



WOLVERHAMPTON OVER 50s FORUM
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Minutes of Over 50s Forum
Held on Wednesday 16th April 2008, 10am

Apologies: Kate McNish, Mr Rai, Jenny Purshouse, Reg Jones,
Present: 36 members, Rose Powell, Jean Fairclough (minutes)
Chairperson: Brad Purshouse

Brad welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Minutes of last Meeting

Minutes were agreed as an accurate account by G. Parker and seconded by D. Plant.

Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

Business and Report on MPs Replies

Councillor Smith informed Forum that the Ward St Project has started and said this was good news, because this means Bilston and Ettingshall areas employment prospect would improve.

The Forum will be inviting Elaine Howell, Kick Start project, who will explain in more detail about loans that people can get to improve their homes.

Brad read letters from MPs Rob Marris and Ken Purchase and the Police regarding the consumption of alcohol in the city centre. The MPs letters also addressed that matter of Attendance Allowance, but nothing was mentioned about Mobility Allowance. Members pointed out that the Mobility Allowance issue was completely side stepped by the MPs, therefore this needs to be addressed.

Councillor Smith pointed out that Pat McFadden has not replied to the Forum regarding any of the questions raised at the meeting which was held on 29th February, Britannia Hotel, for MPs. Councillor Smith also suggested that a letter to be sent to Pat McFadden regarding his reply and he will be raising issue with Pat McFadden.

Members said the meeting with MPs was well organised and it was good that 3 came but they did not really answer questions put to them, MPs have agreed to meet with the Forum again in the future.

Marjorie suggested questions to be put MPs again, and read through some of these i.e. Preventative Services, Mobility Allowance, Funeral Grant, etc.

Question regarding fuel bill was not fully answered by MPs.

Deposit for funerals is no longer £600 but £1000 and grants are granted on receipt of full cost of the funeral. The waiting time for grants taking weeks, this is due to administration process.

A situation was related where an elderly gentleman had to pay full funeral cost of daughter, after he and his wife have been refused a grant. It was suggested that anyone in this situation could appeal or speak to local MP. Help is also available through the Advocacy Service provided by Age Concern. People who die with no living relatives or financial funds are buried by the state.

It was suggested that perhaps a speaker on the subject could address Forum on the funeral grants criteria, i.e. are people assessed on their income, savings, who's assess, living relatives or the deceased. **Rose will make enquiries and arrange for the speaker to attend one of the meetings.**

The group felt that the answers to their questions about Fair Access to Care were not satisfactory, will raise this with MPs and invite Brian O'Leary again to one of the meetings.

If you are a Talk-Talk customer, you will be charged £1.75 each month to pay your bill by Direct Debit if you're unable to pay on line (via the computer). This discriminates against people who do not have computers or who are not computer literate, perhaps Forum could write to Talk-Talk.

Intergenerational Project

Rose mentioned that she's looking for older people who have worked in Wolverhampton at former industrial sites such as Boulton Paul, Banks's , this project will be similar to 'Lest We Forget', in that people will be interviewed about their working and social memories. This will include young people from various schools and will take place sometime in August.

Any Other Business

Members were reminded to fill out Safeguarding Adults forms, which deals with how people can report abuse.

On Monday 28 April 2008, a meeting regarding safeguarding adults will be taking place at 10am, in one of the Meeting Rooms, Third Floor, Civic Centre, transport and refreshments will provided for those who wish to attend.

Sandra Ullah informed the Forum that she has been offered a place at one of Ransacker's colleges and would she will report back to the group.

David Plant mentioned that as from Sunday 27th April 2008, there will changes on certain buses in Wolverhampton and Dudley.

**Date of next meeting is Wednesday 21st May 2008 at 10am,
Committee Room 3, Civic Centre.**

Speaker: Bev Patel – Kickstart Programme