



WOLVERHAMPTON OVER 50s FORUM
Secretary: Mr. Roy Russell MBE
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SPEAK AND BE HEARD

MINUTES OF O'50s FORUM HELD ON 22ND JUNE 2005
COMMITTEE ROOM 3 CIVIC CENTRE

Apologies: Mr & Mrs Sammonds, Mr Speakman, Mr.Evans, Mr Rai Ms Saunders, Mr & Mrs Davies, Ms Carney. Mrs McDonald, Mrs Purshouse

Present: 32 members, B.Nelson, Ian Peddie, R.Powell

1. **Speakers**

Ann Reaney – Linkline

Linkline was commenced in 1999 following a survey carried out by St Leonards church to develop the building and encourage the local community to use it. An audit was carried out and 3000 of the 15000 homes in the area were visited. After the survey they were surprised to discover how many vulnerable, lonely, isolated older people there were who would like the opportunity to have someone to talk to. It was decided to provide a telephone support service. A telephone call is made at the same time each week for a friendly, social chat. Linkline is run completely as a volunteer project. Funding is a continual problem and the service is staffed in the main by volunteers.

In the first six months 300 older people registered for the service. Fundraising is ongoing and St Leonards has a large number of partners. Age Concern, Heantun and Wolverhampton City Council supported Linkline while they were bidding for funding, the community fund awarded 400.000.00 to start developing the service across the city. They have a full interpreting service, help with moving furniture, gardening and can assist with small jobs around the house.

St Leonards has also opened the Melting Pot café for older people which is based within the church building, a healthy hot snack and a drink costs just £1.25. They are currently looking at opening more of these in other faith centres across the city. They are also looking for funding to be able to use the town hall for tea dances etc.

Q. Would you be able to help older people who would like to go fishing as Ring & Ride can't help?

Linkline may be able to help, you just have to register with the service.

Q. Do you find it difficult to get volunteers?

We have a large pool of 20 at the moment and another 100 who are happy to 'do one offs'.

Richard Ellis - Artist

Richard has been commissioned to do some work for the new sheltered housing scheme which is being developed in Chetton Green. Today he showed some images of community art and asked if anyone had any thoughts on suitable images types and images. There was some discussion about the war time images that could be used. Richard would also like to encourage young people to get involved as that gives them ownership and helps to resolve vandalism issues.

2. Minutes of the last meeting

Under last months AOB the bus route in question was the 613 not the 513. The minutes of last month were then agreed as a true record. Proposed by Mr. Gabb seconded by Mr Price.

3. Matters arising

G.P's appointments, Rose has invited a colleague from the PCT to Septembers forum to discuss any issues.

Mr Ray; Last months speaker said that WCC has a complaints procedure because they are required to by law. Mr Ray feels that they should want to do this, It was pointed out that he did say that they were very glad that they had this system.

4. Chairman's remarks

There will be a Senior Citizens awareness launch day at St Leonards Church on 1st July at 12.30. Everyone is invited to attend. It is being co-ordinated by Anne Reaney and is a campaign to have a National Older Peoples Awareness Day on the first Monday after remembrance Sunday. It was agreed that the Over 50s forum should support this campaign.

5. Correspondence

Forum has received a Help the Aged policy update. We have also received a request to take part in a survey of local authorities being carried out by BGOP on Older People Participation. Rose will be responding.

6. Treasurer's Report

£1272.65 currently available. Rose asked that a piece of software be purchased to allow search engines to point to the O50's web site which will be around 30.00 this was agreed.

7. Sub committee reports

Housing

The next meeting of the sub committee is on Friday 24th June. Mr Bruce Moore has been invited to attend. Pat has been to a meeting with Helen Bellingham who is developing a Leaseholders forum, which Pat will attend on behalf of the O50s forum.

Loos

The committee is continuing with its campaign and have had several letters published in the Express & Star, last month Jean was awarded letter of the month.

The bus station toilets; the building is progressing well but unsure yet when the loos will reopen. There is going to be a turnstile in operation which may mean having to pay a fee and there is disabled access, presumably pushchairs will also be able to use this entrance. There is also room for an attendant. There are concerns about the toilets at West Park, as they are closed people are using the toilets at the West Park Hospital which is giving fears of cross infection. The hospital should have a concierge or attendants to stop this.

Communications

John Ray asked that Mel Whyett be invited to a meeting of the sub committee to give an update. Rose said that she would invite Mel and let John know.

Transport

David attended the last Wolverhampton travel forum, however there was no one there from West Midlands travel to take any comments, the next forum is on Thursday 19th July in the Civic Centre. There is a problem with the new signs in the bus station, some of the information is incorrect and there are spelling mistakes. When David complained he was told that it was the contractors who had made the mistakes and they were awaiting the amended signs.

Health

Marjorie has received the report from the Scrutiny Emergency Care for Older People review. She will read it through and report back to next months forum. Marjorie expressed concerns that the part of the report that she had read pointed out that very few voluntary sector services had attended and responded to the review and that there were only 23 older people who attended.

Public Safety

The committee met with Chief Superintendent Andy Armstrong who wished to discuss how we can get communities working together with the police more and how to break down some of the barriers between younger and older people. A lively discussion took place and the forum offered to lend its support to the police in any way that they could.

Health and Social Care Scrutiny panel

David Plant is the forums representative on this panel and told forum that there is a scrutiny review being carried out on private sector empty homes. The review is being carried out and landlords are being encouraged to ensure that all houses are brought up to the decent home standard. There are concerns about the number of frail, isolated older people who live in homes that are in a state of disrepair. He will continue to update forum on the findings.

Any Other Business

Anyone interested in looking at the Molineux Hotel regeneration project can attend 4.30 - 6.30 on Thursday 23rd June and 11-4 on Saturday 25th June.

Date of next meeting

10am Wednesday 20th July 2005
The Council Chamber, Civic Centre (please note change of room)
Speaker: Anne Bailey-Head of Commissioning Older People