

**Notes of the Senior Persons Council Meeting  
Sandham Memorial Hall, Coldwaltham  
Friday, 5<sup>th</sup> March 2010 at 10:30 am**

**Present**

<b>Members:</b>	Barry Mursell	Chair
	Frank Bockling	Vice Chair (Rep of Older People's Reference Group)
	Lesley Ainslie	Eva Matschy
	Gladys Andrews	Anne Mount
	Douglas Banks (former HDC)	Jean Reeve
	Audrey Beagley (WI)	Jean Seagrim (Pulborough & Dist Comm Care)
	Dot Davidson	Paul Smith
	Pat Gale	Carol Stokes
	Maureen Hamilton	Bryan Sunderland
	Dorothy Harrison	Peggy Weeks
	Judith Hollingdale	
<b>Councillors:</b>	Councillor Brian Donnelly (Pulborough PC)	
	Councillor Alan Fisher (HDC)	
	Councillor Doug Rands (Billingshurst PC)	
	Councillor Barbara Varley (Southwater PC)	
<b>Officers:</b>	Bernard Baldwin, Chief Officer, Age UK	
	Clare Ebelewicz, Youth & Older Person's Officer, HDC	
	Sheila Peever, Community Link Services Manager, HDC	
	Denise Salmon, Administrator, Horsham POPP	
	David Sheldon, Co-ordinator, Horsham POPP	
	Mary Talman, Health Advisor, Community Partnership Team	
<b>Guest Speaker:</b>	Ian Jopling, Head of Environment Management, Waste and Cleaning HDC	
<b>Apologies:</b>		
<b>Members:</b>	Keith Barraclough, Carole Duffey, Michael Jarvis, Betty Ogden	
<b>Guest Speaker:</b>	Nick Herbert, MP for Arundel & South Downs	

The notes of the previous meeting held on 7 December 2009 were agreed as being an accurate record.

**Members Update**

Following the Chairman's suggestion, CE confirmed an SPC logo is being designed in conjunction with the Youth Council for incorporation in the next edition of the newsletter.

DS is investigating the purchase of mobile microphones for use by speakers in venues where acoustics are not good.

**Correspondence received since last meeting**

- ◆ Letter from The Rt Hon Francis Maude MP received in response to David Sheldon's email regarding the future of disability benefits. These were outlined in the Government's Green Paper "Shaping the Future of Care Together" as part of the Big Care Debate. DS read the letter to those present.

The issue of disability benefits had been debated in the House of Commons and the Health Secretary had tried to assert that there would be "no cash losers". Frances Maude recognised the distress caused by the publication of the Government's proposed changes. He recognises the importance of Attendance and Disability Living Allowances (DLA) which are based on individual need not means. The Conservatives' aim is to personalise the social care system and they are looking at alternative options for funding which provides a sustainable balance between the state and the individual. A copy of the letter from Francis Maude is attached.

- ◆ Email received introducing the Heatseekers insulation / carbon reduction project. CE explained the principles of the Heatseekers initiative. DS confirmed an article has been published in the County Times and on the POPP website ([www.horshampop.org.uk](http://www.horshampop.org.uk)) to reassure residents that this was a genuine scheme and not a scam. Residents can choose to opt out by calling a freefone number. CE confirmed that older people who have any concerns can call One Stop on 01403 213140. Maureen Hamilton asked if Heatseekers letter would have the HDC logo. Ian Jopling confirmed that HDC had endorsed the project.

### **Senior Persons' Council - Nominations for Chairman / Vice Chairman**

The SPC constitution stated a new Chairman/Vice Chairman should be elected annually. CE advised that for 2010 three nominations were received:

- 1 for Barry Mursell as Chairman
- 1 for Frank Bockling as Vice Chairman
- 1 for Michael Jarvis as Vice Chairman

A vote by hands was taken. 16 voted for Barry Mursell to continue as Chairman with one abstention. For the position of Vice Chairman - 14 voted for Frank Bockling to continue with 4 voting for Michael Jarvis.

It was proposed and carried that Barry Mursell would continue as Chairman and Frank Bockling as Vice Chairman.

CE explained the constitution and provided those who requested it with a copy. Attention was drawn to the wording at the foot of the second page "No Member of the Senior Persons' Council maybe elected as Chair or Vice Chair Person for more than two consecutive years". The question was asked what would happen if no-one was nominated/ volunteered for the Chair/Vice Chair positions. BM suggested amending the wording to read that "unless agreed by the Council a vote of a 2/3 majority rules that the existing Chair/Vice Chair can continue". CE confirmed the amendment to the constitution would be made and invited any other comments.

Doug Banks commented that Friday morning meetings are difficult for him to attend. BM explained that aim of the SPC is to hold its meetings in a variety of village locations on different dates / times to encourage representation from these areas.



### **Presentation by Ian Jopling, Head of Environment Management, Waste and Cleaning HDC**

Ian Jopling explained the operation of the Acorn Plus Recycling Scheme. The efficiency improved Scheme was introduced in July 2009 and the rollout is expected to be completed by Summer 2010. Residents will be provided with a blue topped bin to replace the open baskets currently used to store waste for recycling. All refuse can be put into the blue topped bins **except** shredded paper, plastic food trays, yoghurt pots, margarine and ice cream containers, plastic film and carrier bags. The brown topped bins will continue to be used for garden waste and card. The Acorn Plus Scheme builds on the success of the original Acorn Scheme and will increase the current recycling rate of 38% towards 60% and reduce even further the amount of refuse sent to landfill sites. Surveys have indicated an excellent response to the new enhanced system.

Some key advantages of Acorn Plus:

- more materials will be collected at the kerbside including corrugated cardboard and glass
- increased recycling will reduce the amount of landfill rubbish
- smaller and quieter innovative waste collection vehicles will be introduced resulting in less trips to the landfill / recycling sites and saving on fuel costs, CO2 emissions, time and manpower
- better efficiency with no extra cost to the tax payer
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- the new wheeled bin for mixed dry recycling will mean less sorting for the householder
- the closed bin rather than the original baskets will mean less rubbish is blown around the garden waste and cardboard will continue to be collected free of charge
- collections will be carried out 4 days per week with no disruption for Bank Holidays except Christmas and New Year

Full details will be provided to residents via a detailed information pack together with a recycling calendar. Further details can be found by following the Acorn Plus link at [www.horsham.gov.uk](http://www.horsham.gov.uk) or Tel: 01403 739459. IJ explained that HDC are trying to keep the message about recycling as simple as possible to encourage participation.

**Battery / light bulb recycling** - Ian Jopling advised these items could be placed in the normal refuse but confirmed that both Hop Oast and Billingshurst refuse sites have facilities for disposing of low energy bulbs and batteries. Larger retailers such as Robert Dyas and Budgens also have collection points for used batteries.

#### **Related Questions**

- Peggy Weeks stated she had heard of some Councils placing microchips in bins -IJ confirmed that there were no plans for HDC to do this.
- It was asked whether there plans to introduce voucher incentives to encourage recycling as seen in other districts. IJ confirmed this would be of no benefit to Horsham as residents are well on board with recycling.
- BM commented on the amount of rubbish left in the road following collections. IJ confirmed that the new system will help to remedy this but said any complaints should be referred to HDC.
- Maureen Hamilton asked if following the introduction of Acorn Plus the glass recycling banks will remain. IJ confirmed they would for the time being but this would be reviewed with possible commercial / trade recycling in future. MH also commented that wheelchair users cannot reach slots in some of the glass banks and this was noted.

**Reports from Members who have attended Events / Meetings on behalf of the SPC**  
None.

#### **Updates on Senior Person's Council Projects - David Sheldon**

**Toilet Sticker Campaign** - 260 letters were hand delivered to business in the town but the lack of response was very disappointing. A copy of the letter that was delivered is attached for member's information. DS suggested that members of the SPC could personally visit businesses with a copy of the letter to promote a response. A decision may be taken to re-launch the campaign with a different approach.

**Personal Care at Home Consultation** - the Government had stated that from October 2010 personal care at home to those with the highest need would be provided free. The Consultation Paper covered:

- **Who** will get free personal care at home
- **What** is / is not personal care - assessments
- **How** will the Government provide local authorities with funding

**Who:** Some need help to buy, prepare and eat food - this care is not included. Also to be considered are those with mental health issues / dementia or those who do not live in their own home.

**What:** Needs do not change and a postcode lottery should be avoided where help is based on where you live. No provision for appeal re assessment.

Maureen Hamilton asked what the definition of need was. DS advised that following discharge from hospital, six weeks of intensive care is provided followed by an assessment. It was agreed that quality control needs to be in place if commercial operators are used. Individual needs should be considered.

**How:** DS advised there were three options for deciding funding:

- Agree a set amount of money by calculating what it costs to give personal care each week to most people with the highest needs - this would be easy to work out and simple to explain;
- To agree the most / least care will cost with some flexibility. This would give the local authority control over how funding is spent but would be difficult to calculate and explain.
- Actual personal care cost agreed by council - more control over funding for them but difficult to do.

The third option was considered the best.

MH stated that some people have fluctuating needs at different times which was accepted. DS said this would be covered in any assessments. It was agreed that sufficient money to pay for the highest level of care was needed.

Local Authorities options:

- review the number of older people in an area who need support / care (means tested)
- same as above but disregarding the area
- use existing information the Government has about older people and their lives including where they live and how much money they have / receive, what care they currently receive and who pays for it.

Money needs to cover care required in that particular area but this is not equal across the country as care services are less expensive in some areas.

All views have been submitted and a response is awaited.

**Consultational Car Parking** - DS confirmed information had been emailed and individuals left to respond. **Action:** Any member in receipt of an email to advise Clare so that an immediate response could be sent.

### **New Issues the SPC may wish to consider**

DS provided copies of the latest Age Concern (soon to be Age UK) leaflets.

Barbara Varley asked for advice re problems with email despatch - BM advised she should speak to her service provider.

Peggy Weeks had a complaint re large cycles being ridden on pavements. The PCSOs seemed powerless to act. CE said she would pass this information on to the Neighbourhood Wardens. PW said she was pleased to see that her suggestion of duplexing when printing had been adopted.

MH suggested more information re Community Transport is needed. CE / IJ advised that this is being reviewed by HDC and discussions are taking place. **Action: CE agreed to arrange for someone to talk about this at a future meeting.**

**LiFL 2010** - DS confirmed this event will take place on Thursday, 30 September at Broadbridge Heath Leisure Centre. It is planned that the SPC will have stand. Some changes have been made to the plans for this year's event with the number of exhibitors being limited to 50 with all being sited in the main hall. The forecourt is to be used by SE Driveability with safer driving being a focus of the event and WS Fire & Rescue. Activities / events will take place upstairs and in the Tube area. Community Transport will again be provided and DS asked that this be publicised by word of mouth to ensure that people make full use of this service.

**Horsham PoPP Update** - DS advised that due to funding it was probable that the POP project would cease at the end of September and an exit strategy would be planned.

**IT Training** - Horsham Library suite has 16 PCs which are available to be used. Research had identified that very basic training (use of emails / online shopping) was needed and volunteers will provide this. .

**MisterChef** - the funding for these cookery classes for older men had been declined and delayed the original start date. A new bid had been submitted to Health and Wellbeing and it was hoped the sessions would commence in may.

**Basic Finance for Women** - this course aims to provide guidance to women who are not used to dealing with personal / home finances. DS is currently researching.

**Bob Eagle Music Show** - following his previous successful shows, a further programme across the District for June is planned as follow:

- 11 June at Henfield Hall
- 17 June at The Steyning Centre
- 22 June at Brighton Road Baptist Church, Horsham
- 24 June at Pulborough Village Hall
- 30 June at Sullington Parish Hall

All shows start at 2pm and cost £3 to include refreshments and raffle. Further details from [www.horshampop.org.uk](http://www.horshampop.org.uk) or [www.bobeagle.co.uk](http://www.bobeagle.co.uk)

### **Publicity Update**

CE stated that the dates for this year's SPC meeting had been arranged and provided new posters / flyers for distribution. CE requested these be passed to local organisations to display.

CE circulated the latest SPC Newsletter which provided an overview of the events during 2009. Parish Councils are to be provided with copies. Anne Mount said that she had not previously been aware of the SPC - only learnt of this from a communication Clerk at Coldwaltham PC had received. BM asked Members to ensure their Parish Council provides publicity for older people.

CE advised that TalkTalk have introduced a free service where a phone call is made once a week to anyone who is lonely or isolated. Further details can be found at <http://broadband.talktalk.co.uk/we-love-the-web/well-call-you> or by calling 0203 417 1008.

**NHS A Fair Old Age Equitable Health and Wellbeing in West Sussex** - CE explained the Annual Report relating to this Consultation which provided information on key health issues / recommendations to those interested in promoting / protecting wellbeing. Phase one saw the development of a commissioning strategy for older people focussing on hospital / independent living. A Report is to be endorsed by Spring 2010 with the next step being the development of a Joint Commissioning Plan with stakeholder involvement.

A response to the Consultation is requested. **Action: CE to arrange for CPT to speak about the Consultation at a future SPC meeting.**

## **AOB**

DS announced his imminent departure from the POP Project to take up a new role as Chief Executive of Horsham Matters. BM thanked DS for his contribution.

Jean Seagrim stated the need to identify where carers are needed and for more support to be provided, possibly in a voluntary capacity.

Dot Davidson raised the subject of hospital car parking. As no transport to Redhill is provided by the NHS should patients / visitors be entitled to free parking? BM confirmed this suggestion has been submitted to those concerned.

Judith Hollingdale enquired about the use of microphones at meetings - CE is looking into this.

Next meeting:

**Date:** Thursday, 3 June 2010

**Time:** 10.15am

**Venue:** The Steyning Centre, Steyning