

**NOTES OF THE SENIOR PERSONS COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY 7 DECEMBER 2009
BILLINGSHURST VILLAGE HALL**

Present:

Members:	Barry Mursell	Chair
	Frank Bockling	Vice Chair
	Gladys Andrews	Lesley Ainslie
	Judith Hollingdale	Peggy Weeks
	Michael Jarvis	Ann Grover
	Bryan Sunderland	Paul Smith
	Joyce Narborough	Jean Reeve
	Dorothy Harrison	Carole Duffy
	Chris Duffy	Keith Barrclough
	Dot Davidson	
Observers:	Councillor Alan Fisher (HDC)	
	Councillor Steve Buck (Billingshurst PC)	
	Councillor Doug Rands (Billingshurst PC)	
	Councillor Barbara Varley (Southwater PC)	
Officers:	Clare Ebelewicz	Elaine Ticehurst
	David Sheldon	Bernard Baldwin
	Sheila Peever	

Apologies:

Members:	Carol Stokes	Audrey Beegley
	Wendy Tilley	Ms Thornton
	Betty Ogden	John & Sheu-Ching Dean

The notes of the previous meeting held on 8 September 2009 were agreed as being an accurate record. (Doug Rands drew attention to the mis-spelling of his surname).

Matters arising

Michael Jarvis commented that he found Francis Maude's visit disappointing as no answers were given. CE advised the group that Nick Herbert will be attending the March meeting.

Correspondence received since last meeting

CE reported that Francis Maude had sent his thanks for the invitation to attend the last meeting.

Guest speaker

Paul Baker, Public Mental Health Practitioner, Directorate of NHS West Sussex gave a presentation on mental health services with special reference to dementia/Alzheimer's.

Steve Buck asked how Horsham District is performing when compared with others on a national scale. He felt that this was a scarce resource being squeezed too far and wondered whether there would be an increase in staff numbers. Ann Grover commented that it sounded great but doubted if it would happen as such a big problem, lack of money, staff etc.

Paul Baker replied that it has to happen.

Both Doug Rands and Dot Davidson had personal experience of the system and had found it lacking.

Sheila Peever spoke of assisted technology which can help people in their own homes and through which their carer can be contacted. It is a very inexpensive option.

Steve Buck said that people are not getting the care to which they are entitled and the onus is on the family to make arrangements. Paul Baker asked how this could best be taken forward – it was suggested that commissioners be ruled out and more staff provided. Jean Reeve wanted action, not talk. Bernard Baldwin (Age Concern) – CHAT – would like to discuss. Michael Jarvis added that he was not aware of the working complaints procedure.

It was agreed that Paul Baker be invited back in a year's time. In the meantime, David Sheldon will contact the LINK if anyone is not happy/getting what they want.



Older People Mental
Health final.ppt

Reports

Local Crime & Community Sentence Presentation – 2 November

The presentation involved members of the Justice system and Horsham Youth Council. Frank Bockling found it useful but more for younger people. Michael Jarvis found it a useful opportunity for groups to mix and was impressed with the two magistrates and also the youngsters. The Chairman and Ann Grover agreed and expressed their thanks to CE.

Lesley Ainslie spoke about the move to retain warden assisted....? campaign. Betty Osgood attending a march in London today which may appear as TV news item. Contact CE or Betty for further information.

Frank Bockling has represented the group on the POP steering committee for over a year now and wondered whether someone else would be willing to attend the quarterly meetings. David Sheldon added that steering group meetings take place during the day time and last approximately 2 hours. If anyone is interested, please contact David or CE. The Chairman thanked Frank for his input over the past year.

Updates

Nutrition project –

Funding bid to Food Standards Agency was unsuccessful. Joyce Narborough has done several sessions at Dingemans in Steyning.

'A' boards – The Chairman had invited Garry Mortimer-Cooke, HDC's Town Centres Manager, to this meeting. Can he attend the next one in March?

Disability group –

David Sheldon and CE had attended a consultation event on government proposals. In the light of statistics which reveal older people are wary of heating their homes in view of possible cost involved, CE has been asked to spend part of budget on thermometers, information on Warm Front and emergency saving grants. It was pointed out that this is all available, free of charge, from utility companies. David Sheldon provided copies of the Keep Warm, Keep Well leaflet.

Toilet sticker campaign –

No update at this stage.

Big Drink Debate

CE had attended the Big Drink Debate which centred on both young and old. She found it very interesting; event made reference to older people's alcohol consumption.

Shaping the future of care –

David Sheldon met with a number of SPC members at Age Concern in November 2009 regarding the national care service. He reported that this group agreed that it is great to have a national assessment with the same criteria applicable everywhere. However there is a lack of information/advice and this needs to be clearer and more accessible. Also, professionals should be properly trained to pass on information and be more pro-active.

The three suggested methods of funding prompted the group to agree that the government was not to be trusted and that, overall, things should be left as they are. Dot Smith felt that the scheme was re-inventing the wheel and Paul Smith commented that there should be no extra cost to the 'consumer'. There is a suggestion that DLA may be discontinued although any changes are not planned for 4 years.

New issues to consider

Age equality in health and social care

This is based on a Department of Health report and people must prepare to bring into place. The Chairman suggested a meeting should be held to discuss the matter and David Sheldon will draft a response. Frank Bockling thought it would be a worthwhile exercise, with more opportunity for intergenerational movement/meetings.

Life is for Living

This year's event attracted over 60 exhibitors and 300 visitors. No one took advantage of the transport from villages and any ideas on how best to promote this would be welcome. The Chairman suggested that exhibitors who do not turn up should be fined if this happens on consecutive occasions.

Overall, the event was very well received and the Chairman wished to thank all those who helped on the day.

Older Persons Directory

This was launched at Life is for Living and much positive feedback has been received. There was an initial print run of 500 and more will be ordered once corrections/amendments have been made.

Horsham POP update

Nutrition – The bid to the Foods Standards Agency was unsuccessful. A pilot course for older men – the Fit as a Fiddle Scheme – will commence in mid-February and run for 7 weeks at Lavinia House.

A suggestion was made that for older women who find themselves on their own, courses covering financial matters and DIY would be useful. CE commented that this could link in with young people who attend college. Computer courses could also prove popular and befriending services are paramount.

Publicity

CE told the group that new leaflets are to be produced – any comments to her please. Also, an article will be drafted for the March edition of Horsham District News to raise awareness of the Senior Persons Council. Again, please let CE have your suggestions.

It is also time for a further newsletter to be produced. The Chairman suggested a logo be incorporated. **CE to action.**

Member update

It is hoped to hold future meetings in villages where they have not been held previously since representation from these areas is poor. Free village leaflets, information/articles/press releases to parish councils.

Any other business

It was suggested that a mobile microphone would be useful for meetings – **DS and CE to investigate.**

Dorothy Harrison requested that someone from HDC speak to the group regarding the recycling of light bulbs and batteries. **CE to action.**

Doug Rand said information about meetings doesn't always get through. CE explained how the system works.

Frank Bockling wishes to step down to take more of a backbench role, which will enable him to devote more time to 'Billingshurst'. Therefore, a new deputy chairman will be required for 2010 and an election will be discussed at the next meeting.

Thanks were given to Frank for his hard work and he, in turn, thanked the Chairman.

Dates of next meeting:

CE to confirm.