



**NOTES OF  
SENTINEL TENANTS' & RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION  
SPECIAL MEETING HELD AT  
SENTINEL'S BASINGSTOKE OFFICE  
ON THURSDAY 18 MARCH 2010**

**Present:** Tony Mitchell                      Brian Sanders (Chair)                      Molly Parrett  
Bill Hall                                      Dick Wylie                                      George Herbert  
Helen Parry                                  Isla Sutherland                                  Marion Witts  
Kathy Hine                                      Arthur Williams

**Absent:** Dawn Moors

**In Attendance:** John Barker                                  Martin Nurse

**Distribution:** Those Present / Those Absent / Those                      Neighbourhood Managers  
In Attendance  
Val Bagnall

**1. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Dawn Moors and Sheila Jenkins.

**2. Resident Board Members**

- 2.1 The meeting had been convened as a Special Meeting of STARA to discuss proposals for the change in size of the Board of Sentinel and a proposal to change the number of Resident Board Members from five to four. John Barker, Chair of Sentinel Board and Martin Nurse, Chief Executive had come to the meeting to discuss further the proposal with STARA.
- 2.2 The Chair outlined the arrangements for the meeting that he would ask John Barker and Martin Nurse to speak about the proposal following which there would be an opportunity for each STARA member to comment and then followed by a general discussion.

- 2.3 John Barker then spoke about the proposal and reaffirmed the strong commitment of himself and the Board of Sentinel to Resident Board Members and resident involvement at all levels. Martin Nurse then spoke with more details about the proposals and circulated a written summary, copy attached. STARA members then commented individually and there was a general discussion. A summary of the points made was:
- 2.4
- The reasons for the proposal at this time was that it followed a Board appraisal and away day discussions by the Board in January 2010. The Board had been 15 members at the start of 2009 and this was reducing as longer serving Independent Board Members for reaching the end of their term without being replaced.
- 2.5
- To reduce the Board from 12 Board Members to 11 Board Members seemed to be that the Resident Board Members were taking a cut from five to four without any reduction in Independent Board Members.
- 2.6
- There was general agreement that smaller Boards and smaller groups work better and a recognition of the contribution brought by Independent Board Members with different skills in the running of Sentinel and its effectiveness in making Sentinel a successful organisation.
- 2.7
- However, generally STARA Members could not see that a Board of 11 was significantly different from a Board of 12 and continuing at this level with five resident representatives. The meeting also recognised the very valuable contribution of Resident Board Members and that this had been equally part of the success of Sentinel and the valuable contribution that residents brought to the Board from Sentinel's customers. The Chair read out the email from Sheila Jenkins with her views on the proposal and that if there was a reduction to four Board Members, there should continue to be one Resident Board Member that was appointed independently of STARA.
- 2.8
- There was a general view from all STARA Members that if there were a reduction from five to four, then having Resident Board Members that were elected through the Neighbourhood Panels and STARA was much more accountable and the preferred option.
- 2.9
- There was also a discussion and recognition that tenants' and customers' voice needed to be heard throughout Sentinel in getting things done where there were tenant concerns about services. The present arrangements were very successful for this to happen and be effective.
- 2.10
- The Chair then summarised the discussions and the views of STARA on the proposal to change the number of Resident Board Members from five to four. It was recognised that smaller groups and smaller Boards work better and STARA very much recognise the role of Independent Board Members and the contribution they brought to the Board. Sentinel's achievements and performance had gone up with the present Board Members and was a successful organisation. Equally, tenant representation at Board level was very important. Resident Board Members knew what was going on in their area and brought a recognised and valuable contribution to the Board. STARA considered there were overwhelming arguments to retain five Resident Board Members and strong views that the Board should continue

with 12 Board Members which would still fulfil the Governance Code. The present arrangements for the Board worked well at the size of 12 and STARA did not support the proposal for a reduction in Resident Board Members and argued that the arrangements should be left well alone.

The meeting ended at 7.40 pm.