



**WOLVERHAMPTON OVER 50s FORUM**  
Secretary: Mr. Roy Russell MBE  
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Tel: 01902 332728

**SPEAK AND BE HEARD**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 21<sup>ST</sup> AUGUST 2002**  
**AT 10 am COMMITTEE ROOM 3**  
**CIVIC CENTRE**

**1. Apologies**

M. Gravestock D. Gravestock T. Russell J. Russell J. Knowles D. Barret  
A. Farmer (Age Concern) E. Preece E. Grizzle

**Present**

Attendance Register showed 21 members, as well as Anne Bailey (10.20 – 11.15),  
Emma Palmer and Ann Walker - observer.

The meeting opened with the Chair, Brad Purshouse, welcoming Emma Palmer as the  
new Network Development Officer and the Speaker for Today Sandra Ashton Jones.  
Sandra attended in place of Mike Grinsall as stated on the Agenda for the meeting.

**2. Speaker**

Sandra Ashton Jones, a Principle Social Worker, from the Hospital Team discussed  
issues around Hospital based Assessment and Discharge Procedures.  
Members raised issues with Sandra who answered them as fully as possible.  
The issues were Assessment process and Protocols, the Carers input into the  
assessment, Eligibility Criteria, Risk Assessment, Mental Health Act, NHS and  
Community Care Act, National Service Framework and other relevant legislation and  
the Comments Compliments and Complaints system.  
It was suggested that this area could be further discussed within the Health Sub- Group  
and Sandra agreed to contact Marjorie Wedge to arrange.

**3. Minutes of the last Meeting**

The minutes of the Meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> June were agreed as a true record. Subject to  
the following amendments proposed by Marjorie Wedge and Seconded by Mr JA.  
Macey.

**4. Matters Arising**

Charles Sammonds raised issues in relation to Pensions giving details of a meeting he and Ivy had attended on the 20/7/02. Charles gave information about the next meeting of the Prostrate Awareness support group's next meeting on September 2<sup>nd</sup> at 1.30pm at the Connaught. The toilets in the Mander Centre have been visited and are good.

## **5. Chairman's remarks**

Brad reported and OPAG meeting which he attended recently. Things are moving slowly, negotiations are going on and they are working in Partnership. There was a discussion between the Chair and a member about what is considered to be the older peoples age range. Brad pointed out that the age range for the BGOP is over 50 therefore the issues covered are for this age range.

## **6. Treasurers Report**

**Treasurer reported that the forum was £ 964.86 in credit as @ End of August  
There were 46 individual members and 5 group members on record**

A discussion took place about why membership had decreased. It was thought members may not realise that their membership had lapsed. Or maybe some members joined to deal with an issue important to them, then when it was dealt with they did not continue attending.

A member suggested that the treasurer's report should indicate monies that are owed to the Forum and any monies owed by the forum.

## **7. Correspondence**

Roy had not received a report from Charles or a reply from Rob Harris. Roy pointed out he is having problems with his mail at the moment. Charles agreed to send a copy of the report to Roy.

Roy discussed the letter attached to the August Agenda concerning sloping Pavements, (should have been appendix to Junes minutes) Roy requested information on specific sloping pavements that cause problems to enable him to identify these to The Transportation Department of the Council.

Mrs Dorothy Young raised the Issue of roller-skates and Skateboards being used on pavements. She pointed out the injuries she had sustained as a result of this. A discussion ensued about the legality of using items such as these and Bicycles on the Pavements. It was noted that there were some issues around the Police blaming a Lack of Resources for the Law not being enforced. Roy stated he would seek a response and report back on this issue officially to the Forum.

A in depth discussion took place about the issues of Skateboards and Bicycles etc.. It was noted after some time that this should be placed on the Agenda for the Public Safety sub group.

Discussion then took place on issues relating to raised roots on Footpaths and over hanging branches Brad stated this is an issue for the Public Safety sub group.

Marjorie pointed out that there was a council Booklet called the Green Guide, this assisted people to find out who can help them with what.

Charles stated that there were 5 MPDP( Monitoring and policy development panels ) covering the Portfolios. This was thought to be a good place to raise issues of concern. There was a Protocol to be followed. This involves presenting a petition to the cabinet, answers would then have to be given. General problems can be raised through the MPDP through the Agenda of the meeting.

## **8. Sub Committee Reports**

### **8.1 Public Safety Sub committee**

Apologies were given to members for the lack of Agenda for the next meeting, it had not yet been distributed.

The Agenda will be sent to all group members. The next meeting is on 3<sup>rd</sup> September and it is requested that all members try to attend.

The meeting will have two speakers : Town Centre Manager to discuss Safety  
Helen Hill to discuss Road Safety

It was noted Traffic now seemed to be allowed into pedestrian areas within the town centre, it was requested that if the Law in respect of traffic in these areas had been relaxed could it be publicised and if not then could it be enforced.

An article in the Telegraph had indicated that due to congestion it may be that a charging scheme is introduced for using the ring road, it was pointed out by one member that this could mean people would not access the town Centre, they would choose to go elsewhere to shop, for example Merry Hill where no charges are in operation even for Parking. It was requested that the Sub group address this issue and it was agreed the group would raise it.

### **8.2 Health Sub Committee**

Marjorie gave a report to the group about the Bereavement Centre and read out the letter from Derek Anderson Chief Executive of the Comprehensive Performance Assessment team.

Marjorie also reported to the group on the work of the Patients Forum.

***Marjorie's report is attached as Appendix 1***

### **8.3 Housing Sub Committee**

Mike Nichols gave feedback on issues tackled by the housing sub group these included a thank you to Mike Williams for a report on Prefabs on East Park Estate.

Mike informed the group about the tenants of the Tarrant Bungalows situation, and that a decision about there future had been reached but would not be released until the Mayfields was complete.

Mike reported that the group was in desperate need of new members they were struggling to cope with the influx of issues needing attention. It was feared that the group could not carry on much longer without new members. Mike gave examples of the type of issues that were brought to the Sub group for tackling, he told of a woman who could not get essential repairs done so she came to the Sub group for support even though she was not in the Forum's age range. Eight days after contact was made the repairs were under way. Next meeting 28.8.02 Briefing room 2 Civic Centre.

#### 8.4 Loos Sub Committee

Charles pointed out that the Loos sub group needs a new Chair Person. Charles fed back about a meeting last Thursday on the Future of the MPDP's at this meeting Pat Byrne gave her assurance to Charles that the toilet situation was being taken seriously. Discussion took place on the types of toilets that need to be available within the city and Charles told the group of the British Toilet Association and its National Campaign.

The Chairman thanked Charles for all his hard work with the Loos Sub Committee.

#### 9. Any Other Business

Jim Speakman was asked to publicise the Forum in the Local Press with the hope of generating new membership.

Roy was asked to write a letter about the Drunks using the Benches in St Peters gardens and the Church grounds.

Brad informed the group that Contenance cards were available for members to use to access toilets quickly ( available from **query** )

Charles mentioned the Annual General Meeting of the Voluntary Sector Council, he stated he and Ivy had received invitations to attend the Meeting on 9.10.02. Charles wondered if the Over 50's Forum was a affiliated member or a subscribed group ? It was agreed after discussion that Ivy and Charles would represent the Forum at the AGM of the Voluntary Sector Council.

Cynthia requested that the issue of Bicycles and the use of bells / horns be addressed through the Forum and the issues tackled.

Representative from the Pensioners Convention informed the group that there was a newsletter for sale

A report was given by a individual member, to the Chairman, for distribution to the group entitled : Climate Change Truths "The world of man-made Global Warming Supporters is in a serious state". Brad asked Emma Palmer to copy the Document ready for the next meeting of the Forum.

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

Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> September 10am in Committee Room 3, Civic Centre.