



WOLVERHAMPTON OVER 50s FORUM

Secretary: Mr. Roy Girdler
 25 Clarence Road
 Bilston
 Wolverhampton
 WV14 6NZ
 Tel:01902 651656

SPEAK AND BE HEARD

Minutes of Over 50s Forum Wednesday
21st April 2007, Committee Room 3, Civic Centre

Apologies: D & M Gravestock, D.Plant, B.Davies, J.Speakman, R & J Girdler

Present: 33 Members, Rose Powell

Item		Actions
1.	<p>Speakers – Tom Winckley – Energy Efficiency Advisor</p> <p>Tom gave a presentation on what people can do to ensure energy efficiency and what grants are available for insulation and heating improvement. 25% of people in Wolverhampton are in fuel poverty 57% of these are over 60's.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Warm Front offers grants of up to £2,700.00 for owner occupiers and those renting privately towards the cost of insulation and heating improvements for householders and partners on a qualifying benefit. • Wolverhampton City Council and the energy efficiency advice centre provides help on range of energy issues from grants for heating and insulation, energy saving tips, renewable energy and how to calculate running costs. The main criteria for health through warmth grants are for the applicant to have current health issues. <p>Q. We have had our loft insulated and applied for cavity wall insulation, as our property has no cavities we were turned down even though the extension has cavity walls we were told that a property could not have a grant for just part of the property is this right?</p> <p>A. No, you should be able to carry out insulation to part of the property in these circumstances. Unfortunately there is no grant yet available for external wall insulation.</p> <p>Q. What is the percentage of properties with cavity walls in Wolverhampton?</p> <p>A. We are trying to map that this year</p> <p>Q. We are living in sheltered accommodation can we assume that all of these efficiencies would be already in place?</p> <p>A. Energy performance certificates are coming out this year all housing associations and sheltered housing sites should display one of these certificates by the end of the year.</p> <p>Q. We live in a small bungalow which is very cold, we contacted the 0800 number but they couldn't help as we have solid walls. Is there anything else we can do?</p> <p>A. Unfortunately there are no grants yet available for dry lining or external wall insulation.</p> <p>Q. Are the grants means tested?</p> <p>A. Yes some of the grants are only available to people in receipt of benefits, though the health through warmth grants are given to people with health issues, if you are entitled to a flu jab you are usually entitled to apply for one off these grants.</p>	

2.	<p>Minutes of last months meeting were agreed, proposed by Gerald Gabb seconded by Dave Walker.</p>	
3.	<p>Matters Arising Item 6 Brian O’Leary has been invited to forum to discuss issues affecting older people, in particular transport and domiciliary care charges. Unfortunately he is unavailable until the June meeting.</p> <p>A question was raised about whether wardens have the power to stop Ring and Ride waiting on yellow lines? David Plant not at today’s meeting, we will try to find the answer for next months meeting.</p> <p>Mike Nicholls; we should invite Councillors King and Docherty to a future forum.</p>	<p>Rose to check</p> <p>Secretary to invite</p>
4.	<p>Chairman’s Remarks</p> <p>There is an older people’s lunch being organised by All Cultures One Voice at Springvale social club, anyone who wishes to attend should let Eddie Grizzel know.</p> <p>There have been a number of problems in Dudley Street with purses being stolen from shopping trolleys and pushchairs. Brad reminded everyone that they should be vigilant with their purses and wallets.</p>	
5.	<p>Treasurers Report Forum has £1,140.91 in its account.</p>	
6.	<p>Correspondence Literature from Help the Aged re; carbon monoxide detectors for purchase.</p>	
7.	<p>Sub Committee Reports Health Marjorie told forum that she had highlighted the transport issues for older people at the first older peoples partnership board. Brian O’Leary said that it would have very little effect on older people it would mainly be people who were in receipt of higher rate mobility allowance who would be expected to provide transport to day care and appointments rather than using social services transport. A discussion followed on various transport issues and it was agreed to invite someone from hospital transport to attend a future forum meeting.</p>	
	<p>Education A consultation event for the learning strategy is still being planned. The learning strategy is also on the agenda for the next older peoples partnership board in June.</p>	
	<p>Housing Mark Henderson from Wolverhampton Homes attended the sub group. Pat mentioned the housing association flats which had been built at East Park which were still vacant. Mark pointed out that it was up to the housing association to allocate places not Wolverhampton Homes. The garage site regeneration is continuing, there are still some sites to be demolished mainly due to security issues.</p> <p>Pat told forum that a leaseholder in Graiseley flats has been given a bill for £25,000.00 for his contribution to the refurbishment of the flats. He has no choice but to pay and the council have agreed to allow him to pay this off</p>	

	<p>over 10 years.</p> <p>Dennis Kennedy Advocacy manager for Age Concern has been involved with three leaseholders recently. He reminded anyone thinking of buying a property as a leaseholder that they should discuss with their solicitor the responsibilities which come with being a leaseholder.</p> <p>Pat showed forum an Express & Star article which was featured recently showing the salaries of people in Wolverhampton Homes and talking about whether they will achieve 2 star status. Mike Nicholls said that he had been interviewed for that article and had then been removed from Wolverhampton Homes Executive. He said that "Wolverhampton Homes is in danger of fading away and costing millions."</p>	
8.	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>Barbara Carter from MGI is informing forums across the country about two major issues affecting the over 50s: The amount of monthly income coming into a household: The opportunity to do something about it. She will be attending next months meeting.</p> <p>Trevor Russell again highlighted the problems with scam mail. He was reminded that he can register with the mail preference service. When you register with MPS, your name is placed on a "delete" file which is made available to companies four times a year - January, April, July, and October. Registrants typically notice a decrease in the amount of advertising mail approximately three months after their names are entered into the file.</p> <p>Dennis Kennedy reminded members about the Age Concern Safety service which is free to pensioners and other older vulnerable residents in Wolverhampton. They supply and fit free door chains/bars, door viewers, window locks, 10 year smoke alarms and undertake other small security/safety jobs. TP 01902 572075 for further information</p>	
	<p>Venue: <u>Committee Room 3</u>, Civic Centre.</p> <p>Date of next meeting Wednesday 16th May 2007, 10 am.</p> <p>Speaker: Barbara Carter - Time to take matters into our own hands</p>	