



WOLVERHAMPTON OVER 50s FORUM

Secretary: Mr. Roy Russell MBE

196 Warstones Road, Penn

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Tel: 01902 332728

SPEAK AND BE HEARD

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 20th November 2002 AT 10.00 A.M.

COMMITTEE ROOM 3 CIVIC CENTRE

1. Apologies

Marjorie Wedge Reg Jones Jenny Purshouse Jan Knowles
Don Baker Sid Lewis and Ann Farmer

Present

Attendance register showed 34 members, plus Heather Dean (Law & Resources) and Emma Palmer (Network Development Officer).

The Chairman welcomed new members to the group.

2. Speaker

Apologies were given from proposed Speaker, Ruth Taylor, who was unable to attend as planned. Heather Dean from the Legal Department addressed the meeting on the proposed Designation Order for restricting Alcohol in the City centre.

Heather told the group about the advertisement on 24.10.02 in the Express and Star which gave details of the Order and requested comments from the public.

The seven beat areas of the city Police will be covered by the Order. It would be enforced by them and they supported the development of such an Order.

A meeting on the 6th December will be held to discuss comments received from both local businesses and citizens. A further meeting will be held on 18th December when it will be decided whether or not an Order will be put into action. If it is agreed as being the right way to go it will become active on 19th December 2002.

ACTION

Members raised questions and queries with Heather on the subject of the Designation Order and how it will be enforced.

A official response from the Forum to the Order was suggested, it was proposed and seconded.

A vote was taken by members on whether or not to support the Order. Members were in favour of supporting the Order in principle but wanted comments to be made on how it was to be enforced.

The secretary of the Forum was asked to respond in writing to Richard Roberts, Co-ordinating Director of Law.

3. Minutes of the last Meeting

The minutes of the Meeting held on 16th October 2002 were agreed as a true record, proposed by Jim Speakman and seconded by Arthur Evans.

4. Matters Arising

A discussion took place on the Programme of Speakers for 2003 and included several suggestions made by members commencing with the Chief Probation Officer, subject Community Service Orders and how they are carried out. It was agreed to contact the Officer forthwith and invite him to attend.

A discussion took place on all the other issues that had been raised in the Forum meetings recently. These included Anti Social Behaviour Orders, pavements, and the various promises made by Councillors and Council Officers to Members of the Forum. Members agreed they would make a list of the promises received but not acted upon.

5. Chairman's remarks

The Chairman described a booklet he had obtained. The publication spoke about the work carried out by Derby's Forum. The Chairman reminded members that Emma Palmer will produce an Annual Report to reflect the work of the Forum. Emma proposes to produce this in January 2003 and it will be given to members as part of the AGM process in February. The Report is to chart the progress of the Forum over the last three years.

The Chairman told the Forum about the results of the Past members questionnaire undertaken by Emma Palmer. Action to be taken following the questionnaire was agreed.

Roy Russell to respond to order before the deadline

Speakers to be invited to meetings by Emma Palmer

Members to do lists of promises made and not acted on.

Members also made suggestions on how to increase membership and improve the work of the Forum.

It was suggested that the Forum could hold social events to enable members to get to know one another; it was also suggested that more networking with other organisations should be done.

It was noted that it was always going to be difficult to evaluate the work of the Forum as its main aim is to influence changes with decision makers. The decision makers then got the credit for the work undertaken, it was noted also that it was futile to become resentful of who 'got the credit'.

An example was given of the way influence works in achieving change: 18 months ago the Forum campaigned to Police for an Older Persons Officer. As a direct result there is now a Vulnerable Persons Officer available at Bilston Street Police Station. Surgeries are to be held at Age Concern with the Vulnerable Persons officer with effect from 19th December.

6. Treasurers Report

The treasurer reported :

£879.66 in the bank at the end of the month.

7. Correspondence

The Secretary stated he had received correspondence from a member of the Public giving praise to the work of the Over 50's Forum Housing Sub committee. The work carried out by Mike Nicholls and fellow members was invaluable and members of the Forum should take great pride in their achievements.

Roy Russell stated that post sent to Warstones Resource Centre was not reaching them easily. He requested that the post should be sent to his home address as shown at the top of the Minutes.

8. Sub Committee Reports

8.1 Public Safety sub committee

Jim Speakman, Chair of the Public Safety committee gave his report (see appendix 1).

Discussion took place on the issues around fireworks and the Forum were asked to consider how best to raise the issue. Discussion followed

as to whether or not a letter should be written to the Council to consider a Quiet Area sign being used by sheltered housing properties.

8.2 Health Sub Committee

No report from the Health Sub committee this month

8.3 Housing Sub Committee

The Chair of the Housing Sub Committee said although they had not met work was still being undertaken. Mike told the story of a lady whose property was in a very bad condition; he showed photographs of the property to members and explained the course of action he had taken to assist.

Mike requested people consider becoming members of the Housing sub committee as there were going to be many issues raised in relation to the sell off of housing stock by the Council.

A discussion on the work undertaken by the sub committee took place between members.

Mike told members of Booklets he had obtained for them to take away today entitled:-

Choice and quality for older people's housing - a strategic framework
Older people - their transport needs and requirements
Neighbourhood and street wardens programme
The free guide to renting private property.

Copies of these are available from Emma Palmer on request

8.4 Loos Sub Committee

Charles reported there had been no meeting of the sub committee, however, the development of the toilets was being pushed forward through three MPDPs.

9. Any Other Business

Charles Sammonds gave a report to members on the Launch of the Public Involvement strategy. (report attached as appendix 2) He had attended as a representative for the Forum. He mentioned numerous initiatives in the City and the need to have the Forum represented at as many of these as possible.

Charles spoke about the MPDP and how they are being made more 'user friendly'.

A member informed the meeting that there was a National Care Standards commission who would act on any complaints received . They could be contacted by telephone on 0191 233 3556

10. Date of Next Meeting:

Wednesday 18th December 2002 10am Britannia Hotel Litchfield Street Wolverhampton.