



**WOLVERHAMPTON OVER 50s FORUM**

Secretary: Mr. Roy Girdler

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**SPEAK AND BE HEARD**

**Minutes of Over 50s Forum Held on Wednesday  
19<sup>th</sup> July 2006 Committee Room 3 Civic Centre**

**Apologies:** J Speakman, K Pearce, E Grizzle,

**Present:** 37 Member, Lydia Barnstable, R Powell

Item		Actions
1	<p>Lydia Barnstable-Wolverhampton City Council transportation team explained that there was a transport forum planned to seek views from existing groups on the future of transport in Wolverhampton which will shape a future transport strategy. They would like to periodically attend the Over 50s forum or to attend a transport sub group to ensure that the Over 50s have an input into the strategy.</p> <p>She also told members that there was a direct number that can be contacted for any problems that are seen on the roads which is 555888.</p> <p>As the Over 50s already have an existing transport forum it was felt that this would be the best route for inclusion. The sub committee would in turn report back to the main forum. Lydia asked if there were any issues she could help with at the moment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Reg.Jones attended a transport forum in Worcester recently; he reported that they are trying to keep the Wolverhampton to Walsall train routes open.</li> </ul> <p>Lydia - the problem with this route is that passenger numbers are not high.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ M.Nicholls; is a member of the transport and passenger forum and made the point that there is an entitlement to bus shelters. When questioning the forum about the delay in planned shelters, he was told that the majority of delays are caused by the City Council Planning Department holding up consent.</li> </ul> <p>Lydia – I'm puzzled, I've never heard this before. There can be difficulties getting planning consent, people tend to not want bus shelters outside their houses, but we do work very closely with Centro. I will check on this issue and report back to you.</p>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ A shelter has been requested for Stowheath Lane but has been delayed due to a slow response with the planning consent.</li> <li>◆ Mr Rai council wants less bus shelters to discourage drug users and anti social behaviour</li> <li>◆ The Penn bus does not have a stop after the bus station until Beatties, a long walk; it used to stop opposite the art gallery.</li> </ul> <p>Centro says that there are too many buses that stop opposite the art gallery difficult to fit any more buses as it gridlocks the whole street if busses are stopped opposite each other.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Drivers pulling off before people are sat down.</li> </ul> <p>Reg Jones recently travelled on an Arriva bus, you remain seated and ring the bell to stop and stay seated until the bus has stopped. Why can't we adopt that here?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Concerns about cyclists riding on the pavement also people parking on pavements.</li> </ul> <p>Lydia will take back the comments to the transport forum.</p>	
2	<b>Minutes of the last meeting</b> – accepted as a true record by Roy Girdler and David Walker	
3	<b>Matters arising</b> Mike Nicholls asked that that forum debate the whole NHS issue in particular the possibility of services being privatised. It was felt that it would be too large to be debated at this forum and may be better as a whole day.	
4	<b>Chairman's Remarks</b> Mr Rai has received a letter from the Queen re: the return of respect and responsibility saying that the Queen cannot comment on this but wishes success. Mr Rai thanked Brad for his help with his project.	
5	<b>Treasurer's Report</b> The councils small grants scheme criteria has been changed, in future anyone who successfully gets a grant will become a member of the Over 50's forum which in turn will generate more income.	£840 in the bank
6	<b>Correspondence</b> Sue Bailey introducing a leaflet re; the proposed development of the Lord Raglan land, inviting the Over 50s forum to see the proposed plans and asking for their views.  David Plant- said that these plans could have a major effect on the residents in Graiesly particularly with regard to parking.	
7	<b>Motion put forward by P. Steadman to change the name of the Over 50s forum</b>  The motion was put to the forum, a general discussion took place;  Strong objections to this motion as we already have a pensioners convention in the City and if we changed to pensioners forum it would cause great confusion. There is a large network of Over 50s forums throughout the country of which we are an active part.  One of Peters points is that we do not address his needs, which he	

	<p>says are noticeably different to other members of the forum. We have tried to address his needs by offering to help him set up a sub group to look at over 50s employment issues, we also invited new deal 50+ to talk to the forum.</p> <p>Brad; Over 50s is not the decision of this group but Central Government who set up the network of Over 50s forums through their Better Government for Older People programme. Though our group may not be tackling over 50s employment issues there are other groups who deal solely with employment issues. I don't think we should change our name to suit one individual who is not satisfied with our group.</p> <p>Mike Nicholls; Peter should take up the offer of organising a sub group to look at employment issues and lead from the front.</p> <p>Who are the 'creeping tide of pensioners' which Peter describes in his letter? He seems to have problems with people who are entitled to a works pension.</p> <p>Why can't Peter participate and bring more 50+ to the meeting?</p> <p>Brad asked if anyone was prepared to second the motion to change the name of the Over 50s forum?</p> <p>No one would second the motion so it was not taken forward.</p> <p>A vote was put forward and seconded to 'Retain the name of the Over 50s forum', this was carried unanimously.</p>	
8	<p><b>Sub – Committee Reports</b></p> <p><b>Health Sub Committee</b>  Marjorie explained that the Pensions services have now been centralised and moved to Stoke on Trent. She handed out venues and dates for pensions surgeries being held around Wolverhampton.</p> <p>Jim Speakman asked that concern about the withdrawal of hospital transport for some patient's appointments was discussed. He is concerned that this is causing financial hardship for older people with taxis and parking charges.  Marjorie agreed to write to the Chief Executive David Plant agreed to also bring the transport issue up at the Patients Forum.</p> <p>David Walker reminded members that the eye infirmary consultation put forward a 60,000 name petition which was ignored.</p> <p><b>Transport sub committee</b>  Meeting will be called shortly to look at issues raised this morning with Lydia.</p>	

	<p><b>Communication sub committee</b> No report</p> <p><b>Loos sub committee</b> Jean Girdler reported that there is a chance Wolverhampton could win the Daily Express “Loo of the Year award”</p> <p><b>Housing sub committee</b> Next meeting takes place on Friday</p>	
9	<p><b><u>AOB</u></b></p> <p>Any idea what is happening with the new A-Z of services as we have not heard anything about whether it has been launched or not.</p> <p>MEL research – are undertaking a review of Leisure services for Wolverhampton City Council. They would like to meet with a group of older people on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> July in Briefing room 1 to discuss what stops the over 50’s from using leisure services. Anyone taking part will receive a £10.00 voucher. Please see Rose if you would like to attend.</p>	Rose will chase
10	<p><b>Date of next meeting:</b> Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> August 2006 Committee Room 3, Third Floor, Civic Centre</p> <p>Speaker; Catrina Alferoff – Research Financial Services Please see attached.</p>	