



WOLVERHAMPTON OVER 50's FORUM
Secretary: Mr. Roy Girdler
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Bilston
Wolverhampton
WV14 6NZ
Tel: 01902 651656

SPEAK AND BE HEARD

MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON
15th FEBRUARY 2006 COMMITTEE ROOM 3 CIVIC CENTRE

Apologies: Mr & Mrs Gravestock, Mr Speakman, Mr Grizzle, Mrs Carney, Mrs McNish, Mrs McDonald, Mr & Mrs Gabb

Present: 35 Members, Rose Powell, Barbara Nelson

Forum was told that sadly Secretary Roy Russell had passed away. A two minute silence was held in his honour.

1. Speakers

Ray Dawson adviser – New Deal 50+ - Job Centre
Hilary Clewes – Vacancy Services Manager – Job Centre

Member – Pete Steadman approached the Job Centre to discuss job opportunities for the over 50's on behalf of the Over 50's forum. They offered to come and discuss this with forum.

Ray explained that employers are encouraged to take on more people from the Over 50s range, ten years ago this did not really happen and often there was discrimination against this age group. Age positive addresses some of these issues. From October the Age Equality act will not allow age discrimination in the workforce and gives new rights to 50 – 64 year olds. People on incapacity benefit are being helped back to work and people in this age range who want to work will be encouraged to retrain and if they wish they will be able to continue working.

The advantages of a more mature workforce are improved retention, higher morale, less short term sickness, higher productivity and promotes a better public image. Older people have a wide range of skills and experience. There is an Age Positive website: www.agepositive.gov.uk Age positive employers actively promote jobs for the over 50's.

There are pension incentives available If you wish to continue in work to an older age i.e 70 there are opportunities to defer claiming the state pension which could give you a lump sum of **up to** £30.000 or 50% extra per week. In April 2006 there will be the opportunity to draw your occupational pension and continue to work, this is NOT currently compulsory.

There are currently two job centres in Wolverhampton, one of them a Job Centre Plus. Job Centre Plus gives advice on all benefits as well as job seekers allowance, job search, access to training, New Deal 50+ which is open to anyone over the age of 50.

There are two web sites which can be useful www.direct.gov.uk which can be used for jobsearch etc and www.jobcentreplus.gov.uk. There are 400.000 vacancies at any time.

Hilary explained that her role is to fill vacancies. Job centre plus will help priority clients, lone parents, New Deal 50+. All employers will be encouraged to take priority clients. Primark will be taking priority clients and Thomas Cook currently employs 32% of its staff over 50. Barclays has more over 50s than under 21s. Some jobs even now are advertised as being suitable for more mature applicants.

2. Minutes of the last meeting

Minutes of the last AGM were agreed, proposed by Marjorie Wedge, seconded by Roy Girdler.

3. Matters arising

Penn & Merry Hill satellite over 50s forum will be launching on Wednesday February 22nd 2006 this is a direct result of the Older peoples information day that was mentioned at last years AGM.

4. Chairman's Report

Brad reported that he and Rose had assisted Newcastle-under-Lyme to develop an Over 50's forum and are attending their launch on Thursday 16th Feb. Other forums are impressed with the way Wolverhampton works with the City Council and partners and are keen to model their forums on ours.

5. Treasurers report

The treasurers report will be circulated the forum is still in good financial shape.

6. Election of Management Committee

Brad handed the meeting over to Rose Powell to read out the nominations. Rose reported that there was unfortunately a vacancy for the secretaries role. With the forums permission Roy Girdler has agreed to be the Acting Secretary. Forum agreed. There were ten nomination forms received all stating:

Chair	-	Brad Purshouse
Vice Chair	-	Marjorie Wedge
Secretary	-	
Treasurer	-	Dave Walker
Group	-	
Group	-	
Individual	-	
Individual	-	Jean Girdler
Individual	-	Roy Girdler

There were two nomination forms stating Brain Davies as a group representative. The present committee were elected unopposed with Roy Girdler being elected for the acting secretary's post.

There was one nomination for the vacant group representative position. Mr Brain Davies was duly elected as Crime Reduction Panel rep.

Dana Tooby was also co-opted as a group member on behalf of Tettenhall Wood Initiatives group.

The management committee now stands as:

Chair	-	Brad Purshouse
Vice Chair	-	Marjorie Wedge
Secretary(acting)	-	Roy Girdler
Treasurer	-	Dave Walker
Group	-	Brian Davies
Group	-	Dana Tooby – co-opted member
Individual	-	
Individual	-	Jean Girdler
Individual	-	

7. AOB

Marjorie Wedge reported a scam currently being undertaken which involves your credit card company supposedly saying that there has been a suspected use of your credit card. They will ask for the three number security code on the back of the card to ensure that the card is still in your possession. The card is then used for fraudulent purposes.

Date of next AGM February 21st 2007

**The Gathering Space, Wolverhampton Art Gallery,
Lichfield Street, Wolverhampton**