

SHARE FORUM 3

6th October, Gloucester City Homes, Southgate House, Southgate Street, Gloucester

Attendance

John Mann (Chair), Director of Asset Management, Gloucester City Homes,
Colin Coopey, Gloucester City Homes
Jeremey Tuberville, Fosseway Housing Association
Tony Hayes, Property Services Manager, Wydean HA
Sally Daley, Stroud DC
Stephen McDonnell, Gloucester City Council
Amanda Pearson, Energy Saving Trust
Sandra Hickman, Tenant Representative, Stroud DC Housing
Linda Wright, Tenant Representative, Stroud DC Housing
Paul Simpson, Sales Development Manager, Domestic and General Insulation
Roger Sparks, Housing Enabling Officer, Cheltenham Borough Council
Eric Wilson, Stock Information Officer, Cheltenham Borough Homes
Dinyar Baria – Project Manager, Severn Wye Energy Agency (dinyar@swea.co.uk)

Forum Notes

Dinyar opened the meeting and once again thanked everyone for a great turn out. It was really encouraging to see.

Action points from previous meeting (SHARE forum 2)

- 1) One off insulation requests – If a tenant requests insulation or other home improvements that affect energy efficiency, Dinyar (and other members of the Gloucestershire Energy Efficiency Advice Centre) will forward them to the appropriate SHARE forum member. If there is an alternative contact within the housing please let us know.
- 2) Factsheets on funding, regulations etc. Dinyar gave out the latest version of the social housing briefing notes that gives an update of the issues affecting energy use in social housing – The briefing notes are
 - a. Social Housing Classifications
 - b. National And Local Housing Policies *including*
 - c. Funding Options *including*
 - d. Regulations and Standards *including*
 - e. Information Sources and further help
 - f. The Energy Performance of Buildings Directive

If you would like further copies of the briefing notes produced, they are available to download from the project website - www.socialhousingaction.com

- 3) Gas servicing programmers – In addition the gas servicing programmer as presented to the previous forum by Horstmann, there is another similar product on the market produced by Drayton. The Drayton programmer however only, lowers the comfort levels instead of shutting down the heating completely. Gloucester City Homes will be testing the programmers in a selected number of properties that are having gas central heating improvements works done under Decent homes.
- 4) Contact Details – Dinyar circulated contact details of the forum members. They will also be available on the project website.

Meeting Notes

Practical Help

Amanda Pearson from Practical Help, part of the Energy Saving Trust, gave a presentation about the services that they can offer to Local Authorities and Social Housing providers. This includes an enquiry services where they can answer your questions or solve your problems. They can allocate up to 2 hours per enquiry and answer within 3 working days.

They also produce a newsletter, an informative website and other publications (including a tenant improvement pack). They also offer an energy services scheme where that can offer 2 to 5 days free consultancy.

Local Area agreements, Home Energy Conservation Act and the Gloucestershire Affordable Warmth programme.

Sally Daley, the HECA officer from Stroud District council gave a short update on the Gloucestershire Local Area Agreements. She also gave the forum an insight into what HECA officers and the HECA group does. Finally she talked about the Gloucestershire Affordable Warmth Strategy and gave a background into fuel poverty.

Affordable Warmth

The next SHARE forum in January will be solely dedicated to the issue of fuel poverty. Kaye Welfare (SWEA) who chairs the Gloucestershire Affordable Warmth action will run a session of developing a common affordable warmth strategy for Gloucestershire.

SHARE Awareness and Training material

Dinyar gave a brief presentation on the SHARE awareness material. After running a focus group with some tenants, the campaign that was decided upon was "Ask Penny". The awareness material, will all be branded with the fictional energy advisor 'Penny'.

The awareness material that will be produced include 4 versions of an A3 poster, A8 sticky notes that will be distributed to all members of staff, SHARE energy advice factsheets and some branded banner stands. For those housing providers, who provide funds through SLAs, there are freepost requests for home visits.

Awareness material was distributed after the forum and members were encouraged to display and promote the energy advice services that the Energy Efficiency Advice Centre offer.

Buying clubs

John Mann (Glos City homes) raised the question of using buying clubs in the procurement of heating systems. Chris Winter (Oxbode HA) uses one and has found very large discounts. It may be of use to find out how they work and the services that they can offer for the next forum. It was also mentioned that it would be worth considering changing energy suppliers for communal buildings and housing association offices and investigating whether there is a future cost saving there by grouping together with other associations.

Other Business

It was noted that when giving out free CFLs, that we should make it clear that they should be disposed off at proper recycling centres, so the mercury can be recycled.

The next SHARE forum will be on the 19th January 2006. This will again be kindly hosted by Gloucester City Homes.