

NOTES OF SENIOR PERSONS' COUNCIL
6TH JULY 2005

Present:

Julie Stone - Storrington
Jane Hobbs - Horsham
Dulcie Lawson - Horsham
John Dean - Woodmancote
Scheu-Ching Dean - Woodmancote
Brenda Soltysik - Horsham
Ann Smith - Horsham
Matt Dakakni - Steyning
John Hills - Horsham
Lesley Ainslie - Henfield
Betty Ogden - Henfield
Frank Bockling - Billingshurst
Nina Smith - Southwater

Veronica James, Shelley Denman, Cllr Mrs Vivien Lyth

Apologies:

Enid McGurk, Barbara Ellis, Alan Smith, Peggy Weeks, Joyce Narborough
Carole Stokes, Norman Foot, Bryan Sunderland, Connie Lucien, Marjory
Hewitt, Bob Smith, Carole Duffy

1. NOTES OF MEETING HELD ON 6TH APRIL 2005

The notes of the meeting held on 6th April 2005 were agreed.

2. MATTERS ARISING FROM NOTES OF LAST MEETING

Ladies Only Swim Session

Carole Duffy had found about a ladies only swim session that was held at Steyning pool. Details were passed to Betty Ogden who had made the enquiry at the last meeting.

Areas of Responsibility

Further to a request at the last meeting, Shelley had produced a list outlining District and County Council responsibilities. These were circulated to the group.

2. COMMUNITY TRANSPORT

Clare Ebelewicz, who worked within the Council's Community Development Team and had 'Community Transport' as part of her role attended the meeting. She advised the group that community transport met the needs of people who were socially, geographically, physically or economically disadvantaged for whatever reason. It aimed to increase access to facilities and services and to increase participation in community life, thus helping to tackle social exclusion.

The group was advised that there was a significant range of community transport schemes that existed across the District including dial-a-ride schemes, demand responsive bus services, car schemes and community minibus associations.

Some of the things that the Council had achieved in the last year were outlined. These included: supporting various community transport schemes, organising the first ever Community Transport Day, piloting a taxi voucher scheme, working with the Surrey and Sussex NHS Healthcare Trust to promote the free hospital shuttle bus between Horsham, Crawley and East Surrey Hospitals and undertaking a District wide Community Transport accessibility needs assessment.

Plans for the forthcoming year were also outlined and included analysing the results of the District wide community transport survey and using the results to develop a community transport strategy, launching a shared taxi service for the Billingshurst area, producing a development plan for Dial-a-Ride services and exploring possible improvements to hospital transport provision.

During a discussion the following points were raised:

- Would it be possible to provide transport for people living in Storrington to get up to Horsham to go to the theatre. It was noted that the Council was looking at re-launching the Entertainment Express scheme which will mean that groups of 6 or more are able to book transport to travel to the Capitol and will also receive a reduction in ticket prices.
- The Horsham Hospital bus service wasn't very well subsidised - it was suggested that an advert/article could be put into the local papers to advertise the scheme and that Parish Newsletters, the West Sussex Connexions magazine and the Age Concern magazine could also include details.
- All the doctors surgeries should have information about the scheme.

- The pick-up point at Horsham Hospital for the transport scheme should be more clearly signed.
- There should also be a seat for elderly people at the place where the bus stops as if it is late it is a long time to stand.
- The point was also made that if you go to visit relatives in the evening there is no bus back. It was noted that this was because the service was originally set up for staff and so stopped at the end of the normal working day.
- Bus timetables in general need to be clearly to read and placed on lamp-posts so that they can be easily read without stepping into the road.

It was agreed that Veronica and Dulcie would write a letter to the Primary Care Trusts on behalf of this group welcoming the existing hospital transport service but requesting better publicity, a later service to allow for evening visits and clearer timetables.

3. UPDATE ON OLDER PERSONS COMMUNITY STRATEGY WORKING GROUP

The group was advised that all District/Borough Councils throughout the Country had to have a Community Strategy. This set out a shared long term vision for the area with an agreed, realistic action plan of how this can be achieved. The idea is that it should allow communities to articulate their aspirations, needs and priorities and co-ordinate actions of local authorities and other public, private, voluntary and community organisations.

The Community Strategy for this area was being delivered through a series of themed working groups, one of which is focusing on older people's issues. A number of representatives from this group had attended the meeting and put forward ideas for actions that should be taken. It was reported that progress had been made in progressing a number of these actions as follows:

Nutrition Course

Shelley and Veronica had met with Ruth James from Adult education to discuss whether or not it would be possible to run a nutrition course for older people and their grandchildren. The aim would be to enable grandparents and grandchildren to learn to cook a variety of nutritionally balanced recipes together. There would be an opportunity not only to learn how to cook different 'healthy' meals but to also talk about how to shop on a budget. The course would be free and run over four sessions, each lasting for two hours.

The course could be run as soon as participants were identified.

Representatives were asked to think of anyone that they know who might be interested in participating in the project.

Life is for Living

It was reported that a Life is for Living event was being planned for October and that an 'intergenerational' element was also proposed. This would bring together the Senior Persons Council and the Youth Council. Shelley advised the group that she would need some help in putting together the format for the session.

The group thought that this was a good idea.

Priority for Action

The group was informed that Council's had been asked to submit priorities for improvement to the County Council. The group was therefore asked to identify what they saw as a priority. **It was agreed that health and social well-being were key to improving the quality of life for older people.**

Community Police Stations

Frank reported that he and Veronica had met with the District Council's Community Safety Manager to discuss the possibility of opening another community police station (similar to that run in Southwater), in Billingshurst. This had been a very productive meeting following which Frank had been contacted by Inspector Wyeth who had informed him that there were plans to open a community police station in Billingshurst in the late Autumn.

Increasing benefit take-up

Veronica reported that she and Paul Dollner were working on putting together a road show that would visit villages offering pension and benefit advice.

4. PUBLIC TOILETS

The group expressed concern about the lack of public toilets. It was felt that this was an issue particularly for older people.

Mr Hills agreed to write a letter on behalf of the group to the Cabinet member Councillor Robert Nye to express this groups concern.

5, ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Shelley advised the group that the new Chief Executive was now in post and **it was agreed that he should be invited to attend the next meeting.**

Home Front Tea Dance

Veronica reported that Age Concern had been successful in securing funding to hold a Home Front Tea Dance. The group was asked to contact Veronica if they,

or anyone they knew, had been involved in the Home Front during the second world war.

Age Concern AGM

Veronica invited members of the group to Age Concern's Annual General Meeting on 20th July at 7.30pm in the YMCA at Gorings Mead.

6. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the group will be held on Wednesday 19th October at 12pm.