



WOLVERHAMPTON OVER 50s FORUM

Secretary: Mr. Roy Russell MBE

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SPEAK AND BE HEARD

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 16th JULY AT 10.00 A.M. AT THE BRITANNIA HOTEL

1. Apologies

Jenny Purshouse Ivy Sammonds Trevor Russell Joan Russell John Ray Kate McNish John Price Brian Davies Rita Davies Doris Gravestock Gwyneth Wade

Present

Attendance register showed 40 members, plus Emma Palmer (Network Development Officer) and Sam Axtall from Local Area Forum

2. Speaker

Sam gave a presentation to the group (**APPENDIX 1**) and answered questions from members:

Q Why does there appear to be no links to other processes like Monitoring and Policy Development Panels?

A Some links like those with the Monitoring and Policy Development Panels are not really happening as they should but work is being undertaken with the Scrutiny Teams to address this at the moment.

Q Why do the middle age group, parents of the children, not appear to get involved in the forums?

A Steps to involve this group are in place, advertising is being done to attract people. The timing of the meetings is and childcare facilities is a problem. Childcare can be provided in the way of Crèche facilities if it is required.

Q How do the council, who have overall responsibility for setting priorities, weigh up the counter demands being placed before them

ACTION

through conflicting priorities of the local community and the city as a whole?

A Local Area forums are not part of the council they are independent.

3. Minutes of the last Meeting

The minutes of the Meeting held on 21st May 2003 were agreed as a true record, proposed by Jim Speakman and seconded by Reg Jones

4. Matters Arising

The group highlighted two spelling mistakes in the minutes from last month.

Roy expressed concern over people writing letters to organisations on behalf of the forum. He stated that he was then receiving calls and correspondence on matters he knew nothing about. He felt that as secretary he should send all correspondence on behalf of the forum. Or at very least be informed by means of a copy of any letters sent by other members.

It was stated that it could be that members of the forum write letters from a individual perspective but mention their involvement in the forum and organisations take it that they are writing on behalf of the forum.

5. Chairman's Remarks

Brad read a report on the National Pensioners Convention Annual Conference attended by himself and Jenny on behalf of the forum at the beginning of July (**Appendix 2**)

6. Treasurers Report

The treasurer reported :-

£1543.18 in the account which includes monies for the development of a website for the Forum.

7. Correspondence

A letter had been received from a new member of the forum, Mr Eason, this matter will be considered by the management committee and discussed as a Agenda item at the next meeting.

Roy told the group of the appointment of the Older Peoples Champion,

Members to send copies of all letters written on behalf of the forum to Roy Russell.

Management committee to look at the letter from Mr Eason.

Councillor Frank Docherty. Councillor Docherty had expressed a wish to receive copies of the minutes from meeting and be invited to attend a meeting of the Forum in the near future.

8. Sub Committee Reports

8.1 Housing sub committee

(APPENDIX 3)

8.2 Public Safety

Jim Speakman gave a report to members on the work of the Public Safety Committee **(APPENDIX 4)**. A discussion took place on the issues around drinking in Public places. It was agreed that the Forum should make representations to those involved with licensing premises about encouraging people to drink in the beer gardens of premises as opposed to on the streets. Concerns were then raised around the drinking in the areas not covered by the ban and it was expressed that the forum should write to request a complete ban on drinking on the streets for the whole city.

8.3 Health Sub Committee

Aida Morris reported to the group on the work of the Integrated Community Equipment Service project. Aida represents the Health Sub Committee on the Service Users group of this project and she gave members a update of the situation. Aida expressed that anyone wanting to join the Service Users group, particularly those with Disabilities should contact her.

8.4 Communication Sub Committee

Emma Palmer gave a verbal report to the Forum on the recent work of the group. **(APPENDIX 5)**

8.5 Loos Sub Committee

Charles Sammonds made a request that the work of the Sub Committee be returned to and a repeat exercise of evaluation of the City Centre toilets should be undertaken. A debate then took place on the current state of City Centre toilets, it was felt that a meeting of the group should be arranged to discuss how best to take the work forward.

**Jim
Speakman
to write
expressing
concerns to
licensing
authorities.**

**Members to
contact Aida
Morris if
they wish to
be involved
in the
project.**

**Emma
Palmer to
arrange a
meeting of
the group.**

8.6 Transport Sub Committee

It was requested that a meeting of the Transport Sub Committee be arranged.

9. Any Other Business

A request was made by members that more seating be requested in the Mander/ Wulfrun centre. Roy expressed that he had written to the centre manager on this matter but had not received a reply. Roy will write to seek clarification on the matter.

Reg Jones told group members of a Day Of Action to be held in London on 10th September, the Pensioners Convention are organising a trip to London to participate in the event. Anyone who is interested in attending should speak to members of the Convention.

A suggestion was made by members to develop strategies to increase membership of the Forum.

A suggestion of a Christmas get together was made.

10. Date of Next Meeting:

Wednesday 20th August 2003, 10am – 12noon in Committee room 3, Third Floor Civic Centre, St Peters Square, Wolverhampton.

Emma Palmer to arrange a meeting of the group

Roy to write to Centre manager re. Seating in shops.