



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

MINUTES OF O50 MEETING HELD ON 17TH DECEMBER 2003
COMMITTEE ROOM 3 CIVIC CENTRE

1. Apologies

Charles Wade, Howard Lampart, Roy & Jean Girdler, Jim Speakman, Trevor & Joan Russell, Jean Gabb, Chris Homes, David Walker, Aida Morris, Marjorie Wedge.

Present: 31 members, Anne Bailey, Rose Powell
Inspector Chris Mc Dermott.

2. Speaker

Inspector Chris McDermott spoke on behalf of Chief Superintendent Cann. He is the Licensing Inspector. He gave a presentation on Law Enforcement and tackling issues such as: violent crime. This is often alcohol related and is the main problem that deters older people from using the City Centre particularly at night and weekends.

July 2003 saw the start of a licensed crime initiative in Wolverhampton and the police are encouraging licensed premises to sign up to it. This includes actively banning drugs and drunkenness, using toughened glasses and plastic bottles and checking I.D to eliminate under age drinking. Overall the crime level in Wolverhampton is lower than the national average. The visible presence of Police officers has been increased in the city centre which is proving to be an effective crime deterrent. The alcohol bye laws have been expanded and the police now have the power to remove drink containers including sealed ones and they have the power of arrest in some circumstances.

A number of questions regarding crime were raised by members such as not attending for all shoplifting offences and are shoplifters being 'let off' as police do not have the resources to attend, do we need more local police stations and what is the main factor that is helping in crime reduction.

Action

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3. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the last meeting held on 19th November 2003 were agreed as a true record.

4. Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

5. Chairman's remarks

There were no chairman's remarks.

6. Treasurers report

Brad reported that there was £799.93 in the funds

7. Correspondence

A letter of reply regarding the issues around scrutiny panels was forwarded to the Chief Executive and to the chairs of the scrutiny panels expressing O50's concerns and inviting them to attend the O50's forum.
attached **appendix1**

Roy and Jean Girdler sent apologies for not attending as they were on holiday and sent season's greetings to all members.

8. Sub committee reports

Transport: Still awaiting a reply from Travel West Midlands.

Reg Jones has been to Sandwell for a meeting re: travel passes. Hoping to change the start time for passes to 9.00am and bring the age down to 60 for everyone.
Brad: sits on the National Older People's Advisory Group which has discussed the national travel pass. Questions have been asked regarding funding as at present free travel is paid for out of council tax. A number of groups are putting their ideas forward for a national travel card.

PALS looking into transport problems re: New Cross again awaiting reply.

No other sub committees have taken place since last forum.

9. AOB

Mr Rai made a suggestion that the O50's members should have an annual outing.

The pensioner's convention, with the support of Rob Marris M.P, are objecting to the closure of Woolpack Alley. They have written to the secretary of state and are campaigning to have the toilets there refurbished and attendant controlled.

They are awaiting a reply from Wolverhampton's planning committee

Mike Nicholls felt that O50's forum and the pensioner's convention should work together more closely as there seemed to be a duplication of work undertaken and that the two groups should be working together and not fighting.

Brad pointed out that the O50 forum has a different constitution and should be separate. The forum was set up through Better Government for Older People, to work in partnership with service providers. The Pensioner's Convention should have and does have representatives sitting on the committee. The forum is a conduit to local government officers and national government. Mike Nicholls feels that a meeting should be set up to amalgamate views and to iron out differences between the two groups and to prevent overlaps which would be beneficial to both.

Anne Bailey supports Brad and said that the O50's forum was set up as an umbrella group and network for all older peoples groups who can join in. It is not in competition with other groups. The relationship is clear; it is an umbrella group that other groups should feed into so that O50's can represent **all** groups.

Charles Sammonds said that one of the Pensioners Consortium objectives was getting national average earnings for people of pensionable age and they should continue this push. He felt that there was a tremendous difference between the roles of the two groups.

Mr Rai said that we should all respect and listen to each other and unite.

Mrs Robinson of Jeffcock Road sent thanks for everything all work is now complete.

10. Date of next meeting

**10.00am Wednesday 21st January 2004.
Committee room 3, Civic Centre**