



**WOLVERHAMPTON OVER 50s FORUM**  
Secretary: Mr. Roy Russell MBE  
196 Warstones Road, Penn  
Wolverhampton WV4 4LF

Tel: 01902 332728

**SPEAK AND BE HEARD**

**MINUTES OF O'50s FORUM HELD ON 16<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2005**  
**COUNCIL CHAMBERS CIVIC CENTRE**

**Apologies:** Mrs Purshouse, Mr & Mrs Girdler, Mr J Speakman, Mrs Parker, R.Jones, D.Webb, N.Saunders, Mr Price, Mr Pearce

**Present:** 25 members, Barbara Nelson, Rose Powell

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**1. Speakers**

Ashley Foster and John Ecclestone Litter Enforcement Officers gave a very informative talk about litter and enforcement issues.

Litter enforcement officers go into schools to try to educate younger people about litter issues. Littering is a criminal offence, people who drop litter can be given a fixed penalty of £50.00. Fly tipping costs £150 – £200,000 per year and flyposting costs around £80,000 per year. From April 2006 legislation changes and fixed penalties will be given to anyone involved with graffiti.

A major cause of littering is caused by people who feed the pigeons. Often large quantities of food is put down which is not eaten and then becomes a hazard on the pavements. This also feeds rats. Fixed penalties of £50.00 are given for this.

This year there has been 74 prosecutions with about a third of these going to court. One company has been fined £4,000 for fly tipping.

Cigarettes being thrown out of car windows are a real problem, it is possible for them to go through the window of vehicles travelling behind, causing accident and injury.

Approximately 69,000 animals are hurt or killed by litter and fishing tackle which is dropped. Anyone seeing someone fly tipping or dropping litter can provide a witness statement to the litter enforcement officers who can then issue a fixed penalty fine.

Q. Could signs about litter dropping be put up in the City Centre?  
They are already there along with the litter bins.

Due to shortage of time the presentation was cut short. Both speakers are happy to attend a future meeting if required.

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

The minutes of last month were agreed as a true record. Proposed by Marjorie Wedge seconded by Pat O'Dowd

## **3. Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

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

Brad distributed some information from the fire service about fire safety during the festive season which he received at the public safety meeting.

## **5. Treasurer's Report**

There is currently 1164.63

## **6. Correspondence**

A letter of response has been received from Ken Purchase re housing queries.

## **7. Sub committee reports**

### **Housing**

Pat told forum that following some criticism at last months meeting about the very sheltered housing scheme; St Matthews Place, Willenhall Road. Pat and John Price visited St Matthews and were really impressed at the facilities available and how the people in the day centre spoke very highly about it. She spoke to the manager about issues that had been reported about damp and the lift shaft being full of water. Simon Hall assured Pat that there were no incidents of damp anywhere in or outside the building. He said that when they first opened there was a small problem with water in the lift shaft which was immediately solved by having the shaft 'tanked' this completely resolved the issue.

Pat also reminded everyone that Councillor Pat Byrne is attending the housing sub committee meeting on Friday, all members welcome to attend.

### **Public Safety**

Station Officer O'Brian attended and gave a very enjoyable, informative talk on safety at Christmas. He advised that if a fire breaks out at home to get out straight away and call the fire service. He has agreed to attend a future forum if required.

### **Any Other Business**

Pat Whittaker highlighted that learning disabilities training centres are under threat of closure. She pointed out that this has implications for older people with learning disabilities and older carers. It was suggested that a letter of support should be sent to the carers task group who are campaigning against the closures. Forum agreed.

Jim Speakman commented in the Express & Star recently about the substantial rise forecast in fuel bills. He has asked that we send a letter of complaint as he feels that for people on a fixed low income these rises cause great concern as older people may not

want to use their heating for fear of larger bills. This could lead to an increase in winter deaths. Marjorie pointed out that the Government gives extra money for winter fuel costs, the real fear is that the rise in fuel bills makes the cost of living rise.

**Date of next meeting**

**10am Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> December 2005  
Committee Room 3, Civic Centre**

**Coffee and mince pies**