



SPEAK AND BE HEARD

Minutes of Over 50s Forum Wednesday
19th September 2007, Civic Centre

Apologies: R. Jones, D. Holmes, T & J. Russell, E. Grizzle, Su Pascoe, R.Cole

Present: 30 members, Rose Powell

Chairperson: Brad Purshouse

Item		Action
	Brad told forum that sadly Jim Speakman had passed away, his funeral will be held at St Marys, Bilston on Friday 28th September at 11.00am. A minutes silence was held in Jims honour.	
1.	<p>Speaker Penny Sadler – Bowel cancer screening co-ordinator Penny explained about the bowel cancer screening programme and stressed the importance of returning your samples The purpose of bowel cancer screening is to detect cancer at an early stage which in turn reduces the risk of dying from bowel cancer by 16%. It screens people between the ages of 60 and 69 every two years and the testing kit is sent out automatically. If you are aged over 70 you can request a kit on 0800 707 6060. The kit detects tiny amounts of blood in the motion, it does not detect bowel cancer but it determines if a colonoscopy is required.</p> <p>Out of 1000 returned kits, 20 people are offered colonoscopies, 16 undergo the colonoscopy, 8 have nothing abnormal, 6 have polyps and 2 have bowel cancer. If bowel cancer is detected at the earliest stage there is over a 90% chance of survival. There is a leaflet available contact Rose on 01902-555494 if you would like a copy.</p>	
2.	<p>Minutes of Last Meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pg 3 should read Councillors for Ettingshall not East Park. • Transport meeting date November 21st is when Councillor Gary Clarke will be attending Over 50s forum to discuss transport issues. <p>Minutes then agreed proposed by Roy Girdler seconded by Sandra Ullah.</p>	
3.	<p>Matters Arising AOB – Concerns about Age Concern ‘taking over the forum’ At this months management committee Su Pascoe attended and said that she had not intended to give that impression. It was agreed that the</p>	

	Over 50s forum and Age Concern would continue to work together in partnership.	
4.	<p>Treasurer's Report</p> <p>There is an extra £20.00 per month being spent on the internet provision to allow easier updating of the web site.</p>	
5.	<p>Correspondence</p> <p>No correspondence but some issues picked up from the Express and Star: New bus pass deadline has now been extended, application packs should have been received by the 24th September. If assistance is needed or no pack received telephone 0121 214 7799 a photograph will be needed. The bus pass has now been extended to a nationwide pass which allows bus travel anywhere in the country.</p> <p>Mr Rai said that this new application system is very confusing.</p> <p>There was also an article about October 1st which has been allocated as Older Peoples awareness day. Members of the Over 50s forum along with campaigners in Bilston have been asking for a recognition day for older people. The group lobbied ministers who have now said that we should adopt 1st October - International Older Peoples day. This has caused some disappointment as the group were asking for the first Monday after armistice day to be the allocated day and a bank holiday. There is some confusion about whether 1st October will be a bank holiday in future.</p> <p>Mr Rai- The Government should give extra pension not a bank holiday.</p> <p>There is a service of celebration of older age at St Peters Collegiate Church on Monday 1st October at 11.00.</p>	Rose to check
6.	<p>Sub Committee Reports</p> <p>Health</p> <p>Marjorie at the last meeting asked for any questions that the forum wanted to ask Brian O'Leary at next months meeting re; cuts in services for older people.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Mr Rai – The council provides services for older people but the assessment process takes too long, why is this? ◆ Payments for services - we need clarification as at a recent meeting it was said that the Government intends to increase the amount charged for social care. This will obviously have a knock on effect in Wolverhampton. We need to write to the three MPs to highlight the concerns on this issue. ◆ Cllr Smith – Adaptations to homes are taking far too long I know of a case that has taken 18 months for a walk in shower to be fitted. Also following work undertaken there should be an automatic inspection to ensure that work is up to scratch. An 87 year old has waited two years for a walk in shower she was told two weeks ago that it was going to be fitted but she has still not heard anything. ◆ We need to write to Care & repair and ask why it is taking so long for minor adaptations. Also ask Kate Crowe to attend a future meeting as we feel that hers is a great service which is 	

	<p>being stifled.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ There are also problems with some council departments not replying to letters. Comment was made that if Councillors questions aren't answered what chance that older people who make contact receive a reply? ◆ What is the appeals process for people whose care is being cut following reassessment under the new fair access to care criteria? ◆ Is the equipment service and fitting of aids affected by the new FACS criteria? 	
	<p>Transport Current problems – timetables not showing the same stop names as the bus stop poles. David will continue to highlight this issue at the transport forum meeting.</p>	
	<p>Loos The signage on the City Centre toilets is misleading and doesn't make it clear that it is a toilet facility, it looks like a shop front. Can the forum highlight and ask for the signs to be changed.</p>	
	<p>Education Consultation event asking for opinion on the older learners strategy will take place on the 22nd October at the Foyer building, Old Hall Street. Anyone wishing to attend contact Rose or Dana</p>	
	<p>Housing Pat said that this weeks meeting was going to be cancelled as there were no members able to attend. Mike Nicholls – must stress the importance of forum members attending sub committee meetings as this is where the work of the forum is carried out. The housing sub group is vital and must continue but can only do so with support. Several new members came forward and it was agreed that the meeting should go ahead. Pat also said that if Wolverhampton Homes achieve its 2* status (as expected) there will be show homes open at Park Village, Pendeford and Bushbury for people to view.</p>	
7.	<p>Any Other Business Councillor Smith; the new toilets facility in Bilston (opposite Morrisons) will be opened on the 6th October by the Mayor. Also signs to the eye infirmary have been “bagged off” as they needed to be changed.</p> <p>Copies of the Older People's Strategy were distributed, if anyone needs more copies contact Rose.</p> <p>Mr Rai asked that his leaflet: Rights, respect, responsibility be put on a future agenda for discussion.</p> <p>Date of next meeting: Wednesday 17th October 2007 Meeting room 3, Civic Centre</p>	