

**SENIOR PERSONS' COUNCIL MEETING
10TH MARCH 2008**

Present:

Dulcie Lawson
Betty Ogden
Lesley Ainslie
Ann Grover
Judith Hollingdale
Barry Mursell
Brian Sunderland
Gladys Andrews
Chris Duffy
Carole Duffy
Dorothy Harrison
John Hill
Jean Reeve
Joyce Narborough
Scheu-Ching Dean

Nigel Tinkler (Horsham District Age Concern)
Shelia Peever (Horsham District Council)
Clare Ebelewicz (Horsham District Council)
Liz Markus (West Sussex Adult Services)

Apologies:

Ann Smith
Betty Lyne
Peggy Weeks
Eva Matschy
John Dean

NOTES OF MEETING HELD ON 3RD DECEMBER 2007

The notes of the meeting held on 3rd December 2007 were agreed.

MATTERS ARISING FROM NOTES OF LAST MEETING

Post Office Consultation

Following the previous meeting, a letter had been sent on behalf of the group expressing its concern over the proposed closure of Post Offices.

A response had been received which confirmed that the Post Office had decided to proceed with the closure of Warnham and Washington but there would be an out reach service at Barns Green.

J.Reeve advised the group that Warnham residents were still campaigning against the closure as it was very difficult for people to travel to Broadbridge Heath and Slinfold which are the nearest Post Offices.

Concern was again expressed that Horsham Post Office would not be able to cope with the increased demand on its services and that older people would not be able to stand in the long queues.

AGREED

- That someone from the Post Office be invited to attend the next meeting (C.Ebelewicz to action)
- That the Chief Executive be asked whether the Council had considered taking over the running of the Post Offices (C.Ebelewicz to action)

PUBLICISING THE SENIOR PERSONS' COUNCIL

Further to the last meeting a poster had been prepared with details of the group and the programme of meetings for the year. These had been distributed to various organisations and venues. Articles had also appeared in various publications including the West Sussex County Times and the U3A newsletter

AGREED

- That Liz and Sheila distribute the publicity to luncheon clubs (Liz and Sheila to action)
- That all representatives be sent copies of the poster to give out to their contacts / neighbours (C.Ebelewicz to action)
- That a note be added to the poster to make it clear that people who were not able to attend meetings could put forward their views by writing to the group care of the Community Development Team. (C.Ebelewicz to action)

OLDER PERSONS COMMUNITY STRATEGY ACTION PLAN

The group was asked to think about priorities for action for the 2008/9 community strategy older persons' action plan. A number of ideas were put forward including:

- Making the Pavilions swimming facilities more 'older person' friendly
- Setting up a scheme whereby people in certain streets were used as points of contact for more elderly / frail residents
- Running more IT classes
- Introducing 'play' equipment for older people

AGREED

That the ideas put forward be incorporated into the 2008/9 action plan. (C.Ebelewicz to action)

TOILET STICKER CAMPAIGN

It was reported that, further to the last meeting research had been undertaken into schemes that were being run by local authorities to make more toilets available to members of the public. A letter inviting local businesses with toilets to sign up to the scheme had been distributed and a number of positive responses had already been received.

The next stage of the project was to design a sticker that could be sent to the businesses to display in their windows so that members of the public could see clearly where toilets were available.

AGREED

That once a design for the sticker had been produced it be sent to Bryan Sunderland, Nigel Tinkler, Joyce Narborough and Jean Reeve for their comments. (S.Denman to action)

NUTRITION PROJECT

It was reported that by the end of March eleven nutrition workshop sessions would have been delivered to groups of older people in various locations around the District. Those Senior Persons Council reps that were involved in helping to deliver the sessions were thanked.

It was noted that it was hoped to move the project forward by looking at how practical demonstrations could be given of how to cook basic meals. It was thought that this would be particularly beneficial for those who might not be confident about cooking for themselves.

LIFE IS FOR LIVING

N.Tinkler reported on Life is for Living 2008, which would be held on 18th September at Broadbridge Heath Leisure Centre. If anyone from the Council would be willing to help at the event and/or to man the Senior Persons' Council stand, please let C.Ebelewicz know – your help would be much appreciated.

It was intended that at least three mini LIFL road-shows events be held across the District this year.

OLDER PERSONS' PLAY

Horsham District Age Concern had purchased some 'play' equipment for the garden at the new day centre. If popular it was possible that more equipment would be purchased for other locations in the District.

POPP

Two information sessions one on 12th March and one on 19th March were being held on the Partnership for Older People project. This was a project that was being implemented in West Sussex with funding from the Department of Health and aimed to ensure that older people's services became more integrated through the introduction of a telephone contact point, the appointment of a network co-ordinator whose role would be to map services available for older people, a community fundraiser and a publicity officer.

AGREED

That information about the information sessions be sent to Bryan Sunderland, John Hills and Ann Grover (C.Ebelewicz to action)

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Creating a Buzz Conference

The feedback report from the Age Concern Creating a Buzz Conference had been received and was circulated to those from that group that had attended.

Jean Reeve reported that she had written a letter to try and get Wimpy Laing to repair the wall in North Heath Lane that had been down for some time.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the group was being held on 8th June 2008 at Sullington Parish Group. It was asked whether post codes for the venues could be sent out with the agenda.