



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 21st DECEMBER 2005
COMMITTEE ROOM 3 CIVIC CENTRE

Apologies: Mr J Speakman, R.Russell, A.Evans, Mr & Mrs Gravestock, J.Knowles, R.Jones, D.Webb, N.Saunders, D.Walker, D.Plant

Present: 28 members, Barbara Nelson, Rose Powell

1. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of last month were agreed as a true record. Proposed by Marjorie Wedge seconded by Marjorie Wedge

2. Matters Arising

Mr Nicholls objected to comments under the Housing report, he said that he did not say that there was 'black damp' at St Matthews. Forum said that it was definitely reported (not by Mr Nicholls) that there was damp at St Matthews Place especially rising up the outside when it is wet. Mr Nicholls also said that he had been told that the lift shaft still had problems with water. An allegation that has been refuted by the manager there.

3. Chairman's remarks

Chair told forum that Roy Russell (secretary) is ill and not currently able to attend meetings. Forum has sent their best wishes to Roy and hope that he will be able to attend again in the near future.

5. Treasurer's Report

Not available today

6. Correspondence

Letter from the department of Works and Pensions telling forum where benefit surgeries are being held over the next two months. Appointments must be made before attending.

6. Sub committee reports

Loos

A letter was received from Councillor Andrew Johnson following a letter from the loos sub committee which appeared in the Express & Star. Councillor Johnson had asked that

Andrew Jarvis an Officer from the council visit Jean to show the plans for the new proposed loos. The visit and discussions took place and some of the changes that Jean thought were needed were taken on board. Jean and Roy were invited to the final planning committee meeting, which they both attended. During the meeting a lot of the Over 50s letters and comments were read out, the plans were then unanimously approved. They are in an excellent location, opposite Beatties at the entrance to the Mander Centre.

This toilet provision is a direct result of the pressure put on by the Over 50s forum and everyone involved in the campaign. Bilston and Wednesfield are also well on the way to getting new loos.

Councillor Johnson spoke on Radio WM last week and attributed the success of the new loos to the ongoing campaign by the Over 50s forum.

Mr Nicholls said that this is a tremendous success for the forum, the progress made by the sub committee has been incredible.

Q. What times are the loos going to be open. Unsure as yet but certainly longer than normal opening hours, probably until around 8pm.

Marjorie Wedge and Brad Purshouse formally congratulated Jean and the committee.

Housing

Councillor Byrne attended the last housing sub committee, she was very helpful and undertook to look into some of the repairs issues and the proposed visit to the Old Heath Housing Office.

Chief Executive of Wolverhampton Homes Bruce Moore will be attending the meeting in January to bring forum up to date with what is happening, he has also agreed to provide a 'link person' to attend the sub committee on a regular basis to answer any issues that might arise. The committee is also planning on visiting the Derby ALMO.

Mr Nicholls sits on the Wolverhampton Homes board and told forum that the housing offices across the City will be changing opening hours and will not be as accessible as they are currently, though they will remain open during lunchtime.

Any Other Business

Ian Peddie spoke about a satellite forum being set up in the Penn & Merry Hill area. A meeting will take place on February 22nd at 2pm at Bromley House, Penn Road, all members welcome. He produced a poster advertising the event, asking for the approval of the main forum. Some suggestions were made about the poster, Ian and Tina Davies will look at the amendments. Rose explained that the satellite forum would all become members of the main Over 50s forum and will receive minutes etc. Likewise the main forum will receive feedback from the satellite forum. Most members thought another satellite forum was a good idea as long as the overseeing of it remains with the main forum. Members would like to see one in every area of the City in order to broaden the representation of the forum.

All present thought it would be a good idea to set up a satellite forum in Bilston and Wednesfield as residents in both areas sometimes feel that they 'are not always included in

Wolverhampton City' Mr Girdler spoke about some of the problems within Bilston which can lead to the exacerbation of this issue. Forum agreed that we should encourage more membership from both areas.

Date of next meeting

**10am Wednesday 18th January 2005
Committee Room 3, Civic Centre**