



**SPEAK AND BE HEARD**

**WOLVERHAMPTON OVER 50s FORUM**

**Secretary: Mr. Roy Girdler**

**56 Cherrywood Green**

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**Minutes of Over 50s Forum**  
**Held on Wednesday 18th June 2008, 10am**

**Apologies:** Sandra Ullah, Norah Corless, Brian Davies, Gina Parker, Jenny Purshouse

**Present:** 27 members, Rose Powell, Minutes Dana Tooby

**Chairperson:** Brad Purshouse

Brad welcomed two new members to the Forum

**1.** As Julie was unable to attend the meeting, Rose stepped in to talk about the Council's new website about provision for Older People.

Rose explained that it is currently very difficult to access information about broader services provision for older people on the present council web site.

Some months ago Rose began working on dedicated pages for older people and this work is almost complete. She gave a brief demonstration of the pages and how they linked to other sites for more specific information. She then went on to explain that members of the Over 50s Forum will be invited to a Launch Day in July where they will have the opportunity to 'test out the site.

David Holmes then gave a brief demonstration of the Information held on memory sticks about services across the City. He explained that memory sticks were available for different areas of the City and that hard copies would be available soon. Both would be distributed from the Information Shop at King St but members were advised to contact Rose, who would arrange for them to receive either or both.

**2. Minutes of last Meeting**

Minutes were agreed as a true record by Marjorie Wedge and David Plant.

**3. Matters arising:**

Pg 3 Forum want a speaker on the bereavement grant criteria not on will making as they have already had that in a previous meeting.

Pg 2 Gardens: Mike reported that the Ground Maintenance meeting held by Wolverhampton Homes (WH) had been well-attended. WH said that they were hoped to provide a service for those who could not maintain their gardens later this year although the costs to tenants had not yet been agreed. A survey had shown that this was a service that older people in particular were very interested in and were prepared to pay between 50p and £10 a week for. WH had talked about a ball park figure of £3.74 a week but many people stated their

preference to pay monthly or per session.

A member alerted Forum to an advert in the local newspaper where someone advertised that they charged £5 per garden, but this is not the case and people are being quoted £70+. Another member cited an example of someone with Parkinson's Disease who used to maintain gardens, charging only for his transport costs but he is no longer able to do this as he would be considered to be fit for work and lose his Benefits.

Transport problem at Blakenhall: Rose has sent a letter, as requested by Forum and has received a reply which cited health and safety issues: (a) There no clear access or parking space near the property, (b) The property is close to traffic lights and hence no parking space.

Mr Rai thanked Forum for the letter of support but asked what action it was going to take to support the campaign. Brad assured Mr Rai that he had the full support of Forum but was advised that he should set up a sub-group of interested members who could then plan the way forward.

#### **4. Chairs Remarks:**

Brad reported that he would be attending the next Officer's workshop of the West Midlands Older People's Advisory Group. He has been invited to Chair the Help the Aged conference in Tamworth where Nick Owen is the speaker. Brad stressed the need to retain the link with West Midlands Older Peoples Group (UK OPAG).

#### **5. Treasurer's Report:**

£736.77p in the forum account. A telephone bill for the Forum office at Warstones had been received which shows £91.00 credit.

Rose reminded members that Forum was due to receive an income from groups who are awarded funds from the Small Grants Scheme as O50 forum membership fees are included

#### **6. Correspondence:**

Roy explained Rose has had to deal with correspondence as he has moved house and has not been available for the last 4-5 weeks.

- Forum has written to the 3 MPs asking for written responses to the questions posed at the event. They had received copies of the questions the day before to enable them to gather any information required for their response. At the event they had agreed to provide written responses to all the questions, including those that they did not have time to address at the time. However, they had only responded to a few of the issues that had been raised.

Everyone agreed that the event had been very successful and that complaints tended to be from those who did not attend Forum meetings. The questions had been formulated and the format of the meeting democratically agreed at meetings of the Forum prior to the event.

Rose read the contents of the letter of support for Ransackers that had been sent to Arko Sen at Wolverhampton University.

Roy reported on recent correspondence that he had received:

- Help the Aged has asked for a letter of support for their campaign for politicians to change the Equality Bill to cover age discrimination that ignores the needs of older

people. Members agreed to do this.

- A request has been made for the Forum to submit text to celebrate its achievements for inclusion in the Speaking For Our Age booklet/publications. It was agreed that the text should mention all the sub groups but focus particularly on the 2006 Intergenerational project and the Toilets campaign!

## **7. Sub-committee reports**

### **Housing:**

Mark Henderson had attended a meeting to discuss parking issues such as people parking on the main road and obstructing passage. Despite promising to respond in time for the next meeting, Mark has not done so yet.

ACTION: Rose to chase on behalf of the Forum

Tenants have now started to move into the houses on the Mayfields site but are hanging their washing out on the balcony instead of in the drying area which does not make the area look good.

Mike Nicholls commended the work of this group and appealed for more members to join it.

### **Transport:**

David reported that the group had been experiencing difficulties trying to book a room to meet. They continue to discuss issues with Centro such as when bus routes are changed or do not run to their timetable. David reported that there is little evidence of consultation with passengers especially around bus timetables.

The service for Heath Town is being revised and all residents will be informed of the changes.

Mr Rai reported that the 501 bus due at the Halfway house on Sunday at 9:45am had gone at 8:39am, he was advised to make a formal complaint to Centro.

## **8. Intergenerational work:**

Rose reported that the project had started. She invited Forum members to be interviewed about their experience of working in Wolverhampton, either for the DVD or the booklet. Interviews would be taking place at Bradley Community Centre and transport would be arranged for anyone who wanted to take part.

## **9. Any Other Business**

Rose introduced Mr Wood who wants to set up an older peoples group to make greetings cards. He will be showing a selection of his cards at the next meeting. Any one who would be interested in setting up a group to produce these cards please contact Rose on 10902 555494.

**Please note change of venue**

**Date of next meeting is Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> July 2008 at 10am,  
Change of Venue : Britannia Hotel, Regency Suite, Lichfield street, Wolverhampton**

