



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 19th OCTOBER 2005
COMMITTEE ROOM 3 CIVIC CENTRE

Apologies: Mrs Purshouse, Mr & Mrs Girdler, Mr J Speakman, Mrs Parker, Mr Walker, Mr Lampart, R.Jones, D.Webb, Mr & Mrs Gravestock, Mr & Mrs Davies, N.Saunders

Present: 25 members, Barbara Nelson, Rose Powell

1. Speakers

Cath Cunningham from the PCT sent apologies, unable to attend today.

2. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of last month were agreed as a true record subject to the following amendment:

AOB - Dave Jones should read Dave Holmes
Proposed by Pat O'Dowd, seconded by Gerald Gabb.

3. Matters Arising

Has the letter to Ken Purchase mentioned last month been sent? Yes Copy attached.

4. Chairman's remarks

Brad informed the meeting that Mike Reynolds who attended a recent forum is now launching the Newcastle-under-Lyme Over 50s forum and has invited Brad to attend the launch in February as a speaker.

Brad will be attending a meeting of WMOPAG (West Midlands Older Peoples Advisory Group) to meet with the director of BGOP (Better Government for Older People) Rose asked Brad to explain the structure for the benefit of visitor present.

Brad explained that this forum and other over 50s forums throughout the West Midlands meet to discuss older peoples issues across the region. Brad is one of Wolverhamptons representatives on WMOPAG – 14 areas across the West Midlands have two representatives. The West Midlands OPAG has 3 representatives that sit on the UKOPAG which is part of BGOP and operates as an information conduit. The representatives works with BGOP not for them. This is the way to get older peoples issues directly into Government, both BGOP and UKOPAG regularly meet with ministers.

Marjorie added that Wolverhamptons One stop Bereavement Centre originated from the Over 50s forum.

5. Treasurer's Report

No Treasurers report.

6. Correspondence

Ken Purchase letter sent see attached. Roy will write again as there has still been no reply.

Penn & Merry Hill Local Area Forum has a planning for real consultation on Saturday 22nd October at Highfields School. Residents from that area invited to attend.

The new Policy update from Help the Aged has been received.

Copies available by request.

7. Sub committee reports

Housing

Pat explained that she had attended a housing conference at the Molineux Stadium on 29th September 2005. It was a very interesting day with a lot of people there from housing associations and the business sector along with members of the ALMO board. Mr Christopher Smith from the ODPM (Office of the Deputy Prime Minister) also attended. The ALMO commences on 1st October 2005 so the Wolverhampton Homes board is now in charge of Wolverhamptons housing.

Discussions at the conference took place about supporting people and what could be done to help older and young people. Deansfield High School have worked with residents and helped to develop the East Park Estate. New housing logos on uniforms and vehicles will soon be visible around the City.

There followed a discussion on issues around the East Park Estate. Brad said that as there were several different points of view that it may be a good idea to try to develop an Over 50s forum in that area.

Transport

David said that there are several changes to services due to start on Sunday 23rd October the 125 → Dudley will cease, 126 → Birmingham will now follow the same route as the 125 but will travel on to Birmingham. Information on all changes is still not available.

John Price – people on the East Park estate are fighting to keep their 531 bus service, a petition has been presented to Councillor McFadden from users on Stowlawn, Bradley and East Park Estates, the bus will continue for the next twelve months, need to encourage more people to use the service as it will again be reviewed at the end of 12 months.

David advised that timetables for that service should be put in the libraries, G.Ps surgeries and shops to encourage more people to use it.

Cynthia Peat asked if David could raise the issue about the Penn bus – following the bus station, the next stop is Beatties which is quite a long way. David said that he had raised this several times and would raise it again at the next transport forum.

Complaints again about buses moving off before passengers were seated, one person knew someone who recently had a bad fall due to this problem. Who can we complain to about this fall? David said that he would find the contact number.

Health

Marjorie has been asked to comment on the closure of a mental health ward at Penn Hospital by the Chronicle. She had not heard about the closure so would not comment. Rose is trying to get the information for her.

Mr Gabb said that his surgery has started closing on Wednesday afternoons; he asked if anyone else had the same problems. It seems to vary from surgery to surgery. He was concerned that there had been no consultation.

David Plant has become a part of the expert patient programme, he will keep forum informed.

Whitmore Reans forum

Issues around bus shelters and bus stops being removed were discussed. David Plant has agreed to raise the issues at the next transport forum.

Concerns about no drop in facilities for older people anywhere in Whitmore Reans particularly at Christmas. The Salvation Army used to help with this but no longer happens.

A member of the group also expressed concerns about delays in grants from Health Through Warmth schemes.

Any Other Business

Trevor Russell feels that Wolverhampton has become very dirty with a lot of litter on the streets, also in Bradmore around bus shelters and in the park. He also has concerns about people cycling on the footpath. Cynthia Peat agreed and said that cycles are very quiet these days and that you often don't hear them coming until they are upon you, which is very dangerous. Manufacturers should be encouraged to have warning bells and horns fitted on every bike.

Date of next meeting

**10am Wednesday 21st December 2005
Committee Room 3, Civic Centre**