

NOTES OF SENIOR PERSONS' COUNCIL
3RD DECEMBER 2007

Present:

Barry Mercer
Dulcie Lawson
Eva Matschy
Judith Hollingdale
Lesley Ainslie
Peggy Weeks
Frank Bockling
Joyce Narborough
Betty Lynn
Ann Smith
Carole Duffy
John Hills
Bryan Sunderland
Dot Davidson
Dorothy Harrison

Nigel Tinkler – Horsham District Age Concern
Sheila Peever – Community Link
Hazel Wear – Local Pension Service
Clare Ebelewicz - Horsham District Council
Shelley Denman – Horsham District Council

Apologies:

P Grover
Betty Ogden

1. NOTES OF MEETING HELD ON 17TH AUGUST

The notes of the meeting held on 17th August were agreed. It was noted that Ann Smith had given her apologies.

2. MATTERS ARISING

N.Tinkler advised the group that the new Age Concern offices were now open in Denne Road.

N.Tinkler would be contacting representatives to arrange a meeting to talk through ideas for giving support to older people to maintain their independence.

3. PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

C.Ebelewicz reported that in 2003 the Council's Cabinet had considered a report on the provision of public conveniences. The report had noted that there was no current statutory obligation to provide any public toilets and significant financial expenditure would need to be incurred to make existing facilities compliant with the Disability Discrimination Act. It had therefore been recommended that existing facilities should be shut down and pubs and cafes encouraged to make their toilets available.

The group expressed the view that although it was a good idea to make toilets available in pubs and cafes for members of the public to use, they needed to be clearly signed as public toilets. There also needed to be better publicity over the location of the toilets that were available.

It was agreed that a letter should be sent to the Chief Executive on behalf of the group expressing its concern over the lack of public toilets and suggesting that the Council try and encourage pubs and cafes to make it clear that they had toilets that could be used through stickers in their windows. (SD/CE and Mr Hills to draft)

It was agreed that a copy of this letter should be sent to the Chair of the Local Strategic Partnership meeting. (CE)

It was also suggested that the Council should do more to promote the location of the toilets that were available eg. through its website, Parish newsletters. (SD / CE)

4. SKILLS CO-OP

S.Denman reported that the Council was looking at introducing a Timebank in Horsham Town. Timebanks are a way of bringing people together to share skills and get the help they need. They are based on the principle that everyone, regardless of age, has something to offer and that everyone's time is equal. Members of the community register their skills, needs and availability on a confidential database called a Timebank. When they need something they ring the Timebank co-ordinator who matches their needs with someone who has the skill to offer. Every hour spent helping someone earns you an hour of credit that can be spent on a range of skills and opportunities on offer from other members. The idea of giving and receiving is a powerful tool in building healthy communities and can make a real difference to people's lives.

The group supported the idea and it was agreed that they should be kept informed of progress in its implementation.

5. NUTRITION PROJECT

Last year some representatives from the Senior Persons' Council were involved in a project that aimed to provide older people with information about how to cook healthy meals on a budget. A workshop and a 14 day menu plan pack which included recipe cards, designed by a nutritionist. Volunteers from the group had been trained to deliver the sessions. Last year the project had been run in sheltered housing schemes and it was now hoped that they could be delivered in retirement homes.

The following representatives said that they would like to be involved in delivering the sessions; Lesley Ainslie, Joyce Narborough, Ann Smith (not second Wednesdays), Carole Duffy (not second Wednesdays), Dorothy Harrison (not 3rd or 4th Wednesday), John Hills.

S.Denman agreed to arrange a training session to update the group.

6. LIFE IS FOR LIVING

N.Tinkler reported that over 500 people had attended this year's Life is for Living event that had been held at Broadbridge Heath Leisure Centre. The feedback from the event had been very positive.

Next year it had been agreed that the event should again be held at Broadbridge Heath but there should also be a series of smaller 'drop in' sessions run across the District. The location of these had still not been agreed.

It was agreed that the group should be kept informed of progress with planning the event.

7. THE PENSION SERVICE

Hazel Wear from the Local Pension Service attended the meeting. She advised the group that they were looking at introducing a drop-in point in the Horsham area and wanted to know where would be a good location for it. The help points at libraries were suggested. It was also noted that the CAB and Age Concern offered pension and benefit advice.

8 HOUSING CONSULTATION

C. Ebelewicz reminded the group that the intergenerational housing consultation event would be taking place on Thursday 6th December. A number of representatives from this group and the Youth Council would be attending.

9. POST OFFICE CONSULTATION

C.Ebelewicz circulated a briefing about the proposed closure of post offices.

**It was agreed that a response should be sent to the Government expressing this groups concern over the proposed closures.
C.Ebelewicz / S.Denman to action**

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Keep Warm, Keep Well

Copies of the Keep Warm, Keep Well brochure were circulated

Better publicity for the group

It was suggested that this group, and the dates of meetings should be better publicised so that more people could get involved. **S.Denman / C.Ebelewicz to action**

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting would be held on 17th March 2008.