



WOLVERHAMPTON OVER 50s FORUM

Secretary: Mr. Roy Girdler
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SPEAK AND BE HEARD

**Minutes of Over 50s Forum Held on Wednesday
 21st June 2006 Committee Room 3 Civic Centre**

Apologies: J Speakman, K Pearce, R Powell, E Grizzle, K Mcnish, P Whittaker, D Gravestock, M Gravestock, G Rai, W Mcnulti, D Plant

Present: 28 Members, John Partridge, Barbara Nelson and 6 visitors from Walsall over 50s Forum

In the absence of Rose Powell, Barbara Nelson took the minutes

Item	Agenda	Action/ information/ answers to questions
1	<p>Ian Ferguson- Chief Executive Beacon Centre for the Blind - presentation postponed, called to an emergency meeting</p> <p>In his absence John Partridge – Section Leader Traffic Management and Road Safety told the meeting that he would like to involve older people in shaping the transportation strategy.</p> <p>The purpose of his visit today was to ascertain if members of this forum would be interested in feeding their views into the main transportation forum.</p>	<p>Members agreed for Rose Powell to arrange for John Partridge to attend a future meeting and present his vision and to seek the views of members enabling them to influence and help to shape the transportation strategy.</p>
2	<p>Minutes of the last meeting – accepted as a true record by Roy Girdler and Arthur Evans</p>	
3	<p>Matters arising</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Under Item 4 it was stated that the new Bowel Cancer Screening programme is going ahead without appropriate consultation. • Item 7 should read Ivy Sammonds 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Under item 9 - no further update 	
4	<p>Chairman's Remark</p> <p>The chairman informed members that Rose Powell is still poorly, however he wished her a speedy recovery on behalf of the forum</p>	
5	Treasurer's Report	£950 in the bank
6	<p>Correspondence</p> <p>One member wrote to the forum suggesting that the forum should consider changing the name of the over 50s forum to a pensioners forum because the age range is too wide and needs are different.</p> <p>The majority seemed to support the continuation for the name to remain the same however one person disagreed</p>	The chair agreed to reply to the letter on behalf of the over 50s forum
7	<p>Sub – Committee Reports-</p> <p>Housing The group met with Bruce Moore from Wolverhampton HOMES and received the following update:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Wolverhampton Homes is not hopeful to gain the 2 star rating due to some grey areas 2. A number of derelict garage sites will be pulled down providing open plan parking 3. Sites sold for redevelopment <p>It was suggested that no definite agreements have yet been taken about the garage sites. However due to the recent rent increases it was alleged that several tenants may terminate their garage tenancies.</p> <p>Members informed Mr Moore that the money spent on Wolverhampton publicity DVDs was a waste of resources because some older people do not have access to DVD players.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Housing Sub group –next meeting will take place on Wed 28/6/06 in meeting room 2 Members not convinced that repairs will be completed on time Some members believe that some people are paying VAT on top of their garage rent <p>Mike assured members that rent is not subject to VAT. This is to be clarified with Bruce Moore.</p>

Concerns were raised about plans to close majority of the local housing offices except for Bilston, Wednesfield, Low Hill and the Civic Centre.

Members suggested that the main reason why Wolverhampton Homes may not get the 2 star rating is to do with outstanding repairs. It was suggested that the large increase in rent is to bring rent in line with the private sector and social housing. However members are hopeful that the Housing Minister Ruth Kelly may signal a new era where local government would be free from the current rent constraints.

Digital TV

Keith Gubbins is said to be responsible for upgrading the digital TV equipment. However it was pointed out that the government has no plan to finance the change over.

The Loos Sub group

The official opening of the new toilet facilities in Victoria Street opposite Beatties took place on 15/6/06. Although there was little media publicity, Roy and Jean Girdler attended and confirmed that the Loos are indeed super loos, comprising of plasma TV rolling out advertisement for council events and services, baby changing and feeding facilities, push chair and wheel chair access, lovely seating in the wash area.

Minor improvements needed include providing hooks or alternative space for shopping bags to avoid placing them on the floor.

Mr Girdler pointed out that the WC sign telling people where the toilets are located was missed off, this too will be addressed.

Lastly it was agreed that Bilston will be next on the agenda to have its toilet improvement work carried out.

Assurances given that loo committee will be

	<p>consulted on the development of the WCs in Bilston.</p> <p>It was noted that Cllr Johnson congratulated the Over 50s Forum for successful campaigning for appropriate toilet facilities in the city centre.</p> <p>Members thanked Roy and Jean and the late Charles Sammonds for their hard work over the years and for a job well done.</p> <p>Health Sub Committee – no report</p> <p>However Marjorie gave an overview of the successful work undertaken by the Bereavement Centre.</p> <p>Asked if the NHS is safe or is it likely to be privatised?</p> <p>Mike suggested that he would like the over 50s forum to debate this issue at some point.</p> <p>Transportation sub committee No report</p> <p>Communication Sub committee No report</p>	<p>Marjorie's response, no It is not safe however Hospital trusts deficits could be cleared if government would redirect funds from expensive projects such as the development of a super computer network providing personal medical information about residents throughout the UK</p>
8	<p>Any Other Business-</p> <p>Members informed that they have found a box containing a number of Awards Certificate for Mrs Avis Cund.</p> <p>One member agreed to investigate her where about so that the awards can be forwarded on to her or her family.</p> <p>Members told of the following scams</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People saying that they are from the water board 	<p>Members told not to let them in unless they</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will you accept a reverse call without saying who the caller is • Letter stating you have won £300K • Letter received stating that N Power will be taking court action because they could not gain access to the property even though the gas meter was on the external wall of the property • Breathing places, making space for nature. It was pointed out that grants are available from the National Lottery to help improve wildlife in your locality. • Free energy bulbs are available for older people. 	<p>have made the call or received official notification from the water authority. Hang up the phone</p> <p>Register for a mail preference service</p> <p>Information given by visitor from Walsall over 50s forum</p>
10	<p>Date of next meeting: Wednesday 19th July 2006 Committee Room 3, Civic Centre</p> <p>This meeting will be followed by a consultation on the future of council owned residential care homes. 12.00 – 2.00 in committee room 3</p>	