



**WOLVERHAMPTON OVER 50s FORUM**  
Secretary: Mr. Roy Russell MBE  
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**SPEAK AND BE HEARD**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 16<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2003 AT 10.00 A.M. AT THE  
CIVIC CENTRE WOLVERHAMPTON**

**1. Apologies**

Jenny Purshouse, I G Peters Brian Davies Rita Davies  
Charles Sammonds Ivy Sammonds Trevor Russell Joan Russell  
Gwyneth Wade Doris Gravestock Silbert Griffiths Sid Lewis  
Margaret Thomas Ken Pearce

**Present**

25 members, Emma Palmer, Sandra Jones, Karen Beasley and  
Kathryn Ralph from Wolverhampton City Council.

**2. Speaker**

The Forum were given a brief presentation from Sandra Jones,  
Karen Beasley and Kathryn Ralph on the recent Housing Needs  
Study and the implications for older people.

Sandra told us that one of the ways the Council and its partners find  
out about housing needs in the city is to undertake a city wide  
Housing Needs Study. There are a number of issues for us to  
address from the findings of the study, these include:

Forecasted growth in older population - by the year 2011 there will  
be 3,100 more households in the 80 plus age group than in 1996.  
This group represents 12, 200 people who are likely to have care  
and support needs which need to be understood by service planners  
and providers.

The study found that a significant number of households contained  
someone with a disability (30,560 households). 57% of all disabled  
household members were over the age of 60 years.

**ACTION**

The largest group affected by a named disability was those with mobility problems. 3,350 are wheelchair users but only 29% live in homes that have been adapted to meet their needs.

The Council can work to address these issues in a variety of ways including ensuring services are available to help people maintain their properties such as the Care and Repair service. This service needs to be improved and partnership working with housing associations to provide Sheltered and Very Sheltered Housing .

Sandra went on to say whilst a large proportion of council tenants are in the older age group, the larger proportion of the older population are owner occupiers. The strategy needs to cover all tenures and we would like to explore with the Over 50's Forum issues for owner occupiers. Sandra stated that she will contact Emma Palmer to organise a Conference/Event to look at issues in relation to housing for older people and they were hoping the Forum would be involved in the event.

Members were advised that anyone in the 60+ age group can apply for Social Housing regardless of the value of their property.

The estimated increase in older people requiring housing by 2011 means that the Council may need to consider retirement apartments that can be adapted for disabled people. It was pointed out by members that this was just another name for flats and older people did not want to be housed in flats!

Sandra then took questions from the group

Q. Mike Nichols raised the issue of the tarren bungalows on the East Park estate. The question was asked about when older people in these properties would know about the future of their homes?

Mike gave examples of how the older people in the tarren bungalows had been let down and not communicated with effectively.

Sandra Jones responded by explaining the need to be clear on the outcome of reports before giving an indication to the public what was going to happen so as not to misinform people.

### **3. Minutes of the last Meeting**

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed as a true record and proposed by Jim Speakman, seconded by Roy Russell.

**Sandra Jones to contact Emma Palmer to arrange a event to look at Housing Issues**

#### **4. Matters arising from the Minutes**

Mike Nicholls pointed out to members that the Park Watch Scheme discussed at last month's meeting is keen to attract new members.

The group were informed that a Community Festival would be held in Phoenix Park on 11 May 2003. There will be stalls, displays, demonstrations and other activities. Anyone wanting more information can contact Debra Lyon at All Saints and Blakenhall Community Development Partnership on 01902 556747.

A debate took place on the subject of Park Rangers and if they are expected to act as substitute policemen. The debate resulted in a request to ask someone from Park Rangers to attend a Forum meeting to explain their role in more detail and discuss the issue of enforcing the law.

The group were informed of a day out in Bantock Park on the 5<sup>th</sup> May, from 11am – 4pm with free admission. Attractions include fairground amusements, donkey rides and classic vehicle display plus stalls and other activities. It is a fun day for all the family.

#### **5. Chairman's Report**

Brad read out a note passed to him by Emma Palmer. Emma had stated she had some concerns about members of the Forum coming into the Civic Centre to see her. She is often out of the Civic Centre as her role title suggests, networking with older people within the city. Emma cannot guarantee her availability even if she is in the office as she has other areas of responsibility within her role and suggests members contact her by phone to arrange a suitable time to visit to save them a wasted trip.

#### **6. Treasurer's Report**

£1,500 has been added to the account for the purpose of designing and building a Website. The account has £908.40 in addition.

#### **7. Correspondence**

A response to the questions raised with Ian Parsonage at last months meeting has been received and is attached as an Appendix to the Minutes from March.

**Emma Palmer to arrange for the Park Rangers to come to a meeting in the future as a speaker**

## **8. Sub committee reports**

### **8.1 Public Safety Sub Committee**

The date of the next meeting is 6<sup>th</sup> May 2003 at 10.30 a m. in Briefing Room 1. The subject of the meeting will be Byelaws. The notes from the last Public Safety meeting held on the 11 March are attached as **Appendix 1**

Marjorie Wedge reported on the Bereavement centre (**Appendix 2**)

### **8.2 Health Sub Committee**

Marjorie told the group about work of the sub committee and welcomed the new members of the group. She introduced Aida Morris, who is representing the Forum on the integrated community equipment service users group. Aida read out a report from the group (**appendix 3**)

### **9.3 Housing Sub Committee**

Mike informed the Forum of Eric Preece's move to Brighton, everyone wished him well.

Mike told of his visits to the MPDP meetings attended recently and how the Pensioners Convention had a member co-opted on to the panel. Mike suggested the Forum should be represented also. Emma Palmer agreed to make enquiries with Kate Gott who supports the MPDP for Social Care Housing and Health about this and feed back to the Forum as soon as she has a response.

Mike talked about the tarren bungalows situation on the East Park estate and explained that a petition had been given to Councillor Bilson and a response was awaited.

Mike also talked about the transfer of housing stock and a debate took place on this issue. It is felt that the Forum needs to be fully aware of the implications of the proposal. It is hoped to ask someone to come along and discuss this at a meeting of the housing sub committee in the future.

Mike requested the Forum consider asking Mike Finnegan to come and address the whole Forum on the issues around Asylum Seekers. This needs to be arranged for sometime in the future when a spot is available.

Concierge service was discussed and the request for someone to come and speak to the Forum about the service was raised. Emma Palmer is to look into this.

Mike made an appeal for new members to join the sub committee . Emma Palmer stated that it had been requested the Forum host an open consultation event on issues around older peoples housing in conjunction with the Council and other providers. Emma will be talking to Sandra Jones about this and making plans for a one day event later in the year.

#### **8.4 Communication Sub Committee**

The Communication sub committee has held its first meeting with the group making good progress on identifying issues around communication in large organisations. Emma had recorded the outcome of the meeting; the next meeting of the Committee was due to be held on 7<sup>th</sup> May. It is hoped that in a future meeting some of the Councillors will join the debate from the Social Care Housing and Health MPDP. The group will hopefully be able to make some recommendations about how improvements could be made.

#### **9. Any Other Business**

There was no time for items under Any Other Business.

#### **10. Date of Next Meeting**

21<sup>st</sup> May 2003 10am – 12 noon in Committee Room 3 Civic Centre.

**Emma Palmer to look at options for Mike Finnegan to attend Main Forum meeting**

**Emma Palmer to arrange a date for the next housing Sub committee and Anne Bailey to be asked to attend.**