



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 19th NOVEMBER 2002 IN
COUNCIL CHAMBER, CIVIC CENTRE**

1. Apologies

Brian Davies / Rita Davies / Ivy Sammonds / Gwyneth Wade / Alan Macey / Jenny Purshouse / Jan Knowles / Arthur Evans / Ann Farmer / Jenny Fellows / Linda Whittaker / Marjorie Wedge / Jim Speakman / P O'Dowd.

Present 34 Members, plus Anne Bailey, Social Services and Councillor Frank Docherty, Older People's Champion

2. Speaker

Councillor Frank Docherty was introduced to the meeting. He gave a constructive talk highlighting ageism and discrimination. Pointing out that it should be based on ability to do the job in hand not on a person's age, whether they should stand down or not. He also identified problems where older people were refused operations because of their age. Older people should not be regarded as second-class citizens.

He also referred to the Resource Centres and Sheltered Housing: both were known to be excellent and something Wolverhampton should be proud of.

Members raised a number of questions concerning matters such as Council Tax, Free Travel and Pensions.

3 Minutes of the last Meeting

The minutes of the last meeting held on 15th October 2003 were agreed as a true record, proposed by Charles Sammonds and seconded by Roy Russell.

4 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

5 Chairman's Remarks

A letter from Emma Palmer was read out. It expressed her thanks to the Forum for the gift (Marks & Spencer vouchers to the value of £50) and good wishes. She also apologised for being unable to thank everyone in person but was unable to attend due to work commitments.

Brad emphasised that the role of the Forum was to work in partnership with the Local Authority and other service providers. Raising issues of concern to older people locally and nationally with the Local Authority and through the Older People's Advisory Group and Better Government for Older People to Government at National level.

6 Treasurer's Report

David reported that the Forum has at this time a total of £857.50 in its funds.

7 Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

8 Sub Committee Reports

8.i Loo Sub Group

Jean Girdler reported on the Sub Group discussions pointing out how much cleaner, safer the toilets are when supervision and helpful staff were available.

Full report attached as appendix 'a'.

Next meeting of Loo Group Thursday 15th January 2004. 10.30 Briefing Room 2 Civic Centre.

8.ii Communication Sub Group

A letter has been sent to the Chief Executive regarding different ways in which the Local Area Forums are operating. A reply from Andy Burford was read out.

It was felt wrong that members of the public should not be allowed to sit on Scrutiny Panels. The public and the Over Fifties Forum had much to offer. Melanie Wyatt is working to help the Sub Group with the issues raised. The Forum agreed that a

letter should be addressed to the Scrutiny Panels that older people possess a wide range of skills and knowledge.

8.iii Transport Sub Group

The Transport Sub Group met with Travel West Midlands and raised issues on the 501,513,526 and 532 Bus Routes. They are awaiting a reply. The matter of some people moving out of the West Midlands into Staffordshire and continuing to use their free travel passes was raised.

Suggestion that Traffic Wardens 'move on' vehicles queuing for car parks and causing congestion. It was also suggested that vegetable oil should be used for the fuel to transport buses. Next Meeting of the Transport Sub Group Friday 21st November 2003 10.30 Briefing Room 2 Civic Centre.

9 Any Other Business

A letter on the subject of Fireworks had been received from an MP and the Forum would be updated at the next meeting.

It was suggested by Trevor Russell that the Forum should purchase a microphone and audio system to enable all members to hear all that is discussed. This matter would be looked into.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 12.05.

10 Date of Next Meeting

10.00 am. Wednesday 17th December 2003, Committee Room 3 Civic Centre