



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

[www.wolverhamptonover50sforum.co.uk](http://www.wolverhamptonover50sforum.co.uk)

**Minutes of Over 50s Forum**  
**Held on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2008, 10am**

**Apologies:** D.Holmes, O Reid, J Purshouse, J.Girdler, E.Grizzle  
**Present:** 32 members, Rose Powell, Jean Fairclough (minutes)  
**Chairperson:** Brad Purshouse

Brad welcomed Martin Sarling, Prime Project, and Ian Colley, Joint Core Strategy Black Country.

**Speaker – Martin Sarling**

Martin presented background information on the services that are available through Prime. Prime is the only national organisation dedicated to helping people aged over 50 set up in business or become self-employed, and is a registered charity linked to Age Concern. Prime is able to provide help and advice on starting a social enterprise scheme, give assistance with financial means. It is similar to the Princes Trust who work with older people and there is loan/grant facility available. Prime will give you practical support, encouragement and information for as long as you need it to make it happen.

You can find out more from their website: [www.primeinitiative.org.uk](http://www.primeinitiative.org.uk) or call 0800 783 1904.

**Speaker – Ian Colley**

Ian gave an overview of the Joint Core Strategy Black Country. This is a future development planning strategy between Dudley, Sandwell, Walsall and Wolverhampton which will take us into 2026 and will provide jobs and around 60,000 new homes in the black country. This was launched in December 2006, consultation took place during the Summer of 2007, and they are now at the stage of final public consultation for a 6 week period from 17 March 2008 to 28 April 2008. This project will mean more homes and new jobs for Wolverhampton, will provide more office space, leisure and retail development. Green belt areas and the like will be protected. Key areas for

development will be City Centre, Pendeford, Fordhouses, Stafford Road, Bilston Corridor, East of Bilston etc.

Members of the public can express their views via post, email: [blackcountrycorestrategy2008.co.uk](mailto:blackcountrycorestrategy2008.co.uk) or telephone 552177/555636 to the Planning Policy Team.

Councillor Smith expressed concerns regarding Bilston Urban Village stating it's one of the highest for unemployment and the Ward St project (GKN site) which also have a high unemployment figure and wasn't mentioned by speaker. It was stated that there were transport problems but they're working to sort problems out.

Many felt that living apartments in the city centre were not suitable for families; there is a need to provide good quality and affordable family homes. Part of city's change planning system is to engage with the community, but there were also concerns about the effects the changes will have on businesses, as there are many empty shops, relocation of the retail market it may move closer to city centre, this is a 20 year project.

### **Minutes of last Meeting**

Minutes were agreed as an accurate account by M. Wedge and seconded by R. Girdler.

### **Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

### **Sub Committee Reports**

Pat O'Dowd reported that Elaine Howell, from the Kick Start project gives people the opportunity to have a loan to improve their property, this loan is repaid when the borrower dies or sells the property. The amount a person would have to repay depends on the value of the property at the sale/death.

It was suggested that it would be good idea to invite Elaine to one a future meeting in order to fully explain and clarify certain points/questions.

Mr Rai asked if MPs will do anything about the questions that were put to them. It was stated that the meeting in April will be dedicated to these matters.

### **Any Other Business**

Sandra Jones, Client Relations & Complaints Manager, gave a brief overview of the Adult Care Services complaints procedures, and how complaints are dealt with. Leaflets were handed out for more information. Sandra explained that complaints calls are logged and coded. Sandra only deals with complaints relating to Adults and Community she would redirect any other

complaints to the appropriate department. She also asked forum if they thought that a newsletter would be useful to give information and feedback on issues of complaints. Forum agreed that it would be a good idea perhaps twice per year.

It was felt that City Direct are not very helpful also the A-Z directory is not kept up to date numbers are sometimes incorrect. Sandra thought it would be a good idea if Forum invited Melanie Whyett to a future meeting and put issues to her. Sandra will return to forum with the corporate complaints manager to fully discuss the whole complaints procedure and explain how they all work alongside each other.

Rose said that the Intergenerational group have been awarded £10,000 for a new project collecting work memories, forum to be kept informed.

Ransacker forms were handed out by Roy, who will be visiting one of the colleges which is based in Birmingham to see how the project is run and will feedback to the Forum.

Adult College is running a short programme called STEP, which is aimed at building peoples confidence.

Rose is currently working on the city council website regarding services for older people, when completed opportunities will be available for people to test how easy it is to navigate the pages, launch will take place hopefully on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> May which is National Silver Surfers day.

Health & Well-being Summit will be on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2008, 4:30pm – 8pm, Civic Centre, to book a place telephone 444557.

**Date of next meeting is Wednesday 16 April 2008 at 10am,  
Committee Room 3, Civic Centre.**