

**MEETING OF THE SENIOR PERSONS' COUNCIL ON
15TH SEPTEMBER 2011
AT RUDGWICK VILLAGE HALL, RUDGWICK**

NOTES

Attendees:	Frank Bockling	(FB)	-	Vice Chair, Billingshurst
	Sean McCrumlish	(SMc)	-	Chief Officer, Age UK Horsham District
	Pam Mitchell	(PM)	-	Operations Mgr, Age Concern SE
	Paul Norris	(PN)	-	Saxon Weald HA
	Keith Barraclough	(KB)	-	Resident, Billingshurst
	Paul Smith	(PS)	-	Resident, Nuthurst
	Bob Harari	(BH)	-	Resident, Ashurst
	Ann Gover	(AG)	-	Resident, Warnham
	Lesley Ainslee	(LA)	-	Resident, Henfield
	Peggy Weeks	(PW)	-	Resident, Steyning
	David Foard	(DF)	-	Resident, West Chiltington
	Philomena Leech	(PL)	-	Resident, Rudgwick
	Pauline Webb	(PW)	-	Resident, Rudgwick
	Alan Webb	(AW)	-	Resident, Rudgwick
	Sue Kemp	(SK)	-	Parish Clerk, North Horsham
	Pat Dean	(PD)	-	Resident, Upper Beeding
	Dot Mariner	(DM)	-	Resident, Rudgwick
	Barbara Kenward	(BK)	-	Parish Clerk, Rudgwick
Officers:	Clare Ebelewicz	(CE)	-	Snr Yth & Older Person's Officer, HDC
	Shirley Gardner	(SG)	-	Admin, HDC
Cllrs:	Barbara Varley	(BV)	-	Southwater PC
	John Hore	(JH)	-	P. Cllr, Warnham
	Paul Leaney	(PL)	-	P. Cllr, Billingshurst
	Brian Harvey	(BH)	-	Forest Neighbourhood Council
	Louise Harris	(LH)	-	P. Cllr, Rudgwick
Visitors:	Fiona Wellings	(FW)	-	Switchover Help Scheme
	Rachel Morris	(RM)	-	Western Sussex Hospital Trust
Apols:	Michael Jarvis	Gladys Andrews	Barry Mursell (BM)	
	Dot Davidson	Mick Hodgson		
	Terry Oliver	Eva Matschy		
	Betty Ogden	Judith Hollingdale		
	Sheila Peever	Carole & Chris Duffy (CaD)		

1. Welcome, Introductions and Apologies (inc. Member update)

The meeting was chaired by Frank Bockling in the absence of Barry Mursell.

2. Notes of meeting held on 15th June 2011

Are they correct record of meeting? Matters Arising / Progress against Action not elsewhere covered on the agenda

❖ All agreed they were a correct record of the meeting.

3. Correspondence received since last meeting

Parish Plan letters

CE

Since the last meeting **BM** sent out letters to Broadbridge Heath, North Horsham, Slinfold, Rudgwick and Warnham Parish Councils regarding their Parish Plans. As a result, some Parish Council representatives attended this meeting. Those local SPC Members who are interested in seeing the correspondence please contact **CE** who will provide details.

4. Presentations From Guest Speakers

Digital Switchover

Fiona Wellings

FW attended from Carillion, the company who are managing The Switchover Help Scheme being run by the BBC under agreement with the Government. Members were asked if they had received the information packs or were aware of this scheme and questions were invited. **FW** emphasised that everyone should be aware the 'switchover' is coming very soon.

There are 2 stages to the switchover and for the Meridian Region they are as follows: (for other regions visit the Digital UK website www.digitaluk.co.uk)

- Stage one will involve turning off the analogue signal to BBC2 in February 2012. Those people who receive a digital signal should re tune/change frequencies on that day
- Stage two will be on 14th March when the Midhurst analogue signal will be switched off for good - from 6.00am the only signal received will be digital

FW offered information leaflets to the group, although they will be sent out by Digital UK prior to the switchover.

To be *eligible for The Switchover Help Scheme you must fall into one of the following categories:

- Are aged 75 or over
- Have lived in a care home for 6 months or more
- Gets (or could get); Disability Living Allowance (DLA), Attendance/Constant Attendance Allowance, Mobility supplement
- Are registered blind or partially sighted

West Sussex County Council has not sent data for the blind or partially sighted in the first tranche of mailings but will these will be received in November.

There will be a standard charge of £40.00 which will cover the equipment, provision of installer to carry out the work and a 12 month aftercare service with free helpline - but will be free if you

are *eligible and also receive the following:

- Pension Credit
- Income Support
- Income related employment and support allowance or
- Income based jobseeker's allowance

In the first instance, if anyone requires help, they will be able to speak with an advisor by calling the free helpline number 0800 40 85 900 where they will receive help and advice with the procedure, but if an installer is required this service will be supplied free of charge.

This is a subsidised scheme and if the main TV is already digital, an additional set can still be converted as the scheme provides practical help to make the switch to digital on one TV set.

The scheme provides easy to use equipment, home delivery and installation, an aerial check (and if needed a replacement) and 12 months aftercare service. This is referred to as the '75 scheme' and ends in June 2012. There is a requirement of a valid TV licence (free if you're over 75).

If anyone would like further details or has any query regarding the switchover they are advised to contact the free phone number 0800 40 85 900 or visit the website www.helpscheme.co.uk.

BH mentioned there is also an alternative website:

www.digitaluk.co.uk - this is a comprehensive website which also gives all available area signals by inputting relevant postcode.

PM raised the query of how we know if a TV is digital and was advised that if a TV receives channels 1 - 5 then it can be assumed the TV is analogue - if any further channels are received it will be digital. This may be with either a freeview box or digital receiver, although if a TV has been purchased in the last three years it will probably be digital.

The question was raised regarding the use of the video recorder and it was confirmed that, after the switchover, these can only be used for recording the programme being viewed. For any additional recordings, a digital recorder will be required or recordings can be made onto the hard disc of the TV. Videos and DVDs will still be able to be viewed.

Action in rural Sussex has been appointed by Digital Outreach to work with the voluntary and community sector during the run up to the digital TV switchover. Age UK will also help.

PL asked if signals will be strengthened after changeover and was assured that they would be.

It was emphasised that if any help is required regarding the switchover, the scheme is there to help and everyone was asked to look out for the 'white envelope' from the BBC which will contain the TV packs being circulated now.

Ivan Western was unable to attend - this has been postponed to a later date.

Governor & Membership Services Officer for Western Sussex Hospitals NHS Trust

Rachel Morris

RM explained that the Western Sussex Hospitals NHS Trust runs three hospitals:

- ❖ St Richard's Hospital in Chichester
- ❖ Southland's Hospital in Shoreham by Sea
- ❖ Worthing Hospital in the centre of Worthing

It was created on 1st April 2009 by a merger of Royal West Sussex NHS Trust which managed the three above hospitals.

Foundation trust status has been around since 2004. NHS Foundation Trusts provide for greater local accountability to patients, service users, local people and NHS staff by building on the sense of ownership that many local people and staff feel for their hospital and other health services.

All NHS Foundation Trusts have a duty to engage with their local communities and encourage local people to become members of the organisation. They must also take steps to ensure their membership is representative of the communities they serve. Anyone who lives in the area, works for the Trust, or has been a patient or service user can become a member. This gives staff and local people a real stake in the future of their hospital. Residents and patients are encouraged to sign as members, enabling them to be involved in the direction the trust takes in the future, what services are important and what they need to develop for us. It is up to the individual on how much or how little they become involved.

There will be a Board of Governors consisting of a body of 31 people, 22 of whom will be elected from public membership and the rest from stakeholders e.g. ambulance service. The job of the Board of Governors will be to hold the Board of Directors to account on their performance and provision of services. Fewer Governors are proposed for the Horsham District than for other areas as the proportion of the local population using Western Sussex Hospitals is lower here, which reflects the availability of other hospitals.

BH raised the query of funding and **RM** replied that it is accounted for in the annual budget from Central Government and it has to be proven that they can manage this; if not they can be penalised. **RM** explained that because targets have to be reached there is a points system and if they fall below 2 ½ points, this is a fail. Since the beginning of the summer the Trust had achieved targets in other areas but have to perform better here and prove they can sustain service and it is doing that. The Trust has to be self sustaining as a NHS, and if problems occur officials will be sent in to deal with them. Patient

services should improve under this structure.

PS asked if there were two types of trust foundation and what the difference is. **RM** confirmed there are two types; the ordinary hospital trust, which at the moment is accountable to Strategic Health Authority and, the Department of Health who decide where money is going each year and give a budget. Trusts are being encouraged to apply for foundation status but not all are in the position to be able to apply.

RM was asked if Surrey and Sussex NHS Healthcare Trust were applying for foundation status. **RM** explained that she didn't know but suggested the Council could approach them and ask. **ACTION: CE** to write to Surrey and Sussex NHS Healthcare Trust.

AW had had a meeting with MPs Francis Maude and Henry Smith about new hospital that is being proposed. It was suggested that this be raised as a subject for future meeting.

Chief Executive Age UK Horsham District

Sean McCrumlish

SMcC thanked everyone for the invitation to speak at this meeting and told everyone he has been the Chief Executive at Age UK Horsham District since July when he replaced Bernard Baldwin.

Age UK Horsham District was part of national charity, but operating locally and providing services and was awarded a contract worth £30,000 in July to support day club activities in the Pulborough and Chanctonbury area. **SMcC** said the initiative to roll out day club activities in this area was to create/build new projects that support wellbeing and prevention, the purpose being to offer something which encourages people out of their homes and therefore improve lives - opening up opportunities.

On Monday, they had run the first session and asked the attendees what they felt local people wanted. **SMcC** said he had experienced some pockets of resistance and some feelings of replication. This was not what Age UK Horsham District wanted; there is the need to have the right activity in place. He emphasised the day club activities can only work if there are volunteers, these will be big part of success of this project.

Transport can present a problem but there are community buses and transport schemes with volunteers who Age UK hope to work with.

PW raised the subject of computer classes, which she saw advertised by the BBC as free to the elderly. She contacted the adult education department at WSCC who appeared not to have any information on this so felt that the BBC, in advertising free classes, was guilty of misrepresentation. **PW** understood that libraries in Surrey provided computer classes free of charge and, if this was the case, why couldn't Sussex?

FB asked **PW** to provide information on the free service from Surrey.

SMcC replied that to his knowledge Age UK hasn't advertised free courses, as funds are stretched and the funding they rely on is being cut. He said he would be willing to speak to PW after the meeting regarding this issue. It was felt that this could be a subject for future agenda.

5. Reports from Members who have attended Events/Meetings on behalf of the Senior Persons' Council:

Preparing for an Ageing Population - Notes and Action Plan attached

BM / BS

BM and BS represent the SPC at meetings of this multi agency group and notes of the last meeting were provided along with the Action Plan. CE invited questions.

6. Updates on Senior Persons' Council's Projects:

Age Concern SE Research Project

PM

PM spoke about research project being taken forward regarding Age Concern South East, Age UK Horsham District and the Senior Persons' Council about the needs of older people living in the 'affluent south'. The aim is to speak to older people in the Horsham District to dispel the myth that the South East does not need funding.

Facilitators from SPC have been visiting and talking to groups of older people and there have been two pilot sessions completed with a further two groups completed since then. There are also further meetings coming up in Storrington and Steyning and contact has been made with a Broadbridge Heath group. There will be at least one interview on a one to one basis rather than in a group.

When the research is finished, a report will be pulled together on the views of people in Horsham District.

If anyone would like to organise a group, they were asked to speak to PM or AG after meeting.

7. Updates on Consultations the Senior Persons' Council has been invited to respond to or has responded to:

Horsham District Council Residents' Survey

CE explained, as part of its commitment to consult local older people, HDC is running a Residents' Survey which runs until 31st October 2011.

Local residents have been invited to express their views on how well they feel HDC is delivering services in the district and members of the SPC were encouraged to respond.

BV asked if the survey was available in the local library and the offer was made to enquire. It was noted that Horsham library is temporarily closed for improvements from Friday 9 September 2011 and will not re-open until Monday 3 October 2011.

8. New Issues the Senior Persons' Council may wish to consider:

CE raised two issues:

- ❖ Report by Age UK - Pride of Place. This is a report produced by Age UK encouraging councils to identify changes that will improve the quality of life for older people. CE had circulated to Parish Councils and District Councillors on behalf of Cabinet Member, Councillor Roger Arthur. CE added that BM was reported to be very keen to look at this report and it was suggested that a sub group be formed with a view to endorsing with some recommendations. Anyone who wants to be involved to let CE know.
- ❖ English Forums on Ageing: A "Good Place to Grow Old" Diagnostic Tool. CE referred to a self assessment Tool for English Forums on Ageing. The Tool asks a number of questions that will provide a rapid appraisal of a Forums' strengths and areas for improvement. It also recognises that there is a regional and local dimension to the work of the Forum. It was suggested that a sub group complete tool. Anyone who wants to be involved to let CE know.

PW raised the query over the reported rumour of an airport at Dunsfold and said this was a very frightening thought. CE suggested that, as Dunsfold was not in the Horsham district, PW should contact the Planning department at Waverley BC.

9. Publicity Update:

CE provided following update:

- ❖ HDC Older Persons Web Page (<http://www.horsham.gov.uk/community/3406.aspx>) has been updated and includes latest SPC newsletter and meeting notes.
- ❖ New Flyers to be produced - no dates for 2012 dates set
- ❖ HDC News Magazine's latest addition includes an article written by BM and CaD about the SPC.

10. Senior Persons' Council - Member Update

CE gave an update on members of the SPC who would like to be removed from this group.

11. Newsletters and Publications of interest to the Senior Persons' Council:

- ❖ SEEFRA Newsletter ([attached](#))
- ❖ Age UK Newsletter ([attached](#))
- ❖ South East Health and Social Care Partnership ([attached](#))
- ❖ The Future Funding of Social Care ([attached](#))
- ❖ Living Well at Home Inquiry ([attached](#))

CE referred to the above and invited questions.

12. Any Other Business

Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm Screening - **CE** said **BM** had asked for this to go on agenda. **CE** referred to note and invited questions.

PL said she felt the table set up tended to exclude people sitting in the visitor's chairs as some members had their backs to them. **FB** noted this comment.

KB asked if there had been any progress with the Constitution. **CE** explained that, following the last Council elections, we now have a new Cabinet Member, Cllr Roger Arthur, whose remit this group comes under and who attended the last meeting of this group. Any review needs to be taken forward with Cllr Arthur's involvement. This could be linked with English Forums on Ageing: A "Good Place to Grow Old" Diagnostic Tool.

KB mentioned labels on waste bins, as discussed at previous meeting. Any progress? **CE** to speak to Ian Jopling for response. **KB** also mentioned that the bins have become obstructions on pavements.

PW raised the issue of older people in Steyning becoming concerned about young people riding on pavements. **FB** suggested contacting the local PCSO, Neighbourhood Warden and/or Parish Council.

CE said there was a new Prevention Assessment Team (PAT) covering Crawley, Horsham and Mid Sussex, who can help people to stay healthy and remain independent. The PAT is open to those who don't receive specialist care. They offer a number of services and the contact number is 01403 229510. If anyone knows of any person who could benefit from this service, they are encouraged to refer them.

CE mentioned the BIOPICC project, which is a national project being run by Durham University studying extreme weather impact on older people. Following a stakeholder event, the University have decided to focus on three areas; Shermanbury, Denne and Storrington. Members were advised that they may be contacted by University asking them to talk as individuals.

CE referred to the Sustainable Com Act. 1.3. The Act set up a new process where local communities and their local authorities (including county councils) can drive central Government policy and action on reversing community decline and promoting local sustainability.

The process runs as follows: the Government invites councils and communities to submit proposals under the Act. These proposals can be for any Government action and assistance to reverse community decline and protect and promote sustainable communities.

Communities and councils can put forward any proposal that a) can be shown to promote sustainable communities as defined in the Act, and b) requires central Government action or assistance. The Act is being seen by Government as a means to empower the Big Society.

There is a second - and continuous - invitation to submit proposals under the Sustainable Communities Act to the Council's key partners and seek their views on whether to take up this opportunity.

PL raised the subject of age discrimination - as in being described as 'old' people rather than 'senior'. This may give people the perception that they would be a drain on services, whilst many are active and volunteers.

The subject of Chiropody was raised as a possible subject for future meeting.

13. Date of Future Meetings:

- *Friday 9th December 2011 at Beeding & Bramber Village Hall*
- *Wednesday 18th April 2012 at Andrew Hall, Shipley*
- *Monday 18th June 2012 at Mannings Heath Village Hall*
- *Wednesday 26th September 2012 at West Chiltington Village Hall*
- *Thursday 13th December 2012 at The Millennium Hall, Roffey in the Chichester Room*