

Appendix 3

CIH CONFERENCE AND EXHIBITION, Glasgow on 16th 17th 18th March 2010.

At the Chartered Institute of Housing (CIH) and Exhibition held in the Glasgow Conference Centre, Tenants Representatives and Associations were welcomed along with Officers from the various City Councils, Associations, Managements, Consultancies, Housing, Scottish Government and Students from Stirling University.

Six of us who travelled together from Aberdeen were accommodated in the Premier Inn George Square, Glasgow – Carol Hannaford, Catherine McGregor, Florence Cal-Anglia, Eric Allan, William Pinkerton and Colin Ross - where we had the good fortune to meet and talk with Pete Leonard the new Director of Housing. He was with us as well at our table in the Crown Plaza Hotel for the Provost of Glasgow's Dinner a further opportunity to get to know him much better. I found him very pleasant and easy to talk too.

There was a warm welcome when we arrived at the conference centre, each of us handed a lightweight shoulder bag containing our badge, delegates' names and useful information to guide us through our stay. There were stalls on all types of information pertaining to housing with plenty of free pens and other gadgets. Stall personals ready to talk and to answer any question on their product. Sometimes it was difficult to decide on which seminar to attend. All seemed to be full of valuable information and a choice had to be made, I hope I chose well. My only quibble was the serving of a cup of tea/coffee only at specific times!

An opportunity arose from an actual disappointment. When applying for tour tickets to see the renovated Gorbals in Glasgow they were all finished. In stepped John Quinn who invited Bill and me (Tenant Representatives) to come in his car to view the new buildings. He was an excellent guide and good company full of information on the different architectural structures with their variety of designs Gorbals' transformation is wonderful. One building I had doubts, the roof was sticking far out at one end similar to the sharp end of a triangle. Probably wrong my opinion that it would cause a wind trap for pedestrians below instead of shelter.

The whole Conference, Exhibition and our accommodation I would recommend to any future Tenant Representatives to partake in, for I thoroughly enjoyed the whole experience.

F. B. Cal-Anglia

The Opening Address was by Craig Stirrat, Chair CIH Scotland and the Ministerial Address by Alex Neil MSP.

Some of the information spoken of was that there would be –

- Scottish Housing Social Charter
- Self-assessment by landlords
- Promote equal opportunities
- Further reform on the right to buy, which brought up the question would the right to restrict to buy be against disabled people?

Health Care and Housing Options

- Housing to be a part of good health
- sheltered housing with two bedroom and wet room
- helping people in long term housing

Alex Neil MSP; -

- Green Paper on future housing
- many ideas on housing with private sector as well as government
- further reform on right to buy
- Housing sector challenges to Councils with 45% allocation going to homeless at expense of people on the main list
- in 2016 eliminate fuel poverty
- standard quality responsibility of Councils, should be the target
- Equate with health, decent housing.
- Funds taken from advance years to help recession years
- Record spend on housing
- 50% cut in capital spend. Needed more effective use, people no longer able to mortgage, no longer first buyers, rent housing instead adding to double whammy.
- Choice and fairness – only told eligibility instead of informing tenants a broader outlook.
- New technology – able to heat houses for less and to meet new targets
- Genuine discussion of housing the kind we want to see in Scotland

Housing a prescription for Good Health – speakers Dr David Bell NHS Scotland, Lorraine McLaren and Catherine Jamieson, Glasgow, some items spoken of were already done in Aberdeen such as heating systems, loft insulation, and double-glazing.

- GHA tackling fuel poverty, energy service advice delivered to 11,500 tenants
- External insulation
- Neighbourhood renewal programme, environmental improvements
- Play areas joint partnership with Glasgow city council

Handy person

- Tenants supported with tasks

Most popular tasks

- Changing light bulbs/strip lights
- Taking down/re-hanging curtains
- Cleaning internal windows
- Building flat-pack furniture