



SPEAK AND BE HEARD

**Minutes of Over 50s Forum Wednesday
16th May 2007, Civic Centre**

Apologies: Rose Powell, Dave Holmes, Mr. & Mrs. Gabb, Sandra Ullah
Edward Grizzle, Reg Jones, Pat Travis

Present: 30 members, Barbara Nelson, Jean Evans, Beryl Cooper,
Ian Peddie, Lesley Johnson, Tim Philpot, Doug Rowe-visitor

Item		Actions
1.	<p>Speakers – Beryl Cooper and Jean Evans from the Oxley Village Association gave a presentation about the development and activity of their association.</p> <p>The group started as a result of anti social activities in a nearby alley which impacted on the lives of residents in the area. Following consultation with residents the group was formed with 30 plus members. They meet one Thursday per month, they are a self financing group the membership of the group is made up of private tenants and owner occupiers; because there are no council tenants in the group they were told that they do not qualify for help with running cost.</p> <p>They group take part in a number of fund raising activity including, raffles, bazaars, charity walks, trips. In partnership with Safety Partnership, local shops and others they have successfully raised £7.5K and funded the instalment of CCTV to monitor anti social activities in the alley.</p> <p>They produce a regular newsletter and provide on site support for local people. They are concerned that they are unable to engage younger people to join the group.</p> <p>The presentation was well received, and the Chairman invited Jean and Beryl to consider joining the Over 50s Forum, where they could receive additional support.</p> <p>Questions / Comments Roy Girdler commented that he was successful in attracting funding for a local group and is willing to share the information.</p> <p>Dave suggested that the Tenants and Resident Federation could provide some help with running costs, and urged them to contact the tenant participation officer.</p>	

	<p>Beryl commented that help is only available if the group members are council tenants, and their group is made up of private tenants and owner occupiers</p> <p>Brad and Marjorie invited them to discuss their issues with the over 50s housing sub group because they are representative of all the citizens of the city and not just council tenants.</p> <p>Beryl and Jean gave a number of examples of different treatments between council and private tenants.</p> <p>Trevor suggested that the group should contact Age Concern</p> <p>Beryl said that you must have a project first, as most funding bodies will not provide money for running costs only.</p> <p>Mike suggested that the group should contact Lesley Roberts, Chief Executive for Wolverhampton Homes.</p> <p>Beryl said they wrote to Wolverhampton Homes but did not receive the help they needed.</p> <p>Housing Sub Chair agreed to discuss the issues raised at the next housing sub meeting.</p>	
2.	<p>Minutes of last meeting Should read 18th April 07. It was then agreed, proposed by Trevor Russell and seconded by Marjorie Wedge</p>	
2	<p>Matters Arising Members asked for comments about whether wardens have the power to stop Ring and Ride, waiting on yellow lines.</p> <p>Tim Philpot from Road Safety said that unloading should take no longer than 2 minutes unless the person is disabled. Ring and Ride are given reasonable time to unload.</p> <p>In addition there are exemptions given to people displaying a disabled badge. Should Parking Wardens issue parking fines the Parking enforcement team should be informed immediately.</p> <p>Brad would like to find out if there are any booklets giving information about the rules and changes. Rose to follow up.</p> <p>Tim told members if there are any other issues regarding parking enforcement they should ring 01902 550300</p>	
3.	<p>Chairmans remarks Nothing to report</p>	
4.	<p>Treasurers Report Forum has £1138.91 in its account</p>	

5.	<p>Correspondence</p> <p>Telephone call received from ACOV (All Cultures One Voice) saying that those wishing to attend their Social Event with guest speakers Councillor Peter Bilson, Doctor Derrick Campbell and others should submit their application forms no later than Friday 18th May 07 as places are limited. The aim of the event is to bring together all cultures to find out the needs of the citizens of Wolverhampton, It is a free event</p>	
6.	<p>Sub Committee Reports</p> <p>Loos Roy reported that a recent article in the Express & Star stated that the findings in the Help the Aged Report suggesting that older people are not going shopping because of the lack of toilet facilities.</p> <p>Following the printing of a letter in the Express and Star on this subject from John Mellor complaining about the lack of facilities in Wolverhampton, it was felt that Mr Mellor's comments on the subject were unfair following the opening of the new loos in Victoria Street. As a result the Committee met and drafted a letter to be sent to the Editor of the Express & Star, the letter was circulated to members at the meeting.</p> <p>Mike Nicholls agreed to speak to Mr Mellor regarding the positive work undertaken by this committee. He also pointed out that in the recent local government elections other people also used the work of the Loos committee to support their campaigns for election.</p> <p>It was highlighted that the toilet facilities are very good however they do not open on a Sunday. It was suggested that the reasons for this is due to staffing. A question was raised about having two people working at any one time. It was suggested that this is due to Health and Safety requirements.</p> <p>Ann Reaney informed the meeting that St Leonard's Church provide access to their toilet facilities for members of the community on a daily basis in the Bilston area.</p>	
	<p>Housing</p> <p>The next meeting will take place on Friday 18th May 07 at 10:30am in Briefing Room one. Pat confirmed that she is still awaiting confirmation from the Chief Executive of Wolverhampton HOMES, Lesley Roberts. Members said It is not clear whether Wolverhampton HOMES will gain the 2 star rating.</p>	
	<p>Transport</p> <p>David confirmed that Bus Stop signs are currently being revised and replaced where there is incorrect information.</p>	

	<p>Education</p> <p>D Tooby confirmed that the next meeting will take place on Thursday 17th May in the Railway Carriage at 12 noon. They are expecting to host a consultation event around adult learning on 16th July 2007, to discuss the needs of older learners with local Neighbourhood Partnerships who are currently drafting their learning strategies.</p>	
	<p>Public Safety</p> <p>No report. The chair of this committee is currently unwell. Members agreed to express their regards to him personally.</p>	
	<p>Any Other Business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Signpost – If anyone would like to submit articles for the newspaper contact Brad as soon as possible. • Wolverhampton’s Older Peoples Network will be hosting a consultation event on Thursday 31st May 07 at 9:30 at Tettenhall Institute, Wood Road Tel 01902 550975. The keynote speaker is Dee Harris from Wolverhampton Primary Care Trust the purpose of this event is to meet with representatives of a wide range of older people in Wolverhampton to consult on the content of an action plan for the Older Peoples Network and looking at the development and evaluation of preventative care for the older person. • Information Centre King Street provided information for people 50 and over entitled “what if what now” and other information. • Lesley Johnson (Carers support) she would like to know what Pat McFadden (MP) response has been to the Forum regarding a previous request made to him concerning the withdrawal of Carers Grant. Rose Powell to look into this. • D Tooby informed the group that an older persons group “the Zimmer’s” have recorded a CD entitled “My generation” it is being used to fund raise for Helped the Aged. It can be viewed from UTUBE. • Elizabeth Smith expressed her concerns about the waiting time for people applying for a disabled blue badge she told the meeting that even when the application is successful it still takes 3 -4 months before the badge is issued. She encouraged prospective applicants to keep ringing up the section concerned on a regular basis. • Mike asked the members to comment on what they think about the privatisation of the National Health Service. Following some discussions it was agreed that the Forum would write to Patricia Hewitt MP to raise their concerns about the subject. • Tim Philpot – Transport and Road Safety. He introduced himself as the replacement for Mr Partridge who will be retiring shortly. He encouraged members to ring City Direct with any issues in their neighbourhood. He will not be available to attend all the meetings, but will do so when he can. He informed the group that the Wolverhampton Annual Transport Conference is expected to take place In November2007 and invited the Forum and the Pensioners Convention to form a group to discuss and present issues affecting older people at the conference. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Barbara said that she and Ian would be available to support this if required.	
	Next Meeting: Wednesday 20th June 07 Committee Room 3, Third Floor, Civic Centre Speaker: Brian O’Leary Chief Officer – Older People and Transformation	