



WOLVERHAMPTON OVER 50s FORUM
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Minutes of Over 50s Forum
Held on Wednesday 17th June 2009, 10am

Present: 28 members, Jean Fairclough (minutes), Rose Powell

Apologies: Roy Girdler, Jean Girdler, Jenny Purshouse

Chairperson: Brad Purshouse

Brad welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Speaker:

The Intergenerational Film (History at Work) was shown which focused on people's working experiences during the period when companies such as Boulton Paul, Goodyear, Banks's Brewery were some of the main employers in Wolverhampton. Members of the forum took part in the project both as part of the editing and recording team and to tell their stories. Copies of the DVD are available on request.

History at work Project:

- Three local secondary schools were involved and one disaffected youth came from Heanton Housing.
- Although the young people had basic training on Interview skills, they were very keen to listen to the older people and quickly built a genuine rapport with them.
- The young people undertook research as various issues were raised by the interviewees throughout the filming.
- They identified common themes such as Health & Safety, gender roles and local industries and edited the film to link the strands together, then they wrote the social commentary.
- The older people shared their memories and Brad and Ted supported them with the technical knowhow alongside staff from Lighthouse..
- Other members of the Forum also helped with the running around etc and Elizabeth took photographs.
- It is important to record the stories otherwise they would be lost forever.
- Many of the young people went home to speak to their grandparent about their

experiences- the project put 'history'; into a real social context. They learned new skills which they could put on their CV and two of them of are considering a career in media.

- The next stage, should funding be available, is to record the stories of many more people in the form of a book.

Minutes of last meeting

There was a correction to page 3 under the heading 'Health' – which should read '**Over the Christmas period New Cross made 26 appointments to register the deceased.**'

Matters Arising

Rose reminded everyone of Friday 19 June event at the Novotel Hotel, 'Older Peoples Partnership board Event'.

Chairs Remarks

Members of the Management group will be having a meeting with members of One Cultures One Voice and Pensioners Convention with a view to looking for common ground and having a better understanding of each other. This may lead to collaboration or collective action where we share concerns. Each of the groups will retain their autonomy as they have different approaches but this 'triple alliance' has the potential to strengthen arguments and have media appeal.

Treasurer's Report

Dave reported that the litter pickers' bill has been received by the Forum and the account balance is standing at £1826.70.

Correspondence

The Walking For Health Summer programme was disseminated.

A newspaper article about the charges for Sick notes and Medical Reports was read out. It seems that GPs can charge whatever they like and some are charging £50 for a sick note and £100+ for medical reports.

Mike Nicholls gave out Government services information for older people.

Housing Sub Committee Reports

It was reported to the Forum that Broadway Gardens does not have a permanent manager at present is therefore under the oversight of a temporary manager, and this is not satisfactory.

Rose said that she thought that there has been a permanent manager in place for the past 2 months or so and would check and get back to forum.

It was stated that residents have lost confidence in Wolverhampton Homes as they did

not seem to be as efficient. They don't answer letters and don't seem to be listening to tenants.

Rose has been asked to write to Lesley Roberts, Chief Executive of Wolverhampton Homes with an invite to meet Housing Committee members to discuss problems with Wolverhampton Homes at a time and venue of her choice.

There are problems in some areas with children making a nuisance of themselves by ringing people's doorbells without cause, residents are very unhappy about this.

The cost to restore East Park Pool is likely to cost £20,000.

Any Other Business

Concerns were raised about press reports that the meals on wheels service may be affected by the savings programme. Rose to check and report back.

It was suggested that Inspections of Care Homes should take place without prior warning.

**Date of next meeting is Wednesday 19th August 2009 at 10am,
Committee Room 3, Civic Centre.**