



**WOLVERHAMPTON OVER 50s FORUM**  
Secretary: Mr. Roy Russell MBE  
196 Warstones Road, Penn  
Wolverhampton WV4 4LF

Tel: 01902 332728

**SPEAK AND BE HEARD**

**MINUTES OF O'50s FORUM HELD ON 20<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2005**  
**COMMITTEE ROOM 3 CIVIC CENTRE**

**Apologies:** Mr & Mrs Sammonds, Mr Speakman, Mrs Morris, Mr & Mrs Girdler, Ms Saunders, Mrs Peat, Mr Lampart, Mrs McNish, Mr Jones, Mr & Mrs Davies, Mr Mellor, Mr & Mrs Russell, Mrs Gravestock, Mr Webb

**Present:** 27 members, R.Powell

**1. Speakers**

**David Holmes – King St Information Service**

David told everyone present that the new version of 'Live Life to the Full directories are now available and asked that members let other older people know how to access them.

**John Partridge – Road Safety**

There are approx 1000 road accidents with casualties in Wolverhampton throughout the year and approx 15000.00 incidents with no casualties. Casualty figures are going down steadily probably due to improved car safety. In 1970 the number of deaths in Wolverhampton was 30 this is now 5 – 6. There were three times more deaths just before the war. Two things have changed, road networks have changed to become safer, education/training/publicity has increased for pedestrians etc.

**Questions.**

Mrs Wedge pointed out that the 20mph speed limit within the city council is only signed on the road as you enter the restricted zone and not repeated, could more signs be put in place? Also buses tend to speed in the city centre.

There are no signs available from the dept of transport, however, there are going to be more road reminders on car park exits. Buses speeding can be a problem, the department is regularly in contact with WMPTE. Moveable flashing speed signs will soon be used within the city centre.

Mr Butler: How many prosecutions have there been since the 20mph restriction?  
Unsure as it is the police that are responsible for enforcement.

Mr Sarling: Buses exceeding speed limits, are there any accidents caused by this?  
There are accidents involving buses but unsure if speed is a major factor. There will be a relaunch of the 20mph in the summer.

Mr Ray: The flashing sign collates information what do you do with this? What does road safety do with reports of excessive speed on many roads?

Information is sent to the police. Our budget is specifically to improve road safety, where casualties occur is usually a strong guide, other factors include speed, are junctions involved? If roads are used for excessive speeding this info is passed to the police. If there are two roads with excessive speeding and one has 2000 and another has 5000 obviously we have to prioritise.

Mr Evans: there are continual problems in Chapel Ash with people parking to collect fast food etc, couldn't a 'red route' be used there?

The City Council will be taking over parking enforcement next year, hopefully that may help to alleviate some of these problems. A red route is planned and is being piloted in Stafford Road.

Mr Rai: there was recently an incident in Chapel Ash at the Island where someone was killed, the junction is flawed as there are two lots of traffic on green at the same time that have to merge and if someone wishes to turn left this can lead to problems, can something not be done about this problem?

Unable to comment on individual incidents, there is a left slip road on this island also on the Penn Road, if people drive correctly there shouldn't be a problem.

Mr Girdler: The school run, with parents parking outside schools causes enormous problems. The walking bus schemes seemed to work very well but now seem to have largely disappeared why is this?

This is a major problem outside every school. An officer to discourage parents from parking and to encourage 'park & stride' will be soon available to all schools

What are the figures for casualties in road accidents caused by pedestrians?

It is difficult to direct blame at drivers or pedestrians.

John said that if anyone has any problems or thinks of any other questions please contact him on; 551299.

## **2. Minutes of the last meeting**

The minutes of last month were agreed as a true record. Proposed by Mrs Wedge, seconded by Mr Gabb.

## **3. Matters arising**

Re: Bus passes are safe for the next three years in its present form: Mr Rai made the comment that bus passes should be available for travel throughout England not in the present restricted form.

## **4. Chairman's remarks**

The Arena theatre has sent a programme of events for VE day celebrations if anyone would like a copy they are available at the end of the meeting .

## **5. Treasurer's Report**

£1329.16 currently available.

## **6. Sub committee reports**

## **Housing**

A meeting was held on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2005 and a discussion took place around leaseholders and the bills that they are expected to pay for external repairs. Helen Bellingham will be attending the next meeting on the 29<sup>th</sup> April where discussions will take place. Discussions were also held about the ALMO and the committee which is currently being set up. A representative will be invited to a future meeting.

## **Communications**

John Ray asked if Melanire Whyett still works for the council and asked if she could be invited to a future meeting to talk about what changes were currently being made.

He said that the forum has still not accomplished the desire to sit on scrutiny panels and raised the point ; is it better to be involved in reviews than nothing at all? He is expecting scrutiny to contact the O50 forum. He feels that a letter should be sent to Cllr Foster, this letter and format to be discussed at the next management committee.

## **Loos**

Jean has produced a report on the Loos committee progress, which will be copied and circulated at next months meeting. There is also a leaflet now available which gives toilet locations and times of opening.

There has been an allocation of £500,000.00 made for the renovation and building of new toilet facilities. Cllr Andrew Johnson has confirmed that they will have attendants. The Over 50s forum is largely responsible for this due to the ongoing campaign.

Forum thanked and congratulated the loos committee for their ongoing campaign, that has now produced results.

## **Whitmore Reans Satellite forum**

No one available to give feedback on this months meeting.

## **Any Other Business**

John Ray; how do we find out about the policy on appointments at GP surgeries as at his surgery it is now very difficult to get appointments. A discussion took place and it became clear that different surgeries have different systems. It was suggested that Anne Donovan from the PPI at the citizens advice office in Bilston or Cath Cunningham at the PCT may be the people to approach to ask about this. It was agreed that there was general concern about GP's appointments.

Police in Wolverhampton: We keep hearing figures about police in Wolverhampton, but how many are actually 'on the streets'?

Most areas have police liaison committees – you need to attend and raise points there.

John Ray asked if the older peoples champion Cllr Frank Docherty could be invited to a future meeting.

## **Date of next meeting**

**10am Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2005**

**Committee room 3 Civic Centre**

**Speaker: Brian Gamble – talks on the complaints procedure**