



WOLVERHAMPTON OVER 50s FORUM

Secretary: Mr. Roy Russell MBE

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SPEAK AND BE HEARD

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 18th JUNE AT 10.00 A.M. AT THE
CIVIC CENTRE WOLVERHAMPTON**

1. Apologies

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

Present

Attendance register showed 36 members, plus Emma Palmer (Network Development Officer) Stuart Munger older peoples information officer and Ravinder Uppal Asian Elders information officer.

2. Speaker

Stuart Munger was introduced to members; he explained he was the older person's information officer for older people. Stuart had held the post for 6 months, with previous experience in working for Financial Services and the pension service.

He went on to tell the group about the Live Life to the full directory of services for older people. There was now a new edition of the book which was now available in the 4 main Asian languages.

The directory is maintained and promoted through the information service at 10 King street and copies are available to anyone who wants one by telephoning: 01902 444012.

Stuart explained that the Information service provided other services besides Live Life to the full; these include giving talks to organisations and groups.

Multi agency work is also completed such as the Word of Mouth document and database jointly produced with age Concern. This publication gives older people list of contractors who are recommended

ACTION

as giving good service by other older people.

Stuart went onto explain that all the information is free, and they always try to answer queries.

Stuart mentioned some planned additions to the service which will include the provision of a pre retirement course for older people, this service is only available through a few companies at present and it is hoped this will enable smaller companies to access a course at reasonable cost.

Ravinder Uppal can be contacted on 01902 444491

Members asked the following questions:

Q What hours do you open?

A Monday to Friday 9am – 5pm

Q Will a amendment sheet be published for Live Life to the Full, new edition as some entries are already out of date.

A Stuart said possibly this would be looked into

Members expressed their views on King Street stating that it had always been a useful and helpful organisation. Stuart agreed to stay for the remainder of the meeting.

Sally Marsh introduced herself to the group, as the replacement for John McGinley, the Vulnerable Persons Officer. Sally stated she had 21 years experience in the police Force and had worked with many cases that fell into the vulnerable persons area, such as domestic violence, older people and the mentally ill.

Since in post Sally has monitored calls from people who are in these vulnerable groups, aiming to identify those who are isolated hoping to be able to assist them.

Sally can be contacted on a direct line 01902 649186, if she is out people should leave a message with colleagues and she will get back to them.

Sally then answered some questions and a lively debate took place centred around the following issues:

- Public Perception of the Police force
- Police Resources
- Political aspects of policing

- Causes of various crimes
- Social Responsibility

3. Minutes of the last Meeting

The minutes of the Meeting held on 21st May 2003 were agreed as a true record, proposed by Marjorie Wedge and seconded by Cynthia Peat

4. Matters Arising

A member brought up that the chosen representative for the Forum on the Monitoring and policy development panel for Social Care Housing and Health was not at the last meeting. This meeting was to discuss the future of the group and the work programme and it was vital that someone was there.

Emma Palmer answered the query by explaining that prior to the meeting of the Monitoring and policy development panel, as a member of the group now David Plant, had been in discussions with relevant officers and arrangements had been made for him to individually give input into the meeting.

5. Chairman's Remarks

Brad brought up the recent issue of distraction robberies that are taking place again in the Bus Station. Sally Marsh informed the group the police were aware of the current situation and trends were being established with a hope that they could reduce the crimes in these areas.

Brad went on to state that he was disappointed and saddened by Mike's departure he confirmed that a letter had gone to Mike thanking him for his work and expressing thanks, Roy read out Mike's reply to the letter

Appendix 1

A discussion took place of the reasons for Mike's departure, it was felt and generally agreed that if Mike wanted the forum to know his reasons for leaving he would have expressed them himself. It was found to be inappropriate for other members to speculate about this.

6. Treasurers Report

The treasurer reported :-

£1547.94 in the account which includes monies for the development of a website for the forum.

7. Correspondence

Roy read a letter received by the forum about Boundary changes, it was noted that the response time on the letter did not leave any time for individuals to comment on what they think of the proposals. The letter was received on 16th June 2003, with Responses to be returned by 24th June.

The group then debated the issue of organisations consulting people on issues via a postal system, and leaving it to late for people to respond. This was felt to be an issue the communication group could look at in more detail.

8. Sub Committee Reports

8.1 Housing sub committee

Brad read out a report to the forum, from the housing Sub Committee as they are currently without a chair for the group. **Appendix 2**

8.2 Public Safety

Jim Speakman informed the group of the next meeting date, 9th July 2003 10.30am in Briefing room 1, civic centre.

He also informed the group on the progress for the issue of the dangerous dog on the East Park estate and explained that action was being taken.

Jim talked about the issues around the Bylaw for alcohol consumption in the town centre. He expressed a wish to see this ban extend to all areas in the city. A lively debate on the issues around drinking took place. The group discussed the issue of a drinking ban and voted to request the issue of a drinking ban for the whole town. The matter will be dealt with by the Public Safety Committee.

The group was informed of theft from Phone Boxes, in the town centre. Returned change is being collected from the boxes. The man doing this gets quite nasty with anyone he feels is watching him do this.

A gun is going around town, it's a child's gun with plastic pellets it has broke several windows, the matter of this type of toy was an issue being dealt with by John McGinley, therefore Sally Marsh was asked to progress it.

Jim informed the group about a press release he had done on behalf of the housing sub committee expressing the groups need to diversify and cover all aspects of housing for older people.

Public Safety committee to request a drinking ban for the whole town

Emma to send a follow up letter for the Public Safety Committee about the Mander centre handrails.

Marjorie asked for follow up on the issue raised with the committee about the handrails in the Mander Centre. Jim confirmed no response had been received to the letter, Emma Palmer agreed to send a follow up letter for Jim on this matter.

8.3 Health Sub Committee

No report this month

8.4 Communication Sub Committee

Report of the recent meeting was read out by Emma Palmer see **Appendix 3**

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9. Any Other Business

None

10. Date of Next Meeting:

Wednesday 16th July 2003, 10am – 12noon in Britannia hotel, Litchfield Street, Wolverhampton.