HOUSING ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR POLICY TASK GROUP – 26TH JANUARY 2011

A meeting of the Housing Anti-Social Behaviour Policy Task Group will be held at 5.30 pm on Wednesday 26th January 2011 in Committee Room 1 at the Town Hall, Rugby.

Councillor T Mahoney
Chairman

A G E N D A

PART 1 – PUBLIC BUSINESS

1. Minutes – to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 6th January 2011.

2. Apologies - to receive apologies for absence from the meeting.

3. Declarations of Interest.

   To receive declarations of –

   (a) personal interests as defined by the Council’s Code of Conduct for Councillors;

   (b) prejudicial interests as defined by the Council’s Code of Conduct for Councillors; and

   (c) notice under Section 106 Local Government Finance Act 1992 – non-payment of Community Charge or Council Tax.

   **Note:** Members are reminded that they should declare the existence and nature of their personal interests at the commencement of the meeting (or as soon as the interest becomes apparent). If that interest is a prejudicial interest, the Member must withdraw from the room unless one of the exceptions applies.

   Membership of Warwickshire County Council or any Parish Council is classed as a personal interest under the Code of Conduct. A Member does not need to declare this interest unless the Member chooses to speak on a matter relating to their membership. If the Member does not wish to speak on the matter, the Member may still vote on the matter without making a declaration.

5. Programme of Work.

*Any additional papers for this meeting can be accessed here via the website.*

**Membership of the Task Group:**

Councillors Mahoney (Chairman), Cranham, Lewis, Mrs New, Mrs O’Rourke, Srivastava and Miss Watts.

*If you have any general queries with regard to this agenda please contact Claire Waleczek, Democratic and Scrutiny Services Officer (Team Leader) (01788 533524 or e-mail claire.waleczek@rugby.gov.uk). Any specific queries concerning reports should be directed to the listed contact officer.*

*If you wish to attend the meeting and have any special requirements for access please contact the Democratic and Scrutiny Services Officer named above.*
Case study 1 – minor

Dog barking. Neighbour concerned for welfare of puppies being kept in a garden shed.

Dog warden alerted and property visited. One puppy at property and conditions very poor. Dog warden contacted RSPCA.

Joint home visit and inspection of property with dog warden arranged.

Called as arranged by letter but no-one at home. Noted 4 puppies in garden. Card left asking tenant to contact.

Tenant telephoned. Appointment arranged.

Home visit with dog warden. Inspection of garden and shed area. Garden full of dog mess. Evidence that dogs being bred and puppies sold. Tenant advised puppies being re-homed. Agreed to revisit in 7 days and tenant advised of improvements required.

Second home visit – situation much improved and puppies re-homed.

Letter sent confirming outcomes. Case closed.

Case study 2 – serious

Resident complaining about noise from neighbour. Loud music being played and dog barking over a weekend.

When resident approached neighbour they became abusive and threatening. Police called.

Resident contacted and incident discussed. Action plan agreed, advice given and evidence sheets issued.

Resident contacted for update. Things improved hasn’t had to complete evidence sheets. Agreed to close case at this stage. To contact again if things deteriorate.
Case study 3 – serious

Resident having problems with youths throwing stones and balls at her windows. Lighted paper being put through her letterbox.

Contacted property maintenance to arrange for protective shroud to be fitted to letterbox for safety.

Contacted resident and discussed action plan.

Visited parents of youths identified as being responsible.

Arranged for Fire service arson reduction scheme to visit both youths to alert of dangers of fire.

Resident satisfied that problems resolved.

Case closed.

Case study 4 – very serious

Alerted by the police to a possible incident of racial abuse to a tenant.

Police visited and took a statement.

Referral made to Warwickshire Race Equality Partnership (WREP)

Representative from WREP visited tenant to offer support.

Police continued to monitor complaints from tenant but no evidence to support allegations

Notified by police that tenant had been sectioned under Mental Health Act and it is now unclear whether complaint genuine.

Husband admitted that wife had mental health issues and he had failed to seek help with this.

Case closed.
Case study 5 – serious (escalated to very serious)

Tenant with mental health issues brought on by a history of drug abuse. Subject to an ASBO issued by the police until November 2010. Longstanding allegations of nuisance – unknown persons knocking on doors and windows. Complaints of noise from other tenants during the day.

Eventually offered a transfer to multi storey accommodation. Benefit of CCTV and concierge.

Tenant continued to complain about disturbance from other tenants.

Tenant making constant calls to concierge, causing nuisance to staff and contractors trying to go about their daily routines.

Notice served.

During a pre-arranged home visit, tenant became very agitated, verbally abusive and attempted to throw a punch at a member of staff.

Applied to the County Court for an interim injunction against the tenant. Judge awarded an injunction, based on the evidence provided.

Further court possession hearing scheduled in February 2011.

Legal team working sharing information with police for new application for ASBO.

Emma Rolfe
Estates Management Team Leader
January 2011