



WOLVERHAMPTON OVER 50s FORUM
Secretary: Mr. Roy Girdler
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Minutes of Over 50s Forum
Held on Wednesday 15 October 2008, 10am

Present: 25 members, Jean Fairclough (minutes)

Apologies: John Price, Rose Powell, Mike Nicholls
Pat O'Dowd, Elizabeth Smith, B Large,
Sandra Ullah, Mrs E Lindsay, Derek

Chairperson: Brad Purshouse

Brad welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Paul Smith and his colleagues from Chris Laws Day Centre introduced themselves to the Forum. Paul went on explained his role at the Chris Laws Day Centre, and services which are provided by the day centre. He also gave a summary of the issues that are taking place with regards to Wolverhampton Council, Accord Housing and Chris Laws. He said they have never objected to the development of the day centre but there has been a lack of communication on both Accord and the Council's side, which have made Chris Laws out to be "trouble makers." According to Paul Accord were misinformed by the Council, there is also 16 years left on the lease.

Paul stated that they've always comply with the council requests, they were assured that the Day Centre would remain, the services they provide were secure and Accord was not in the picture then, have **never** received any informal or formal communication from the Council or Accord regarding the development. Accord now wants to own and run the day centre, although Chris Laws were assured by the Council that the Day Centre would remain as it is. Paul said that a Cabinet Report regarding this can be access via the internet. Copies of emails from Accord to the Council were given to the Brad. Thinks it's immoral what the Council is doing, their word is not good. It was stated that Accord is not able to provide the same service, although **all** correspondences emphasised that current services will be provided.

Paul read commented on newspaper articles which appeared in the Express and Star, dated 2 August and 14 October 2008, describing the development of the Chris Laws Day Centre which will be completed in December 2009 and comments made by Councillor Neville Pattern and Accord Assistant Director of Care and Support Mark Pearce.

They are not in a position to have a judicial review as this would cost hundreds of pound and the Council knows that. Paul refuted information presented at 20 August meeting by Anne Bailey and Jean Tompkins, he went on to say that working relationship between Council leaders/officers and themselves will be difficult in the future, also they will be sending report to the Ombudsman. People are being swept under the carpet as there is no communication; they have also given their side of the story to the press.

Mr Rai related his experiences he had, no one seem to care until it actually happens to them. Forum members were horrified with what they heard and some felt that those who tell lies should be "named and shamed", so to speak.

Minutes of last Meeting

Minutes were agreed as an accurate account by Mr Ria and seconded by Cynthia Peat.

Matters Arising

Mr Rai commented on issues relating to buses, i.e. lateness, which is understandable, but not leaving 1 hour early, this is unacceptable, they should be penalise. David commented on a letter from Cllr Rob Marris regarding the closure of post offices which proved to be very unhelpful.

Marjorie stated that at present payment for funeral grants are taking approximately 9 weeks, MP were asked why is this the case, they said it was a local matter but according to what was stated in the press, this is a national matter, therefore funeral directors are pressing the government to do something about the matter.

Chair's Report

Brad highlighted the following: - "Forum Toolkit" folder entitled Speaking up for our Age, Forum -2-Forum leaflets, the new edition of the "Live to the Full" 2008 Directory and "Reaching Out" information. Copies of latter will be sent out with minutes to members.

Treasurer's Report

Dave Walker, Treasurer, report that the balance in the Forum account is now £2,076.17.

Brad stated that not all of the money belongs to the Forum; part of this will used for "Celebrating our Age" event.

Correspondence

None was received.

Environmental Committee

There were 12 members in attendance in a discussion on the worries of individuals over the general state of the City Centre and outlying districts, i.e. disposal of cigarette butts although suitable disposal containers are available. Perhaps discussion with Council

Officers to look at where these disposals units are placed. There are also concerns about the disposal of chewing gum.

Fly-tipping is also a concern in certain areas of the City, the Chairperson will be writing to the Express and Star with their concerns, which they did and the paper put their letter to good use by using it as their "Letter of the Day".

Five members of the Committee attended a "Planned Aid" meeting in West Bromwich, which was called "Planning for the Layman", and it was felt that the exercise had been worth while.

The Environmental Chief Officer, Mr John Eccleston will be attending the next meeting on Tuesday 21 October, in Meeting Room 4, to discuss the work of his department and how the Council view help from the public, a PowerPoint presentation will be presented on the effect litter have on the City. All who are able to attend will be welcome to do so.

Transport

The issue of the 9am start for senior citizens to use their bus passes was discussed, but again this is down to costs. David Plant stated that the bus sheltered outside the Art Gallery which appears to be inappropriately placed; this is being looked into by those responsible.

The next Transport Forum meeting will be held on Tuesday 2 December 2008, at 7pm, (venue not yet arranged).

Any Other Business

There was no other business.

**Date of next meeting is Wednesday 19 November 2008 at 10am,
Committee Room 3, Civic Centre.**

Speaker: