



Minutes of the Christchurch Housing Forum

February 18th 2015

Attendance: Andrew Booker, Ray Tye HNZC; Kirstin Waters Student; Christine Williams, Jody Garrett Mighty River Power – Globug; Sandra Murphy Student CPIT; Cassie Parker Student Patty Nieuwenhuize TPA/CPIT Student; Daphne Project Esther; Natasha Kiwi Family Trust; Sandra Family Help Trust; Steve Jukes Pathway Charitable Group; Alison Ford Cobham St Trust; Caroline Shaw Community Energy Action; Emily Dunstall Waipuna St John of God; Robin Tinga; Claire Billens Bromley Community Centre; Jan Rogers Anglican Care Community Development; Anni Watkin Youth & Cultural Development; Richard Tankersley Human Rights Commission; Benjamin Morris People First; Bridget Lange CERA; Malcolm MacMillan MBIE; Trevor Cattermole CCC; Marge Reedy Te Puna Oraka – The Shirley Hub; Kim Williams Canterbury Property Investors Association & Ruby Housing; Simon Atkinson People First; Jo Prejza CCC Housing; Sue Molloy; Andrea Goodman CTAS; Marion Pavetich DHB Valerie McDonald Social Worker CDHB; Marg Matheson, Craig Bellis People First; Shelly Robinson The Press; Gray Crawford City Mission; Bruce Tremain The Salvation Army; Lindsey Carswell; Lyndon Rogers Anglican Social Justice; Geoff Butcher Cooperative Sections CHT; Peter Freeman Mike Greer Homes; Glen Dobson Stepping Stone Trust; Lisa Burdes CECC; Jay Sepie CCC; Linda Hall SSW Facilitator; Amy Hartnell Earthquake Disability Leadership Group; Jill Hawkey Christchurch Methodist Mission; Warren Cresswell & Steve Bull People First; Jeff Jones Salvation Army; Donna Ellen Pegasus health Kath Hamilton Poto Williams Electorate Office; Penny Arthur Community Law; Denise Jackson MSD; Marg ChCh Budget Service; Ali MHAPS; Ali TPA; Anne Reeve Older Persons Health (Again some did not sign the attendance register)

Welcome by - Helen Gatonyi - Helen also facilitated the meeting

Karakia - Richard Tankersley

First Forum of the Year - as this was the first forum we started with an update from the community. This information is listed after the notes from the Key Speaker Jody Garrett Mighty River Power – Globug.

Key Speaker – Jody Garrett – Mighty River Power – Globug Presentation

Our key speaker was Social Partnership Manager – Mighty River Power – Jody Garrett. Jody introduced Christine Williams who is the Social Partnership Specialist for Canterbury. You can contact Christine on 021 444 480 or Christine.Williams@mightyriver.co.nz

Jody, Christine and the Social Partnerships Team at Mighty River Power have a role dedicated to face-to-face contact with social agencies to assist and inform them about Globug <https://www.globug.co.nz> which is pre-pay electricity provision.

Historically it has been a higher cost electricity provision; however the price has dropped considerably with the aim by Globug to be at the bottom end of the price market for electricity.

There have also been a number of technical improvements to make this a very effective model of electricity provision.

All the points covered by Jody are attached in the PowerPoint presentation. Some highlights include

- Costs were 10% more than MBIE average now 4.4% lower
- Mobile Apps include
 - Payments
 - Weekly balances
 - Weekly usage etc...
- Can reconnect immediately – back on same day.
- Payments have been extended to internet banking credit cards etc
- Globug will buy debt off existing suppliers (listed in PowerPoint) users can pay this debt off via the Globug system.
- Agency tools to support social service agencies including - Priority 0800 number; Agency Dedicated website

Jody reiterated the usefulness of this electricity system for assisting in budgeting and electricity debt reduction and encouraged agencies not to hesitate to contact Christine or the Social Partnerships Team if you want any more information.

Community Updates:

Denise Jackson MSD - Short Term Housing Response for Singles/Families:

Short term housing response – key messages

- We let you know back in August 2014 that MSD was looking to contract interested NGOs in Christchurch to provide wraparound support and a new short-term housing option (up to eight weeks) for vulnerable people in Christchurch.
- MSD has contracted Comcare to provide accommodation and support for single people, and VisionWest will also start soon with support for families.
- Comcare started providing services from early February and VisionWest is due to start services from mid-March.
- Short-term accommodation will be provided for an average of eight weeks for vulnerable families and people most in need of emergency housing; for example those living in garages, camping grounds, substandard houses and sleeping in cars.
- Help will be given to those most in need and most vulnerable, providing support services where required getting people back on their feet.
- Providers will work with people to develop a plan to help them move from the short-term accommodation into long-term housing suitable for their needs
- They will also be able to connect people with other services they may need. This could include budgeting, counselling and advocacy services and specialist support like drug, alcohol and mental health services.
- The new short-term housing option will run for a period of approximately two years.

Lyndon Rogers – Anglican Social Justice - Pilot Scheme Record Your Rentals:

- Lyndon outlined the scheme “record your rentals” and advised that the pilot will continue until May when it will be re-evaluated

Andrew Booker and Frazer Benson HNZN - Updates on repairs and rebuilds:

- Recover Portfolio – Repairs 5000 – 3700 complete. New Builds 700 – 137 completed. 250 repairs per months, build 370 being built under contract.

- Over 1000 working on property
- Tenants stay in house whilst repairs being done if possible – upgrading carpets, ventilation, extractor fans – and deferred maintenance
- Repairs 700 empty 400 back in service
- Aranui – 90 demolitions next 6 weeks
- Tenants 14 new per week Financial year 460 new tenants
- Just about completed eastern side – more work in western suburbs.

Reminder to those applying for a Housing New Zealand House - applicants now go through MSD.

Ali from MHAPS initiated discussions with HNZC on their pets' policy – Tenants need permission from the landlord to have animals on the property. HNZC advised keeping of dogs depended on many issues, registration, fenced property etc., and was reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

Glen Dobson Stepping Stone Trust – Commended the work HNZC doing.

Glen Livingstone – Christchurch City Council – City Housing - Update

- Target 31 open units (closed units opened)
- December 49 new builds 8 Aranui
- Building new can be problematic – however EQC payment now through
- Open Units 400 repaired
- 99% occupancy
- Lifemark 5 – accessibility
- CCC/Community Energy Action project – advice to people on energy efficiencies. Advice to housing group and working with community about energy efficiency.

Di Harwood – Tenants Protection Association - Outlines SVT Project & Outreach

- TPA's Outreach and Supporting Vulnerable Tenancies (SVT) Programmes are designed to work directly in local communities providing tenants with resources, advice, advocacy and support around tenancy issues.
- The SVT Programme works with tenancies at risk and puts supports and actions into place to maintain these tenancies. (Brochure attached).
- Outreach programmes works with community groups and tenants to provide and on-the-spot tenancy service in the local community.
- With the purchase of a vehicle services are totally mobile
- For information about these services contact us at either info@tpa.org.nz or telephone Niki or Di on 3792297

Penny - Community Law Canterbury - Update

- Community Law have now moved to 198 Montreal Street. The temporary Riccarton office has now closed and we are in town.
- We offer an earthquake clinic Monday and Friday – this is around repairs and neighbours (not insurance). For example you have had your repairs done and neighbours repairs are impacting on your housing etc.
- We can also refer people to the Residential Advisory Services – if you are having issues with insurance etc. please give us a call and we will refer you on to this service. Although it is due to cease in May indications are that it may continue – due to need.

Andrea Goodman CETAS – Canterbury Earthquake Temporary Accommodation Service - Property Coordination

- Three services – Financial Assistance/EQ Support Co-ordination/Matching Placement – find temporary accommodation.
- 124 Units across four sites – 3 on council reserves – expire 2016. There is an eligibility criteria legal tenant homeowner which includes a start/finish date for repairs-rebuild, consent issued etc.

828 Households through the village that's less than 20% of people who have come through the service – 90% occupancy rate (10% gives us time between tenancies – also if there are delays in completion of repairs/rebuilds. We work with people to get them into private sector accommodation.

The next housing forum will be on Wednesday 25th March - Speakers to be advised.

Forum members are reminded that information about the forum and upcoming dates etc. can be found on www.christchurchhousingforum.org.nz.