



WOLVERHAMPTON OVER 50s FORUM

Secretary: Mr. Roy Girdler

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SPEAK AND BE HEARD

Minutes of Over 50s Forum Wednesday
18th October 2006 Meeting Room 3, Civic Centre

Apologies: P.Whittaker, S.Lewis, K.McNish, C. Salmon, M.Wedge, J.Purshouse, J.Speakman, G.Rai, D.Gravestock, M Gravestock, E.Grizzle

Present: 28 Members, Rose Powell

Item		Actions
1	<p>Melvyn Davies – City of Wolverhampton College Skills into jobs project starts in September 2006 and ends May 31st 2008 and is based at Paget Road Campus. We are looking to improve skills and there is a large sector of Over 50s who may want help to go back into work. We can fully fund and train NVQ levels 1 and 2. The assessment is work based but can also be in a voluntary placement. Anyone interested or who knows anyone that may be interested can contact Melvyn.</p> <p>Q. How many hours do people have to undertake? We operate under 15 hours so that it doesn't impact on payment of benefits.</p> <p>Q. Does this take place at college? NVQ would be in a voluntary or employment placement.</p> <p>Q. I want to improve my computer skills but I am 79 would you be able to help? You would be better to undertake that within the community. I will let you know where you can go to receive that training.</p>	
	<p>Natalie Frazer N-Power Natalie gave a talk on energy efficiency and advised that people should consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Cavity wall insulation, no longer use foam it is now fibreglass or rockwool. <p>Q Fibreglass is an irritant especially to skin; does it affect people when it is used in insulation? No definitely not, there are no health issues.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Loft Insulation of 10 to 12 inches grants are available to 'top up' present insulation. 25% of heat is lost through the roof. ◆ New properties are energy rated the higher the rating the more economical they are. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Types of boilers - condenser boilers are the most efficient traditional gas boilers are 60% efficient and the condensers are 85%. ◆ Thermostats - radiator thermostats help to regulate the heat in different rooms of the house. ◆ Recommended safe temperatures are 18 – 21 degrees, 18 in the bedroom, lounge 21 and bathroom 22. ◆ If you register with the priority service register they will send out aids and adaptations to help people with disabilities, they also offer a free gas safety check. If you have a stair lift or any other electrical equipment you will get priority during power cuts. ◆ There is also a password scheme – meter readers have to give the password before you allow them entry to your property to help stop bogus callers. <p>Q How efficient is economy seven or storage heaters? Always ensure that your home is well insulated especially the roof and walls and don't set storage heaters too high.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ This has been very useful, solid advice, the wholesale price of gas has been going up and suppliers very quickly put up the retail price now wholesale gas prices are dropping, what is the policy on now dropping prices? <p>This will probably take six months, but it is not my area so can't really comment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ It didn't take them six months to put prices up in the first place; this is hitting older people and other people on fixed incomes badly. 	
2	Minutes of last months meeting were agreed, proposed by Ray Girdler and seconded by Gerald Gabb.	
3	Matters Arising There were no matters arising.	
4	Chairman's Remarks Brad asked if the forum thought that the December meeting should still be held on December 20 th as it was very close to Christmas. Forum voted to cancel the meeting in December.	
6	Correspondence The History and Heritage Society has sent in their autumn programme. The RNID is carrying out a petition regarding the long delay people are experiencing awaiting digital hearing aids. The petition was circulated.	
7	Housing sub committee Pat O'Dowd attended a recent housing conference at Dunstall Park. She reported that there were some very interesting ideas about building eco friendly housing in Wolverhampton. The last committee meeting was attended by Bruce Moore and Andrew Holden who told committee that a programme of garage repairs is being carried out in some areas. There are three different levels of rent being charged. There are still issues about leaseholders having to pay for exterior repairs being carried out not on their own part of the property and having to pay. Transport sub committee Centro changing to Network West Midlands. As part of this process they are changing the signage in the bus station this is causing some	

	<p>difficulties. They are no longer using I or O bus stands which is causing some confusion and there are a lot of complaints about it.</p> <p>John Partridge and the road safety forum: David will be attending and representing the forums views.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Mike Nicholls suggested that we should invite the chair of WMPTE to a future forum. ◆ Reg Jones commented on the need to keep the Wolverhampton to Walsall train line open even though it is currently underused. 	
	<p>AOB</p> <p>Dana Tooby is keen to set up an education sub committee and asked for members to become reps on this group.</p> <p>Mander Centre lack of greengrocers to be carried forward to next months meeting as John Brothers will be attending to discuss regeneration issues.</p> <p>Rose told members that the decision on the future of council owned residential care homes has been deferred to November 15th. She will report further when a decision has been taken.</p> <p>Liz Phillips-Participation Officer is consulting on the Joint Commissioning Strategy for Services for People With Long Term Impairments (Physical and Sensory Disabilities strategy). She invited forum members to take part in this consultation which will be held immediately after Novembers Over 50s forum from 12.00 – 1.00.</p>	

Date of next meeting

Wednesday 15th November 2006, 10 am in Committee Room 3, Civic Centre.

Speaker: John Brothers – Neighbourhood Renewal – Head of Development