

**Notes of the Senior Persons Council Meeting
Steyning Centre, Steyning
Thursday, 3rd June 2010 at 10.30 am**

Present

Members:	Barry Mursell	Chair	
	Frank Bockling	Vice Chair (Rep of Older People's Reference Group)	
	Lesley Ainslie	John Hicks	Jean Reeve
	Keith Barraclough	Judith Hollingdale	Paul Smith
	Carole Duffy	Michael Jarvis	Carol Stokes
	Chris Duffy	Ted Jones	Bryan Sunderland
	Pat Gale	Joyce Narborough	Judy Taylor
	Ann Gover	Betty Ogden	

Councillors: Councillor Alan Fisher (HDC)
Councillor Barbara Varley (Southwater PC)

Officers: Liz Burt, Coordinator, Horsham POPP
Clare Ebelewicz, Youth & Older Person's Officer, HDC
Denise Salmon, Administrator, Horsham POPP
Jan Wise, Engagement Worker, Horsham POPP

Guest Speaker: Councillor David Holmes,
Chair of Horsham District Community Partnership
Better Place to Live - Transport Sub Group

Apologies

Members: Gladys Andrews, Audrey Beagley, John and Sheu-Ching Dean, Dot Harrison,
Margery Hewitt, Thelma Paine, Peggy Weeks

Guest Speaker: Natalie Brahma-Pearl, Director of Community Services for HDC

The notes of the previous meeting held on 5 March 2010 were agreed as being an accurate record.

Members Update

Dulcie Lawson has decided to step down from the Council. The Chairman expressed his thanks for her work whilst a member and is arranging for a card to be sent.

Wendy and Basil Tilley have decided to withdraw from the Council.

The planned Guest Speaker Natalie Brahma-Pearl sent apologies and is now due to attend the next meeting on 1 September.

Correspondence received since last meeting

- ◆ A copy of the letter from The Rt Hon Francis Maude MP on the issue of Attendance and Disability Allowance being part of the "Shaping the Future of Care Together" consultation had been sent to all members.
- ◆ Paul Smith enquired re funding of MisterChef project. Liz Burt explained that this is Grant funded and free to candidates. The first course is due to complete on 24 June and a second course is due to start shortly at Forest School. Funding for the Basic Finance for Women Courses is still under review.

Presentation on Community Transport by Guest Speaker David Holmes

David explained that Community Transport constitutes mini buses, private cars and taxis. He said that HDC are encouraging the public to make more use of the Community Transport that is available. Horsham District Community Partnership aim to improve the coordination of Community Transport across the district. This will include:

- easier travel booking system
- assisting providers in covering costs
- minimising admin / technical issues

The overall aim is to make a good transport service available to all.

Community Transport aims to provide transport for anyone who cannot use public transport due to frailty, disability or finance. It was recognised that demand is not restricted to rural areas but also exists in urban areas where there is a higher volume of people. Those eligible to use it are:

- those aged 60+
- unable to access public transport
- limited mobility
- low income
- residents of isolated areas
- those in full time education
- non drivers

The service is not restricted to those without cars - the public are encouraged to use it to reduce the use of their own cars and thus help improve the environment.

There is no membership fee but travel must be booked 24 hours in advance. Community Taxi Schemes operate in some areas and can be used to take people to medical appointments as well as social activities. Many schemes are self funding but provide a limited service. A comprehensive service requires approx £400k subsidy. Community Transport is expensive so it is preferable if transport is coordinated so several people can be transported at the same time.

There is the possibility that an organisation will be introduced to coordinate all providers of Community Transport covering all legal, admin, technical issues if this is considered of benefit to the community. HDC recently agreed to give £1500 to Storrington to assist with the transport information service.

David distributed copies of the HDC Community Transport leaflet to members.

Reports from Members who have attended Events / Meetings on behalf of the SPC

- ◆ Bryan Sunderland attended the Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) Annual Conference which outlined and reaffirmed its aims and observations. Clare Ebelewicz explained that in 2000 a Local Government Act was passed where each area would have its own Sustainable Community Strategy. This is owned by the community and managed and facilitated by the local District Council. It aims to provide a vision for the community going forward and sets visionary but short term goals within 2-3 year Action Plans covering economical and environmental issues.
- ◆ Michael Jarvis has been appointed as a lay member of a Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment Panel - a West Sussex NCT directive examining pharmaceutical services (including surgery pharmacies) and retail chemists.

Action: Members should direct any comments / concerns to Michael

Updates on Senior Persons' Council Projects

Toilet Sticker Campaign

- ◆ Barry explained the toilet sticker campaign to new members. The aim of the campaign is to encourage local businesses to permit older people to use their toilet facilities at times of need where public toilets were not within easy access.
- ◆ Liz advised that following the disappointing response to the original campaign when letters were hand delivered to 200+ local businesses, it was accepted that the campaign needed to be readdressed. Plans are in place to redraft the original letter emphasising that use of conveniences would be restricted to older people and only when really necessary. Liz suggested that rural areas should be targeted with Storrington acting as the pilot. Liz will be actively working with HDC to provide access to toilets in the village.
- ◆ Barbara Varley commented that there is a public in Lintot Square in Southwater but inadequate signposting to the facility. **Action:** Barbara is to contact the Parish Council regarding this.
- ◆ Judy Taylor enquired who would be responsible for cleaning the toilets and thought this should be mentioned in the letter. Barry responded that the good will of the shopkeepers would be relied upon.
- ◆ Judith Hollingdale commented that some disabled public toilets are often locked and a key has to be accessed which is not always convenient.

Clare asked any member to let her know if they would be willing to champion a toilet campaign in a particular area.

Updates on Consultations the Senior Persons Council has been invited to respond or has responded to

Clare explained that the District Council Older Person's Strategy outlines a vision for the future. The current strategy has expired and needs to be reviewed. There is limited longevity for the POP Project.

Action: CE to ensure all Project aims / objectives / achievements are to be included in future strategy to ensure they continue. It was suggested that volunteers from the SPC could represent at multi-agency group meetings to address priority issues.

Michael Jarvis enquired with regards to loft clearance, whether authorities could consider the need for storage when building properties. CE explained that the vision aims to provide a service to help older people downsize. Clare confirmed that projects covering loft clearance, fuel poverty and home insulation were in the process of being rolled out. With regards to the Heatseekers initiative it was acknowledged that older people need loft insulation but lofts need clearing out first. Joyce commented that Horsham Matters provides assistance with clearing properties.

Clare advised that the CPT had been invited to consultations promoting health equalities. Research has shown that health will vary according to environment / upbringing and life expectancy varies depending on where you live. A consultation to study inequalities and the reasons for differing life expectancy is to be held. Clare suggested a small sub group should be formed to review and discuss the Consultation Paper. Those who expressed an interest were Ann Grover, Paul Smith, Carol Stokes and Bryan Sunderland.

Action: CE to confirm a date / time for Sub Group to meet.

Clare also commented that the Director of Public Health and Wellbeing had issued an Annual Report "A Fair Old Age". This is not a consultation documentation but details the present position. It is an 80 page document - fairly large to print. It can be accessed on line at

<http://www2.westsussex.gov.uk/ds/cttee/hosc/hosc130510i5foaar.pdf>

If anyone requires a printed copy please contact Clare on 01403 215137 or email Clare.Ebelewicz@horsham.gov.uk

New Issues the SPC may wish to consider - none reported.

TOPIC (The Older Peoples Information Centre) This new mobile information service offers advice and support to older residents in West Sussex. This was in Pulborough on 13 May and will be at Age Concern, New Road between 11am - 2pm on Friday, 30 July. The service provides information and advice on a range of issues affecting older people including:

- Pensions and benefits
- Keeping warm
- Home fire safety
- Health and wellbeing
- Local groups and activities
- Days out
- Support for carers, practical help and much more.

Jan Wise advised that POP had also organised information days with the next event planned in Storrington for residents of the Chanctonbury area on 13 July.

Life is For Living 2010 Update

Denise advised that there were now 35 confirmed exhibitors with others awaited. Activities / demonstrations were booked. Liz and Clare had been holding regular planning meetings with members of BBH LC. Liz, Denise and Clare to attend a meeting at Leisure Centre to include site / layout survey on 5 July.

POP aim to again offer transport to the event this year via the Dial-A-Ride bus which will operate a shuttle service from the Carfax and possibly the use of the Bluebird community minibus depending on demand. It was recognised that this service needs to be more prominently shown on the flyers.

It is planned to have an SPC stand at the event and volunteers / ideas were requested. There will also be a consultation table. Carole Duffy, Barbara Varley and Lesley Ainslie offered to help.

Action: Any other SPC members willing to help man the stand or have ideas for what should be included to contact Denise (01403 249447 email d.salmon@horshamcab.org.uk) or Clare (01403 215137 email Clare.Ebelewicz@horsham.gov.uk)

Ann Gover asked about the publicity used. Flyers will be circulated to local businesses / groups and press releases will be published in local newspapers as well as in Parish Council magazines. There will be a showcase event in the Carfax bandstand on Saturday, 25 September to publicise the event.

Horsham POP Update

Liz confirmed that it was unlikely the POP Project would continue long term due to funding issues.

NB: Since the meeting, formal notification has been received that POPP will cease on 30 September.

Gardening Scheme: This project has been organised in conjunction with the Action in Rural Sussex (AiRS) team who will carry it on post POPP. Volunteers with basic gardening skills are still sought. The Scheme incurs minimal costs. Flyers have been created and circulated to advertise the service / appeal for volunteers.

MisterChef: Liz advised that the first course of MisterChef had been very well received and is due to complete on 24 June. A second course is planned and is due to commence on 22 June.

Silver Surfers: The inter-generational drop in event at Forest School had proved very successful and a further day had been arranged.

Befriending: Volunteers are sought across the district to develop this scheme. Jean Reeve commented that the British Red Cross offer a service to those being discharged from hospital. It was recognised that those facing social isolation need to be identified. It was confirmed that volunteers will need to undertake a CRB check but this is provided free of charge. Clare explained that this requisite was introduced by the Independent Safeguarding Authority but is under review and a "common sense approach" will be adopted.

Publicity Update

- ◆ Clare advised that letters / invites were being sent to Parish Councils to advise them of the SPC meetings. The SPC was mentioned in the March / April edition of the Horsham District News which is delivered to households. Clare has been asked to suggest articles for the September edition and will include SPC / LiFL. Any members should forward any ideas to Clare (01403 215137 or Clare.Ebelewicz@horsham.gov.uk) Frank suggested printing a list of useful telephone numbers on the back of the magazine.

Any Other Business

- ◆ Clare advised that Nick Herbert had sent apologies and it was hoped he would be able to attend the SPC meeting in January.
- ◆ Barbara Varley commented that Metrobus has taken over from Arriva and the steps were providing problems for some. David Holmes confirmed there is an ongoing liaison with bus operators and this would be discussed.
- ◆ A preference for meetings to be held on Fridays and not in school holidays was expressed. Clare explained that the aim was to hold meetings on varying days at different venues to enable a wider range of people to access them. It was agreed that additional meetings would be helpful.
- ◆ David Holmes advised he would be meeting with the Chief Executive of HDC and whether members wished any issues to be raised. Barry / Jean commented there should be consideration to the provision of discounts for senior citizens when accessing leisure services in line with other areas. Clare advised that Natalie Brahma is the Leisure Director and it is planned to invite her to a future meeting.
- ◆ Jean Reeves commented that following the introduction of the Acorn Scheme, the bins were not always being emptied properly. Also wheelchair users were having access difficulties where bins were left obstructing the pavement. All complaints should be addressed to Acorn or via Clare (01403 215137) for redirection.
- ◆ Why was the Annual Rail Pass withdrawn? Clare explained that this was due to funding and was at local discretion not national.

Date: Wednesday, 1 September 2010

Time: 10.15am

Venue: Rusper Village Hall, Rusper