



WOLVERHAMPTON OVER 50s FORUM
Acting Secretary: Mr. Roy Girdler
25 Clarence Road
Bilston
Wolverhampton
WV14 6NZ
01902 651656

SPEAK AND BE HEARD

MINUTES OF O'50s FORUM HELD ON 15TH MARCH 2006
COMMITTEE ROOM 3 CIVIC CENTRE

Apologies: J Speakman, A. Evans, M. Wedge, S.Lewis, D & M Gravestock
R.Jones, N.Saunders, D. Plant, G.Parker, D.Tooby, J.Price, J.Rooney,
Pearce, K McNish

Present: 29 members, Barbara Nelson, Rose Powell

In the absence of Brad Purshouse, David Walker chaired the meeting

1. Speakers

Dr Max Kalsi attended to discuss the new Bowel Cancer Screening programme which commences in April. People aged from 60 – 69 years of age will be invited to take part in the bowel cancer screening programme, people over this age can request a test kit. The Over 50s forum have agreed to help to promote this scheme, it was suggested to Dr Kalsi that he could write an article for the next signpost which goes out to thousands of homes, he agreed and will let Rose have something in time for the next edition who will pass on to Brad. A copy of his presentation is available if anyone wants a copy.

Jan Hickman – Local area neighbourhood management co-ordinator

Jan discussed the new boundaries for the LANA's which have been agreed after lengthy consultations with members of the local area forums. She detailed background to the changes and added that they had arisen out of people saying that there was both confusion and duplication in the current local neighbourhood and management initiatives. A private consultancy firm Inspira had been commissioned to carry out all of the work and they had consulted a wide range of local people, partner agencies and staff working within the field. From this an initial draft report had been produced on changes to some of the local area and neighbourhood management boundaries which were then the subject of intensive consultation.

Jan then went through all of the boundary areas and explained the reasons for some of the proposed changes. She added that in every area there would be a lead co-ordinator role to try and avoid duplication and meet any gaps in provision. The new arrangements will enable communities to discuss with service providers, the needs of the local area. The police have now got permission to change their community boundaries and have agreed to change them to mirror the new LANA boundaries.

A member of the forum asked why people on the Over 50s forum had not been invited to take part in the consultation. Jan pointed out that the consultation went to established community groups and local area forum members.

Another member said that if there was only one meeting in each area, and you were unable to attend it meant that you missed having your say. Some people are passionate about Wolverhampton but unless they know about these meetings they cannot take part. There was general criticism about communication and the need for better feedback. The City council needs to improve communications and information, they could do this by involving more community groups.

One member said that one of the difficulties with getting people involved is that meetings are often set up and numbers tend to dwindle very quickly. More people should be encouraged to take part in their community groups.

How do you fit into the Safer Estates agreement, which covered what LANA's are now trying to do? The Safer Estates Agreement failed dismally how can you guarantee a better outcome? Jan – no one can guarantee anything however, service providers, the police and PCT are all signed up to this process.

2. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of last month were agreed as a true record. Proposed by Mr Rai seconded by Mrs O'Dowd.

3. Matters Arising

David Walker told Forum that the Over 50s satellite forum in Penn and Merry Hill had held its launch meeting in February at Bromley House.

Rose showed a poster that Ian Peddie had produced to encourage new members to attend the Whitmore Reans satellite forum and asked for comments on the poster. Forum felt that it was difficult for older people to read, that the Over 50s logo was pushed into a corner and was barely visible and that there were other logos which should not be appearing as the forum is an acknowledged independent group not a part of the City Council. There was a general consensus that the satellite forums were in danger of being 'hijacked' and that it needed to be recognised that they must remain independent in order to allow them to continue to lobby the council on older peoples issues.

Barbara mentioned the awards scheme that she would like the forum to be a part of. Rose suggested that she circulate the plan with the minutes and put the item on next months agenda to allow discussion on the subject.

4. Treasurer's Report

£954.00 funds available.

5. Correspondence

A letter was received from Compton Hospice thanking the forum for the donations made in memory of Charles Sammonds and Roy Russell.

Policy update from Help the Aged received.

6. Any Other Business

John Price asked forum members to take part in petition signing if they were asked, against the proposed closures of Learning Disability day centres.

Mel Whyett – communication manager attended to ask the Over 50s forum if they would be involved in a focus group looking at communicating better. Several members expressed an interest Mel will liaise with Rose to send out invitations.

Citizens Awareness Day meeting on Tuesday 21st March 2006 1.30 – 3.000 at St Leonards Church, Bilston. Peter Rhodes from the Express and Star will be attending to add to the debate on 'Growing Old in the 21st Century'. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Eddie Grizzle told forum that ACOV (all cultures one voice) are holding a meeting on Thursday morning in meeting room 2 again everyone is invited.

Date of next meeting

10am Wednesday 19th April 2006
Committee Room 3, Civic Centre
Speaker Kate Crow – Manager of Equipment Services