



**WOLVERHAMPTON OVER 50s FORUM**  
Secretary: Mr. Roy Russell MBE  
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Wolverhampton WV4 4LF

Tel: 01902 332728

**SPEAK AND BE HEARD**

**MINUTES OF O'50s FORUM HELD ON 19<sup>th</sup> MAY 2004 COMMITTEE**  
**ROOM 3 CIVIC CENTRE**

**Apologies:** K.Mc Nish, P.Whittaker, J.Ray, C.Peat, J..Purshouse, Mr & Mrs B.Davies, G. Wade, T & J Russell, B & M Bond, J.Johnson, R.Jones

**Present:** 32 members plus Barbara Nelson, Rose Powell

**ACTION**

**1. Speaker**

Fire Safety Officer Andrew Aston spoke on the very serious matter of fire safety in the home. He showed a 'real time' video highlighting a house fire. Within three minutes the room was an inferno. He pointed out that by the time you had noticed the fire and went to get a bucket of water the fire would have been out of control and you were at a significant risk of death or serious injury. The message is that no matter how small the fire appears to be that you should get out of the house call the fire service and stay out of the building. DO NOT re-enter a burning building no matter what.

Everyone should have a smoke detector fitted in their homes. Ideally they should be outside the room in which you sleep as fire deaths are usually at night with the victims being in bed. A working smoke detector will wake you and allow you precious minutes to get out of the house. You should always have a fire plan and should make everyone in the house aware of the escape routes. Always ensure that door and window locks are accessible and that everyone knows where they are. If your escape route is blocked call the fire service and tell them that you are trapped then stay near to a window.

The number of deaths by fire in the West Midlands have fallen from 70 per year to 14, of these 12 did not have a working smoke alarm. The majority of fires are caused either by cigarettes, matches and cooking. If you need to leave the kitchen while cooking a meal always turn off the heat. The food will not spoil and if you forget that there is a pan on there will be no danger of fire.

Q. How can I get a smoke alarm?

Most DIY stores stock them for around £3.00 there are now ten year alarms available for around £12.00. Older people and other vulnerable people can

contact the fire service and will have one fitted free. This service is also available for older people from Age Concern.

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

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed as a true record proposed by R.Girdler and seconded by G. Gabb.

## **3. Matters arising**

C. Sammonds pointed out that last months sub committee reports stated that all members of the forum would receive a copy of Wolverhampton's draft strategy for Older People before this meeting. They have not been provided. Rose apologised and said that there had been problems with the first draft and it would definitely be sent out prior to the consultation event on the 29<sup>th</sup> June.

Rose reminded everyone that it was important to reserve a place for this consultation as soon as possible as demand was likely to be high and places would be allocated on a first come first served basis.

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

Nothing to report this month

## **5. Treasurers report**

There is currently £811.27 in the bank.

## **6. Correspondence**

A letter has been received from Rob Marris's office re: fireworks and possible new legislation.

## **7. Sub committee reports**

### **Health**

Marjorie reminded everyone about the consultation event on the 29<sup>th</sup> June. The invitations were handed out to everyone present with a reminder to respond as soon as possible to reserve places.

### **Loos**

J. Girdler; A meeting has been arranged, for Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2004 in committee room 3. Councillors Phil Page and some of his colleagues will be in attendance. All forum members invited to attend. Jean has undertaken a

small survey of toilet facilities in Wolverhampton market, there was a very interesting response with people complaining about the state of the City Centre toilets. Jean also started a survey in the Wulfrun Centre but was asked to leave by the centre managers. Jean has agreed to apply for permission before trying again. A card is available from the continence foundation for people with a medical condition who need to use the toilet urgently, Jean has details of how to apply.

### **Public Safety**

J.Speakman; There was no meeting held in April the next meeting is booked for 15<sup>th</sup> June 2004 in briefing room 2 in the civic centre.

### **Communication**

J. Ray chair of communications committee asked Rose to report back to forum following the communications meeting held on May 14<sup>th</sup> 2004. A report was read out to forum explaining what had occurred at the meeting with Councillor Docherty and Mel Whyatt and Jo McGinley from the communications and customer relations department. See attached: Appendix 1

### **Transport**

D. Plant said that there had not been a transport meeting held last month. However there is a travel forum taking place with West Midlands Travel at 7pm on 25<sup>th</sup> May at The Springvale Club, Millfields Road, Bilston. Members of the forum were urged to attend.

### **Housing**

D. Plant pointed out that the housing committee has not met for a long period of time. He appealed to the forum members to join the housing committee so that it could be recommenced.

## **7. AOB**

Questions were raised about the role of the street wardens. A suggestion was made that they are invited to next months forum meeting to answer some of the queries.

### **Date of next meeting**

**10.00am Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> June 2004.  
Committee room 3, Civic Centre**

**Speaker: Andy Brittan - Senior Street Warden**