do not have cavities) and also a minimum of 300mm insulation in the attic space. PG has suggested that if anyone does have concerns, he will arrange for an **Energy Assessor** to visit and investigate.

The group agreed an Energy Assessor should visit the properties at Harkness Crescent – highlighting again, that the insulation was installed 26 years ago! c/f* PG suggested that an assessment takes place with regard to windows: A full window survey was concluded. Given the condition of the windows it was suggested that all properties with the older style windows will be added to the 2023/2024 replacement programme.

While the group were happy with this, it would be good to have a bit more information as to when this may take place. c/fThe estimated timescale from PG of 6 weeks will now be extended..The group also suggested for the repointing of the building to take place. This has been raised before.**Drains**CMcN/RR did hand in letters and tried to speak to tenants that were in about putting wipes etc., down the toilet (nos. 31-40). c/fCMcN reported the drain overflowing at Harkness Crescent.**Greening**PG has asked Scott Barclay (Housing Asset Manager) to consider Harkness Crescent for any future energy efficiency initiatives eg. Solar PV, district heating etc. He will keep the group updated on this.**Greenhouse – insurance** – The group have completed a grant application from ELC.VT and AW have investigated insurance however, are not sure how to take this forward. It was discussed with RR and he will investigate further as to if the group need to do this. | RRVT/ABPG/VTPG?PGPGPG?PGVT/AWRR |
| **3.** | **AOB** |  |
|  | Plants/flowers being walked over by school pupils. RR will speak to the community warden to see if they can help.Is the camera working in the area?RR will also speak to the Head Teacher.Cllr Dugdate offered for anyone to contact her if they wish to on 07834 337680 or email fdugdale@eastlothian.gov.uk. | RRKBRR |
| **4.** | **Date of next meeting** |  |
|  | The date of the next meeting will be:**Thursday****4th May 2023****Loch Centre****2.30pm (tbc)**All Harkness Crescent welcome.SC will type up the minute and share with VT for approval before circulating with a postcard and postcard to all tenants at Harkness Crescent and other relevant ELC staff.ELTRP will book the Loch Centre as above. |  |