



WOLVERHAMPTON OVER 50s FORUM
Secretary: Mr. Roy Girdler
56 Cherrywood Green
Stowlawn
Bilston
Wolverhampton
WV14 6HN
Tel: 01902 409058

www.wolverhamptonover50sforum.co.uk

Minutes of Over 50s Forum
Held on Wednesday 16 July 2008, 10am

Apologies: Rose Powell, Mrs Corless, R Cole, M McDonald, S Griffith,
E Lindsay, R Dwyer, L Miles, M Gilpin, M Wedge, E Grizzle

Present: 30 Members, Jean Fairclough (minutes)

Chairperson: Brad Purshouse

Brad welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Minutes of last Meeting

Minutes were agreed as an accurate account by Sandra Ullah and Roy Girdler.

Matters Arising

Roy Girdler, Secretary, apologised to the Forum for not being available which was due to moving house, and confirmed his home address and telephone number (which has now been corrected).

Correspondence

The Chair read reply letters from Pat McFadden and Rob Marris, MPs. Brad also read letter regarding the Intergenerational Project 'Fire in Our Arms' presentation event which will take place on Tuesday 22 July 2008, at the Light House Media Centre, Fryer Street. This is a joint venture with All Cultures One Voice, Kings Church of England School, Wolverhampton City Council and others. It was stated that ones wishing to attend should therefore fill-out the form and return this to Barbara Nelson or Ian Peddie. Expression of thanks was expressed to projector sponsors, Help the Aged and Youth Bank for their support.

Treasurer's Report

Dave Walker, Treasurer, reported that West Midlands Police has contributed £1500.00 for the "Celebrating Age" Project, which means there is a balance of £2196.17 in Forum account.

Sub-Group Housing

There will be a Housing meeting in Briefing Room 2, at 10:30am on Friday 18th July, everyone is welcome to attend. There will also be an older people awareness day, plan to take place sometime in September and will involve Sharon Martin and Sandra Hollinshead from West Midlands Police.

Transport

David Plant reported that Travel West Midlands and Stourbridge will improve their bus timetables, also that there are damaged bus shelters which need repairing.

There was some discussion around bus starting time for senior citizens to use their bus passes, i.e. 9:00 start in stead of 9:30 but many felt perhaps of cost was the determining factor. Mr Rai stated that people need to persist in pursuing the matter and to keep asking questions. It was also suggested that perhaps a nationwide travel pass, which would cover bus, train and trams, 24 hours a day, 7 days per week would be an excellent idea.

Loo Sub-Committee

A meeting will take place sometime in September, and the Forum will be informed in due course.

Education Sub Group

Dana informed Forum that the meeting was cancelled.

Any Other Business

Attention was drawn to a letter with a list of Opticians where people with diabetes can have their sight tested, Dave Homes suggested that anyone interested should contact him at the King Street Information Centre for details.

A Group of young people are working with Brad and Ted interviewing older people about their working lives in Wolverhampton, you can contact Brad for more details.

Chris Laws D.C. – Pat Bagley presented issues regarding the Chris Laws Day Centre and Accord Housing Association. She stated that at present there are 110 **very** distressed service users at the day centre, some with physical, sensory and mental health problems with 14 staff members. Pat also said that the day centre had a 25 year lease with 16 years remaining, Accord Housing Association will be building on the site, and this will only accommodate 25 older people with 4 staff members, therefore what will happen to the rest of the service users. According to Pat they were not served Article 6 Notice. (Pat also mentioned rent which is £180,000 still being paid).

The Forum was very shocked by the information Pat presented and advised that Pat/Chris Laws should bring the situation to the attention of local MPs i.e. Rob Marris and Ken Purchase also Age Concern for help.

Mike informed the Forum that members of the public can approach the Independent Police Complaints Commission with complaints about/against police. They will listen and act upon complaints and they're completely independent of the police. It was suggested the Forum should invite one of the officers to speak at one the meetings.

City Show – Concerns were raised about the costs of food/refreshments served. It was said that many of the local traders were disadvantaged because they could not get their vehicles in the park; therefore participating at the city show was very limited. A member related an experience about similar event held in Bilston, where outside traders were invited to participate instead of locate traders.

**Date of next Meeting: Wednesday 20 August 2008 at 10am,
Committee Room 3, Third Floor, Civic Centre.**