

**NOTES OF MEETING OF THE SENIOR PERSONS COUNCIL  
WEDNESDAY 20<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2006**

**Present:**

Mr Curtis  
Enid McGurk  
Carole Duffy  
Nina Smith  
Ann Smith  
John Hills  
Sylvia Lane  
Renee Richardson  
Margery Hewitt

Dot Davidson  
Joan Agate  
John Dean  
Joyce Narborough  
Betty Ogden  
Lesley Ainslie  
Eva Matschy  
Bryan Sunderland  
Jane Hobbs

**Apologies:**

Scheu-Ching Dean, Dorothy Cotton, Mrs Ellis, Carole Stokes, Betty Ogden

**1. NOTES OF MEETING HELD ON 3<sup>RD</sup> MAY 2006**

The notes of the meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2006 were agreed.

**2. SHOPMOBILITY LEAFLET**

Further to the last meeting three members of the Senior Persons' Council (Sylvia Lane, Nina Smith and John Cox) had met with the Council's Shopmobility co-ordinator to discuss how more people could be encouraged to use the service and information that needed to be given to users to ensure that they were driving the scooters safely. The group had made three recommendations:

- to produce a leaflet for users of Horsham Shopmobility and private users setting out recommendations and guidance for safe and considerate use of mobility scooters
- to offer assistance to people considering purchasing a moped or training for people in how to use the scooter once they had purchased one
- hold a shopmobility fayre/exhibition in Swan Walk

The group would be reconvened to progress these recommendations.

### **3. INDIVIDUAL BUDGETS**

Diane Henderson from West Sussex Age Concern attended the meeting to talk to the group about a new Government initiative for the payment of social care.

At the current time social services assess individuals level of need and then decide on what kind of support should be provided. The new initiative called 'individual budgets' is about giving people more say over the type of care *they* think they need and giving them the money to buy in the services they require. It was hoped that this system would be much more flexible and focused around the individual.

Clients would be asked to complete a self assessment form. Members of the Senior Persons Council were given copies of this and asked to comment on how easy it would be to fill in / understand. The following comments were made:

- restricting people to ticking one box when identifying their needs is too restrictive – people might have more than one need and more than one problem
- some people might not know the type of care they need
- people with dementia or alzheimers would need help in completing the form and managing their budgets
- one of the risks is that older people might give money to family and friends instead of spending it on services
- Social Care will need to make sure that checks are being undertaken regularly to make sure the system is not being abused

Diane Henderson said she would feedback all these comments and asked to come back to a future meeting.

It was anticipated that the scheme would be introduced from April 2007.

### **3. COUNCIL TAX PRESENTATION**

Gary Shillingford (the Council's Principal Revenues Officer) attended the meeting and gave a presentation about the way in which Council Tax is calculated and who is eligible for discounts.

### **4. INTERGENERATIONAL DINNER**

S.Denman reported that a joint dinner with the Youth Council was being organised for 8<sup>th</sup> November. It would be held at Billingshurst Village Hall from 5.30pm. During the evening there would be dinner and a chance to share skills eg mobile phone texting, carpentry, new age kurling.

The following representatives expressed an interest in attending the event:

Mr Curtis, Enid McGurk, Dorothy Cotton, Carole Duffy, Nina Smith, John Hills, Renee Richardson, Sylvia Lane, Joan Agate, John and Scheu Ching Dean, Joyce Narborough, Betty Ogden, Lesley Ainslie, Bryan Sunderland, Margery Hewitt, Eva Matschy

Bryan Sunderland offered photography as one of the skills that could be shared.

Shelley would write to those interested in attending with further details nearer the time.

## **5. PENSIONS LISTENING EVENT**

During August a number of the Senior Persons' Council representatives had attended a listening event on the Government's White Paper on Pensions. The group had put forward their views on the proposals for Pension reform and during the afternoon these had been presented to Francis Maude MP.

A report on the outcomes from the day was being prepared and would be circulated to Senior Persons' Council members. **V.James to action**

## **6. NUTRITION PROJECT**

S.Denman reported that a new project to provide older people with nutrition information was being launched. The idea was that volunteers would deliver sessions in day centres that would be based around a 14 day 'healthy menu' which could be prepared on a budget. All the volunteers would be given training to enable them to deliver the sessions.

Representatives were asked if they would like to volunteer – the following members expressed an interest:

Margery Hewitt, Joyce Narborough, Sylvia Lane, Ann Smith, Nina Smith and Carole Duffy

## **7. REQUEST FOR REPRESENTATIVE TO SIT ON IMPACT ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

A request had been received for a representative to sit on the advisory group for Impact Initiatives which was a Brighton based charity that ran projects for older people from the Dingemans day centre. Anyone who was interested in doing this to let S.Denman know.

## **8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

The group requested that the Council's Communications Manager attend the next meeting to discuss ways in which the profile of the group could be raised and ways of conveying information to the District's older residents. **S.Denman to action.**

It was also asked whether information about the Council's expenditure could be provided. **S.Denman to action**

**9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

**The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2007 at 12pm at Billingshurst Village Hall.**