



**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 18<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2006**  
**COMMITTEE ROOM 3 CIVIC CENTRE**

**Apologies:** J Speakman, R. Russell, A. Evans, , J. Knowles, M. Wedge,  
R.Jones, N.Saunders, D. Plant, G.Parker, D.Tooby, J.Price, J.Rooney,  
P.Whittaker, E.Grizzle, K. Pearce,

**Present:** 28 members, Barbara Nelson, Rose Powell 6 members of Highfields School

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**1. Speakers**

Brad welcomed a group of young people and their teacher from Highfields. They are working on a project which aims to improve anti social behaviour, they wanted to observe the meeting and carry out short interviews following it.

**Jackie Mclaughlin – Supporting People Project Officer.**

Jackie is carrying out a short questionnaire asking for people's opinion on the community alarm service. She explained that Supporting People was set up in March 2003, it is a low level enabling service and aims to allow vulnerable adults assistance to live as independent lives as possible. The service gives support to filling out forms, payment of bills, shopping etc, in order to sustain tenancies. One of the services is the community alarm service which is one that Jackie is carrying out a review on. She asked interested people to fill out a questionnaire. She also spoke about a review being carried out by a colleague looking at Sheltered Accommodation she asked if anyone living in sheltered accommodation would like to take part and fill out a questionnaire about the services that they receive within their schemes.

**Ruth Wills – Chief Executive – Age Concern.**

Ruth is the new Chief Executive for Age Concern; she is looking forward to working in Wolverhampton and has an open mind of what the job entails. She is delighted to have the opportunity for helping to make older peoples lives better and is looking forward to her new role. Brad thanked her for attending the forum meeting and looks forward to the forum continuing to work with Age Concern.

**2. Minutes of the last meeting**

The minutes of last month were agreed as a true record. Proposed by Mr Rai seconded by Mrs O'Dowd.

### **3. Matters Arising**

Forum asked to again send best wishes to the secretary Roy Russell.

### **4. Treasurer's Report**

£1101.01 funds available.

### **5. Correspondence**

Policy update from Help the Aged received.

### **7. Sub committee reports**

#### **Housing**

Bruce Moore Chief Executive of Wolverhampton Homes is attending January's housing sub committee and will be nominating a link person to attend the committees meetings, in order to answer housing issues. Pat has visited the housing office at Old Heath and will be visiting Derby City Council to see how their ALMO operates. The local housing offices are cutting their opening hours Pat handed out a list of the new opening times.

Mr Nicholls who is a member of the Wolverhampton Homes Board gave Pat a handbook which contains useful information. Wolverhampton Homes is doing well, repairs are now under control, a mock inspection is currently being carried out and they are confident that they will get the two star status which is needed to obtain the decent homes grant.

### **8. Any Other Business**

Penn & Merry Hill satellite forum will be launched at 2.00pm on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2006 at Bromley House, Penn Road. All members will receive information in this months post and are welcome to attend.

Peter Steadman – potential new member, spoke about the difficulties people in their 50s have with getting and maintaining employment. Engineering jobs are disappearing and there will be very little if any after 2015. The Job Centre needs to have a constructive job list with a sub list for jobs suitable for the over 50s. By 2020 this generation of pensioners will be better off than future pensioners. Brad said that If you wish to campaign on this I'm sure that the forum will support you. Barbara Nelson suggested that Peter draw up a strategy and bring his ideas back to forum for further discussion. Mike Nicholls said that we need to support Peter and that this is a great opportunity to highlight these important issues.

Mike Reaney is the new outreach co-ordinator for Linkline which offers telephone helpline and support. The service now offers to take frail older people to hospital appointments, waits with them and then returns them home. They have 1700 members citywide. Older people just need to register with the service by telephone; they will then be visited to sign up to the scheme.

Barbara Nelson suggested that the Over 50's forum should develop an annual awards ceremony for older people who achieve success in Wolverhampton, idea to be discussed in further detail at a future meeting.

Dana Tooby asked that a new sub committee should be developed to look at Active Citizenship issues such as equal rights, equal responsibility with the ethos that to make things happen you must contribute. This is supported by Mr Rai. Anyone interested in being a member of this group should contact Rose or Dana.

### **Highfields School**

The young people explained that they are working on a project to tackle anti social behaviour, what older people's perceptions are and how they can improve older and younger people's perceptions of each other. They invited comments from forum members on what the main concerns about antisocial behaviour are.

- ◆ Young people on buses, shouting, swearing and using threatening behaviour can be very frightening though forum recognised that this is not caused by all young people. It is unfortunate that all get the blame even though it is a small number who behave in this manner.
- ◆ East Park area recently had a spate of incidents of antisocial behaviour with groups of youngsters causing a nuisance.
- ◆ Litter is a major problem and something that all members of society should help to alleviate.

How can we solve these problems?

It was thought that better discipline and better parenting could help, also young people taking responsibility for their actions.

Brad and forum members thanked the young people for attending

### **Date of next meeting (AGM)**

**10am Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2006  
Committee Room 3, Civic Centre**