

**NOTES OF MEETING OF THE SENIOR PERSONS COUNCIL  
WEDNESDAY 14<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2007**

**Present:**

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

Joan Agate  
John Dean  
Joyce Narborough  
Lesley Ainslie  
Eva Matschy  
Bryan Sunderland  
Jane Hobbs  
Scheu-Ching Dean  
Dorothy Cotton  
Carole Stokes

**Apologies:**

Connie Lucien, Betty Ogden, Dot Davison

**1. NOTES OF MEETING HELD ON 20<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2006**

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

**2. MATTERS ARISING**

**Horsham Shopmobility Project**

C.Eblewicz reported that she had secured £3000 funding to support the Senior Persons Council's recommendations for Horsham Shopmobility. No further action had been made to date because C.Eblewicz had been on extended leave; a meeting would be arranged to take this forward once she had settled back in!

**Representation on IMPACT Advisory Group**

Peggy Weeks agreed to represent on the Senior Persons Council on the IMPACT Advisory Group. CE to forward Peggy's contact details to Esther Britten at IMPACT.

**3. BABY NEWS**

Shelley gave birth to William John George Gosden weighing 7lbs 13oz by caesarean on 19<sup>th</sup> January 2007.

Other staff news ...

V.James welcomed C.Ebelewicz back following her period of extended leave during which time she travelled around Australia. V.James also welcomed K.Lindgren who was covering for Shelley while she was on maternity leave.

C.Ebelewicz explained that this was likely to be V.James last meeting as she was retiring at the end of much. The Senior Persons Council thanked V.James for her support and wished her a happy and fulfilling retirement.

**4. PRESENTATION FROM CAROLINE PHELPS, DEPARTMENT FOR WORK AND PENSIONS.**

C.Phelps, Partner Liaison Manager for The Local Pension Service, explained to the Senior Persons Council how the pensions system operated.

There were 11.5 million pensioners at present and the 85+ age group was growing rapidly. However, many people eligible to receive a pension were not claiming their full entitlement.

The Local Pension Service was set up to focus on the needs of today's and future pensioners. The Service works in the community to raise older people's awareness of what is available to them and to increase take-up of benefits.

C.Phelps explained that any person of pension-able age was entitled to support in applying for the appropriate pension and pension related benefits.

The Senior Persons Council was advised that there were a range of leaflets available. These were available from the Citizens Advice Bureau, Library and Age Concern.

**5. DIALOGUE WITH RICHARD MORRIS, COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER, HORSHAM DISTRICT COUNCIL.**

R.Morris explained to the Senior Persons Council his role as Communications Manager for Horsham District Council. He also explained the methods the Council employed to promote itself and its services. A significant proportion of his time was also spent responding to media enquires.

One of the key mechanism the District Council used for communicating with residents was the Horsham District News magazine, which was sent to every residential and business address in the Horsham District.

A member of the Senior Persons Council asked how the Council's magazine should be recycled. As there was some uncertainty it was suggested that this be explained in the next edition.

It was decided that it would be beneficial for a member of the refuse and recycling department to attend the next meeting. **CE to invite the appropriate officer to the next meeting.**

## **6. INTERGENERATIONAL WORK.**

### **Feedback from event held on 8<sup>th</sup> November 2006.**

K.Lindgren thanked the group for their support at the Intergenerational Dinner held at Billingshurst Village Hall on 8<sup>th</sup> November 2006.

14 older people and 6 younger people took part in the event. The evening began with a Kurling competition with teams of mixed ages competing against each other. This proved to be an effective way of getting everyone to work together and talk informally. After dinner the skill sharing session began, there was an opportunity to learn and have a go at Chinese Brush Writing, Photography, Woodwork and Texting. Everyone enjoyed having a go at the various activities.

The evening was a great success and enjoyed by all.

### **Future Future Intergenerational Events/Projects.**

C.Ebelewicz invited ideas and thoughts on future intergenerational projects. The following ideas were included: fishing, texting, knitting, hand reflexology, and cooking.

It was suggested that we may be able to use the now redundant Saxon Weald kitchens. **KL to explore.**

K.Lindgren and C.Ebelewicz discussed an idea for an intergenerational allotment where younger and older people could work together, to produce fresh fruit and vegetables. Frank Bockling has volunteered to lead the project.

## **7. NUTRITION PROJECT**

### **Feedback from November and December Sessions**

K.Lindgren reported that the sessions led by volunteers from the Senior Persons Council had proved very popular with residents of retirement homes. She thanked the volunteers for their ongoing support.

## **Future Plans**

K.Lindgren explained that further sessions were being arranged and information would follow shortly to the volunteers.

### **8. SUPPORT FOR OLDER PERSONS TO MAINTAIN INDEPENDENCE**

V.James explained that there was some concern for older people in retirement or warden assisted homes during out of office hours. It seems that the support available for non emergency/non medical issues for older people is not as many expect. In some cases, with certain providers, there is little if any support for residents.

It was agreed that a specific meeting, with service providers, be set up to explore the issues further. **C.Ebelewicz/V.James to explore/action.**

### **9. LIFE IS FOR LIVING**

C.Ebelewicz explained that Life is for Living is in it's fifth year.

Life is For Living is an event for over 50s that offers an opportunity to find out about different services and support that is available, the chance to try out new activities and meet new friends!

This year's event is being held on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2007 at Broadbridge Heath Leisure Centre from 12pm - 4pm. Entrance to the event is free.

The theme for this year is Health and Wellbeing. As the event is being held at the leisure centre there will be a lot of taster sessions for a variety of activities including archery, trampolining, dance, as well as arts and craft etc. There will also be healthy eating exhibitions e.g. fresh fruit and smoothie tasting.

C.Ebelewicz asked whether the Senior Persons Council would be interested in having a stand at this year's event to promote the Council and recruit new members. It was agreed that this would be beneficial. **C.Ebelewicz/V.James to explore/action.**

Because this year's event is being held in a larger venue and different activities will be taking place in different parts of the building, signposting will be vitally important. Members of the Senior Persons Council were therefore asked if they would be willing to help direct people at the event. Several Members of the Senior Persons Council indicated that they would be willing to help.

#### **10. OLDER PERSONS' INFORMATION LEAFLET.**

C.Ebelewicz reported that the District Council had been asked to produce an information leaflet listing all the services available to older residents in the

West Sussex Adult Services were currently collating the information, which would be used as a basis.

C.Ebelewicz explained that she would like the Senior Persons Council help in producing the leaflet.

#### **11. TOUCHING MEMORIES.**

Members of the Senior Persons Council were given details of the re launched memories boxes that are now available at Horsham Museum.

#### **12. OLDER PERSONS' ADVISORY GROUP.**

C.Ebelewicz explained she had received an invite for the Senior Persons Council's to join the Better Government for Older People/ Older People's Advisory Group.

Better Government for Older People is the umbrella term for both our Network of public sector subscribers and Older People's Advisory Group based on local, regional and national governance boundaries. The organisation works alongside the public sector to support them in their challenging agenda for local people.

The BGOP/OPAG's key objective is to ensure older people are fully engaged in local, regional and national decision making. The Network seeks to share practice across the UK.

It was agreed the Senior Persons Council should sign up and become affiliated to the Older People's Advisory Group. **CE to action.**

#### **13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

##### **Jam in the Park**

Jam In The Park 2007 is a skating festival that provides an opportunity for young people to showcase their talent and skills. The event helps to raise funds to support the maintenance and development of Horsham Skatepark.

This year's Jam is being held on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> July from 12 noon until 5pm at Horsham Skatepark.

The competition, which is organised by Horsham District Council, in partnership with Little Sky and Horsham Street Sports Association,

As the event has grown in popularity, this year's Jam is expected to be even bigger the organisers are keen to recruit volunteers to help register and run the event. Several Members of the Senior Persons Council indicated that they would be willing to help.

### **Twinning Association**

C.Eblewicz advised the Senior Persons Council of a letter she had received from Horsham Twinning Association.

## **9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

**C.Eblewicz will advise the group of the date for the meeting.**