



**WOLVERHAMPTON OVER 50s FORUM**  
Secretary: Mr. Roy Russell MBE  
196 Warstones Road, Penn  
Wolverhampton WV4 4LF

Tel: 01902 332728

**SPEAK AND BE HEARD**

**MINUTES OF O'50s FORUM HELD ON 16<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2005**  
**COMMITTEE ROOM 3 CIVIC CENTRE**

**Apologies:** Mr & Mrs Sammonds, Mrs Morris, Mr & Mrs Girdler, Ms Saunders, Mrs Buttery, Mr Lampart, Mrs Knowles, Mr Ray, Mr Davies

**Present:** 32 members, A. Bailey, R.Powell

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Brad welcomed Mike Reynolds a visitor from Newcastle under Lyme .

**1. Speakers**

**Janet Chand – Wednesfield Preventative Project**

Janet worked as a nurse for over 20 years and as a registered manager in a residential care home, she now works for Heantun Care. The project is a joint initiative between Heantun Care and Age Concern. It was originally set up to address the problem of bed blocking. Wednesfield was chosen as it was felt to be a deprived area, funding was specifically for older people. The funding came from the regeneration budget; a proportion was also given to Age Concern to operate the good neighbours scheme. It is a pilot project originally for 18 months but has been extended twice. It is monitored by Wolverhampton University and is also used for research purposes.

The target group is over 70's who may be disadvantaged, all clients undergo an assessment process, they may be socially isolated, be physically frail or have insufficient income. Many of the clients are unaware of the carers allowance, which may not give them extra money but can mean that they are entitled to a reduction in council tax. There are currently over 200 clients who may have episodes of ill health, problems with medication etc. Janet can contact consultants and doctors on the clients behalf. They also deal with victims of crime and offer energy advice and can help to access grants for central heating and insulation. The Wednesfield project does not offer personal care.

Heantun Care has a person centred approach they carry out a holistic assessment and look at what is important to the client and what their key issues are. They refer to other agencies, such as the good neighbours scheme, sometimes that is all that is needed.

Over a three month period there were 165 clients, the hospital admission rate is 3% in the service user group instead of 18% in other areas.

Q. Are there any plans to extend the project?

There are hopes that eventually working in partnership with the PCT and Age Concern to extend the project into the All Saints area and then Citywide.

Q. What are your links with Care & Repair?

We share the same office and I make direct referrals to them, also to the Occupational Therapists which cuts the assessment time.

Q. How did the project originate and is it means tested?

The PCT arranged funding in partnership with Regeneration & Transportation. The service is free to all clients. However if other agencies become involved there may be a small fee charged.

## **2. Minutes of the last meeting**

The minutes of last month were agreed as a true record. Proposed by Mrs Wedge, seconded by Mr Gabb.

## **3. Matters arising**

Item 3: The meeting re: scrutiny panels took place, a letter setting out what occurred was read out and is attached: Appendix 1

The incorrect date was sent out for today's meeting. Rose apologised. Mr Russell was very upset as he said that members contacted him and he was not aware of the problem. Rose pointed out that the forum meets on the third Wednesday of every month and that the date printed was for Saturday so it was obviously a mistake.

## **4. Chairman's remarks**

Brad has been re-elected as Chair of West Midlands OPAG and will continue to highlight Wolverhampton's older peoples issues.

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

£382.16 currently. Ongoing work has been undertaken on the web site. Chase up letters have been sent out to members who have not renewed membership.

## **6. Correspondence**

Item 3. matters arising. Letter re scrutiny was read out, see attached. Appendix1

Letter from Dept of Works and Pensions. An appointments system is now in operation, a list of venues for surgeries available. Ring for appointment no longer drop in.

Mrs Wedge pointed out in response to Works & Pensions letter that the Bereavement Centre is no longer able to offer advice on benefits and pensions within the centre as the Dept of Works & Pensions have withdrawn their surgeries facility. Negotiations are being carried out to try to remedy this situation. The services within the centre are in danger of becoming fragmented.

## **7. Sub committee reports**

### **Housing**

Pat O'Dowd has taken over as chair of the housing committee. The first meeting took place on the 18<sup>th</sup> February. Discussions took place around the ALMO and problems that leaseholders have with meeting repair costs. A representative has been invited to discuss the ALMO and issues around leaseholders. Brad thanked the previous chair David Plant for all of the work carried out by him.

### **Public Safety**

Questions are being asked re: Tettenhall police station being unmanned and volunteers being asked for. A letter has been sent to Inspector Ian Marsh to invite him to a future public safety committee. Questions will be asked as to whether ex police could be used to man it. Mrs Peat said that they should receive a wage for it. Mr Price said that he was concerned about volunteers being used as in his opinion people who understand the correct procedures should be used. Mrs Thomas said that in her opinion volunteers could be used with appropriate training. These points will be raised at the next public safety committee.

### **Transport**

The next meeting of the transport committee is on Friday at 10.30 in BR2. There is a West Midlands Travel forum on April 19<sup>th</sup> at 7pm in the Civic Centre. There will be a possible re-route for the 613. Mr Gravestock: Cllr Paul Allen has said that it may be rerouted to Fordhouses and cancelled from Bradmore! Mr Plant said that he would double check with Centro. There are still issues around Travel West Midlands drivers going through red lights and starting off before all passengers are seated.

### **Whitmore Reans Satellite forum**

The first meeting of the satellite took place with Cllrs Lawrence and Docherty. They both welcomed the first satellite forum and thought it was a very good idea to ensure that local older peoples issues will be highlighted.

### **Any Other Business**

When will the next stage of the Older Peoples Strategy consultation take place? Anne Bailey apologised that it has been delayed and said that it was likely to be June.

Mr Jones: Disabled parking at New Cross. If you are in possession of a blue badge, you can give the badge number at the car park barriers and can park without having to pay. He also stated that the Older Peoples bus pass is safe in its present form for the next three years.

The Scrutiny review which took place looking at Accident & Emergency services, will there be a report published? Can we chase to check if anything is yet available.

Mr Speakman asked for a show of hands on who does not receive the Signpost newspaper which is delivered on a quarterly basis wrapped around the Chronicle. 7 people said that they never receive the Chronicle. Perhaps the communications sub group could write to the Chronicle highlighting this.

Mr Walker attended an older peoples information day run by Penn & Merry Hill local area forum. He thanked Rose for her help with the display and told forum that we recruited five new members.

Mr Gabb mentioned the problems that the post office closures are causing for older people.

Mrs Whittaker reported two scams currently happening in Wolverhampton. The first involves someone asking for change for the telephone, they then check where your purse is stored and an accomplice steals it. Also stamps purchased recently in a strip from a newsagent had a number of fake stamps on it.

**Date of next meeting**

**10am Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2005  
Committee room 3 Civic Centre  
Speaker: John Partridge – Road Safety**