



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

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 19 MARCH 2003 AT 10.00 A.M. AT THE  
CIVIC CENTRE WOLVERHAMPTON**

**1. Apologies**

Simon Hall   Howard Lampart   Gwynneth Wade   Jan Knowles  
Arthur Evans   Don Baker   Brian Davies   Rita Davies   Reg Jones  
Jenny Pursehouse   Charles Sammonds   Ivy Sammonds  
Marjorie Wedge   Eric Preece

**Present**

There were 30 members present plus Sarah Dudley and Steve Woodward from Waste Environmental Services, Andy Heyburn from Community Safety Bureau Wednesfield Police, Ian Parsonage of Wolverhampton City Council Leisure Services and Emma Palmer Network Development Officer.

Prior to the meeting a complaint had been received i.e. the ladies toilet had been used by a man and left in an unacceptable way after the last meeting.

**2. Speaker**

Andy Hayburn from the Community Safety Bureau at Wednesfield Police talked about the dangers of used needles left in parks and other public places by drug users. They are often shared and whilst HIV does not survive long Hepatitis A B & C is very resilient. It is essential to wear gloves should one ever need to touch them.

If members of the public find such waste they can contact Neighbourhood Wardens and Marie Kilworth (of the Low Hill/Bushbury area) on 312350 and Wolverhampton City Council (Monday to Friday) on 555181 – 555666 after 14 April and on 552999 out of hours emergency number for street cleaning. All these agencies will safely

**ACTION**

dispose of used needles.

Ian Parsonage, Senior Development Manager, Leisure Services spoke about litter in general i.e. fly tipping, neighbours throwing rubbish over the fence into the park, vandalism, glass bottles etc. There are 57 playgrounds in the City and a new initiative called 'Park Watch' is now in operation. Regular meetings across the city are held involving Community Groups and individuals where information can be fed in and shared. Both Chris Jones and Ian Parsonage can be contacted on 555145 and will supply a 'Park Watch' pack if requested.

Following the talks various questions were put forward i.e.

**Q.** How to obtain benches in Bantock Park on the Broad Lane side?  
When will the old toilets in East Park be demolished, they are dangerous and children are climbing on them?

**A.** Ian Parsonage would look into both of these questions and feedback to the Forum. (Please see Appendix 1)

**Q.** How many staff are available in a particular park?

**A.** Minimum of 2 staff x 7 days per week

Yes, Andy Hayburn both patrols and Park Watch, police and Schools collaborate

**Q.** What can be done about vandalism?

**A.** Ian Parsonage stated nothing is vandal proof. However, everything possible is done to secure the most 'vandal proof' equipment. Toilets are the most expensive and difficult to maintain.

**Q.** There was outstanding correspondence to the Parks Dept. regarding damaged saplings.

**A.** Ian Parsonage would look into the matter and reply to Roy Russell

**Q.** Can Park Rangers prosecute?

**A.** Park Rangers have three days training with the Police but have no legal authority. Their job is to encourage people to refrain from breaking the law. Park Rangers contact the Police. Street Wardens have more powers than Neighbourhood Watch but still not as much as the Police.

Steven Woodward, Environmental Manager of the Street Cleaning Service then explained his role.

The City is divided into 4 zones at present and street cleaning services are carried out by the Council's own work force. It is responsible for sweeping, bins, fly tipping and road traffic accidents. The City centre is graded as one and cleaned seven days a week. Densely populated residential areas are cleaned 4 times a year but can be done more frequently if necessary.

From April 2003 changes will be made to improve frequency, ground maintenance and cleansing will be amalgamated. More enforcement is planned as is education for school children on issues around litter. Domestic and garden rubbish will be separated and collected on alternate weeks. A pilot scheme starts in June with the whole city being covered in three years. Sarah Dudley, Waste Services Manager of Environmental Enforcement spoke about the £50 Fixed Penalty Notice that will be enforced for litter dropping or litter dropped from cars. The Enforcement Officer would be accompanied by a Police Officer to ensure people who are approached for litter dropping do not cause problems when a Notice is issued.

Establishments providing 'Take Away' food are responsible for keeping their part of the street clean but this will be enforced if necessary.

Discussions are currently taking place regarding litter outside schools regarding responsibility and, if bins are provided, the emptying of them.

### **3. Minutes of the last Meeting**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 15 January were agreed as a true record, proposed by Roy Russell and seconded by Jim Speakman.

No further business was discussed as the meeting had run out of time. The Chairman closed at 12 noon.

### **4. Date of Next Meeting:**

Wednesday 16 April 2003, 10am – 12noon in Committee Room 3 Third Floor, Civic Centre, Wolverhampton.