



**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 15 JANUARY 2003 AT 10.00 A.M. AT THE CIVIC CENTRE WOLVERHAMPTON**

**1. Apologies**

Simon Hall Jenny Pursehouse Charles Sammonds Ivy Sammonds  
Marjorie Wedge Brian Davies Rita Davies Jan Knowles Arthur Evans  
Inewyn Peters Eric Preece Margaret Thomas

**Present**

Attendance register showed 25 members, plus Phil Heywood from the Anti Social Behaviour Unit, P C John McGinley Vulnerable Persons Officer, and Emma Palmer (Network Development Officer).

**2. Speaker**

Phil said he had not prepared a speech for members but he would just like to open things up by asking the group to give him questions.

**Q:** Anti-Social Behaviour Orders are a bit of a mystery, do you intend to issue a statement at the end of the year to show how successful they have been?

**A:** At the end of the year statistics will be produced.

Phil explained about the Anti Social Behaviour Orders (ASBO) and contracts saying the aim of them was to give Respite to the community from an individual's behaviour.

Phil gave examples of the current situation with Orders in Wolverhampton.

John McGinley introduced himself as the Vulnerable Persons Officer and joined in the debate on ASBO. He explained to the Group what ASBO's meant if the Order is breached. The court can sentence the

**ACTION**

person to prison for breaking the Order. Both the Courts and Police fully support the work of ASBO's and evidence shows they are working. He further explained how ASBO's work and which agencies are involved. The unit works with the Local Authority and Housing Organisations.

Phil explained that a different process was issued to deal with owner occupiers but the ASBO unit can still be involved.

**Q:** Has more work come from changes to how first time Offenders are dealt with?

**A:** More work has come but not from that.

Phil stated ASBO's work by restricting Offenders movements. An example of persistent vehicle crime offenders was given. Vehicle thefts can be dealt with by preventing the Offender from entering car parks, if caught in a car park they will be sent to Court for the offence committed and breach of the ASBO.

ABSO's can be issued to prevent harassment/alarm and distress. The Order is worked around the individual case to offer protection to communities.

Phil stated that the unit has only been in operation for 12 months and they are still trying to make the public aware of what is going on.

John McGinley added it would take approximately three years to establish itself.

Mike Nicholls stated ASBO's are working well, Phil and the ABSO unit are doing a great job; the Orders issued have been very successful.

**Q:** How do I know when an ASBO has been issued?

**A:** The Press are made aware of the Order details.

Phil went on to say ABSO's used in Manchester have been in conjunction with a leaflet (e.g. shown to the Group) and issued to all properties in the area where a person has been excluded from.

Phil said they were looking at what other areas were doing with ASBO's so that a Best Practice approach could be developed.

The Group thanked Phil for attending and gave their support to the continued work of the ASBO unit.

John McGinley explained he was the New Vulnerable Adults Officer; the new role has been designed to deal with specific groups of people including older people. He told about Surgeries to be held at Age Concern and stated he would attend the Over 50's meetings to liaise with the older people in Wolverhampton.

He told the group he could be contacted on direct line 01902 649186 at Bilston Street Police Station and an answer phone would be there if he wasn't.

A discussion ensued on the issues around the Police inability to answer and return telephone calls when messages were left.

**Q:** A member asked why non-police personnel couldn't answer phones thus freeing up the police to do other tasks.

**A:** John McGinley explained that the Control Room has to have a 70/30 split of Police Officers to ensure that all calls/queries and In person visits to the Police Station can be dealt with only by someone with knowledge of how it works.

### **3. Minutes of the last Meeting**

The minutes of the Meeting held on 18 December 2002 were agreed as a true record, proposed by Jim Speakman and seconded by Roy Russell.

### **4. Matters Arising**

Letters were sent to MP's and MEP's the following is a Summary of the Responses received.

#### **Response dated 9 January 2003 from Ken Purchase MP**

Ken Purchases wrote to the Deputy Prime Minister for assurances regarding de Regulation of Fire Regulations and wholly endorsed the Over 50's stance on fireworks. Ken Purchase stated he was making representations to contain the sale and use of fireworks. Ken wrote again showing a response from Christine Leslie, Under Secretary of State, a copy of this is attached as Appendix A.

**Response dated 14 January 2003 from Dennis Turner MP**

Dennis Turner promised to make enquiries in the reduction in current Fire Regulations and agreed they should not be weakened. Dennis Turner stated there was a growing opinion in the House of Commons that greater control of the types of fireworks on sale and the duration of their use. He gave assurances about concentrated moves to give greater protection to those people who are most vulnerable.

**Response dated 17 January 2003 from Liz Lynne MEP**

Liz Lynne promised to make enquiries and respond – no response received as at 6 March 2003.

**Response dated 21 January 2003 from Rob Marris**

Rob Marris raised the Forum’s concerns re de regulation of Fire Regulations with the Home Secretary.

He also raised the issues of the fireworks problem with the Secretary of State for Home Affairs. A copy of this letter is attached as Appendix B.

Further correspondence was received from Rob Marris to say the Home Office had passed the enquiry to the Department of Trade and Industry who will reply in due course and he will let us know the results. No reply has been received as yet.

Full copies of each letter can be obtained by contacting Emma Palmer – Network Development Officer: 01902 555494

An article from the Express and Star advising of a Firework Safety organisation to which people can write in to support the banning of fireworks. The article asks people to write to:-

NCSF, 118 Long acre, Covent Garden, London WC2 9PA

A discussion followed on Fireworks and it was agreed that the Forum should write to support the NCSF ’ call for a ban.

**5. Chairman’s Remarks**

Brad informed the group about Charles Sammonds being unwell. Members asked that their good wishes be passed on to Charles and wished him a speedy recovery.

**Emma  
Palmer to  
review**

**Letter to  
Firework  
Organisation  
Roy Russell  
Secretary**

Brad stated the meeting with the Assistant Chief Probation Officer was a good one and he felt the Forum should host more similar meetings.

## **6. Treasurers Report**

The treasurer reported :-

£834.15 in the bank at the end of the month. Full Report on the Accounts at the AGM next month. The Treasurer reminded members that Subscriptions were now due. At present he had received renewals from seventeen individuals and two groups.

## **7. Correspondence**

Roy said he was going to arrange a Review of all correspondence over the last year and chase up any unanswered issues.

## **8. Sub Committee Reports**

### **8.1 Housing sub committee**

Mike updated the members about the lady whose property was in a bad state of repair (mentioned in previous two meetings). Mike mentioned the issues around the Tarrant Bungalows on East Park. He said there were concerns the Local Authority were not going to keep their promises about the repairs but would monitor this situation and keep members informed.

Mike said he had an appointment to see Mike Finnegan, the Asylum Seekers Officer at Brookfield House in Heath Town on 30 January 2003 at 2.00 p.m. Mike asked for four members of the Forum to join him with Jackie Hees and Emma Palmer to receive information on what is happening with Asylum Seekers in the city.

Mike told of a Local Area Forum meeting attended recently by Anne Bailey. Anne had praised the work of the Forum. Mike went on to say Anne Bailey is very competent at what she does.

Mike asked for members of the Sub Committee to come forward.

Mike asked the Forum to consider a meeting of the Forum with the Pensioners Convention, Russ Borrowman and Peter Bilson.

## 8.2 Public Safety

Next meeting scheduled for 11 March 2003 at 10.30 a.m. in Briefing Room 1 Civic Centre.

## 8.3 Health Sub Committee

No report this month.

## 8.4 Loos Sub Committee

No report this month

## 9. Any Other Business

Next meeting is the AGM. Officers will be elected via the Nominations system, Nomination forms to go out on 21 January 2003.

Mike read out facts and figures about pensioners.

Reg Bradley talked about issues relating to the destruction of grass verges.

## 10. Date of Next Meeting:

Wednesday 19 March 2003, 10am – 12noon in Committee Room 3 Third Floor, Civic Centre, Wolverhampton.