

Meeting of the Senior Persons' Council
on 18th April 2012
at Andrew Hall, Shipley

NOTES

Attendees:	Barry Mursell	(BM)	- Chair, Broadbridge Heath
	Frank Bockling	(FB)	- Vice Chair, Billingshurst
	Margery Hewitt	(MH)	- Resident, Rusper
	Carole Duffy	(CD)	- Resident, Horsham
	Peggy Weeks	(PW)	- Resident, Steyning
	Dot Davidson	(DD)	- Resident, Mannings Heath
	Michael Jarvis	(MJ)	- Horsham Forest
	Paul Smith	(PS)	- Resident, Nuthurst
	Judith Hollingdale	(JH)	- Resident, Henfield
	Betty Ogden	(BO)	- Resident, Henfield
	Lesley Ainslee	(LA)	- Resident, Henfield
	Ann Gover	(AG)	- Resident, Warnham
	Eva Matschy	(EM)	- Resident, Horsham
	Joyce Shaw	(JS)	- Resident, Ashington
	Bryan Sunderland	(BS)	- Resident, Southwater
	Pat Dean	(PD)	- Resident, Upper Beeding
	Janice Leeming	(JL)	- CEO, Age Uk Horsham District
Officers:	Clare Ebelewicz	(CE)	- Snr Yth & Older Persons Officer, HDC
	Shirley Gardner	(SG)	- Admin, HDC
Cllrs:	John Wilbourn	(JW)	- Cllr, Wiston PC
	Brian Harvey	(BH)	- P. Cllr, Forest Neighbourhood
	Ian Howard	(IH)	- Cab. Member with Responsibility for Living and Working Communities
	Paul Leaney	(PL)	- P. Cllr, Billingshurst
Visitors:	Jo Chadwick-Bell	(JC-B)	- Director Strategy, SASH
	Mike Bone	(MB)	- Chairman, for and on behalf of British Toilet Association Ltd
	Tom Warder	(TW)	- Action in rural Sussex

1. Welcome Introduction and Apologies

BM congratulated **CE** on completing The Brighton Marathon. Anyone who still wishes to sponsor **CE** please see **CE** for details.

2. Notes of last meeting

- Are they correct record of meeting?
 - All agreed they were a correct record of the meeting
- Matters Arising/Progress against agreed actions
 - None

3. Correspondence received since last meeting

- Pride of Place Reply from Cllr Sue Rogers

BM wrote to Cllr Sue Rogers, asking the Council to adopt Age UK Pride of Place Campaign. Cllr Rogers has replied to **BM**'s letter saying that she endorses the campaign and that she has mentioned at Informal Cabinet. Cllr Rogers will be asking the Member Preparing for an Ageing Population Advisory Group to consider.

- Note from Gill Daniel

CE: Gill Daniel spoke at the last meeting of SPC with regards to fuel poverty and the variety of help available for older people on keeping homes warm. Gill has sent a note thanking everyone for their suggestions on how she can increase awareness of support available.

4. Presentations from Guest Speakers

- Mike Bone, Director for and on behalf of the British Toilet Association (BTA) Ltd:

MB gave enlightening presentation on behalf of the British Toilet Association. (Please see attached).

MB explained he was the Chair of BTA and Managing Director of Loo of the Year Award. The aim of both was trying to encourage better toilets in the UK. The organisation was based in Horsham.

The British Toilet Association has been in operation for the last 13 years working for better toilets throughout the UK and 'Loo of Year' has been operating for 25 years. Website: www.britloos.co.uk

The BTA has 116 members but, with a fee payable, this has declined in recent years with many people withdrawing membership.

In 10 years, 40% of public toilets have closed. With no obligation on local authorities to provide public toilets and with the present economic climate, many have taken the decision to close some of these facilities.

In Horsham, there are three public toilets and these are situated as follows: Piries Place, The Forum and Swan Walk. HDC does not list public toilet sites on their web site, unlike most other authorities.

MB invited questions/comments:

BH raised the issue of the height of disabled toilets, in that the majority are all at standard height (regulation height 48cm), therefore difficult to use. In changing facilities, toilets are adjustable. Even with arms and grab rails there are still difficulties.

MB said if anyone has an issue with height of disabled toilets they should contact their Local Authority.

- Michael Wilson, CEO of Surrey and Sussex Healthcare (SASH), NHS Trust. Apologies from MW and presentation by Jo Chadwick Bell.

JCB gave update on the healthcare provision by the NHS Trust and East Surrey Hospital:

- All Trusts must have Foundation Trust status so by 2014.
- East Surrey Hospital is run by Surrey and Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust (SASH). There have been problems in past regarding finance and not always delivering targets.
- New team put in place 18 months ago, which focussed on operational performance and finance.
- With not enough beds to cover the demand for elective planned care and unplanned emergency care, 40 extra beds were put in place with wards opening in February 2012
- Development of a Day Surgery unit.
- The Emergency Department has been re-designed and also has additional cubicles, making A&E stay hopefully lasting no more than 4 hours.
- Work on a new front entrance and reception to commence in March.
- Two extra Consultants from May.
- Will have to deliver on performance and finance to gain Foundation Trust Status and for finances to work, there will have to be equal planned /unplanned cases. There is no profit in unplanned procedures; these make a loss. Therefore, there is need to reduce non elective admissions to increase productivity.
- Last September, a Tripartite Agreement was signed between the Trust, Strategic Health Authority and Department of Health. This outlined steps to be taken to enable them to reach Foundation Trust Status and sets out the intention to remain as a stand-alone organisation with a range of partnership arrangements.
- The Trust Board have agreed the plan but final decision is with the Strategic Health Authority and the Department of Health. This is expected sometime between June and September.
- Services they would like to continue with include; cover for Trauma and Emergency, Emergency Medical, Planned Care, Maternity and Paediatrics.
- An Elderly Strategy has been developed by Consultants but not agreed yet. This could change how the elderly are cared for in the hospital. With some who don't need to be hospitalised but are still needing care, there is idea to keep patients in the community, ensuring the right care is in place.
- Also, idea is to avoid admissions from nursing homes, reduce length of time in hospital, provide an acute geriatric unit, frailty assessment unit and OPAL (Older Persons Advice and Liaison) service.
- The Trust Board signed off its Dementia Strategy earlier this year and is working through plans to link back out into the community.
- A specialist nurse and project lead with dedicated ward area for patients with dementia has been put in place.
- The Commissioning Body, which includes Clinical Commissioning Groups up to PCT, is in a transition phase at moment. Simon Turpitt is Chairman of Horsham Clinical Commissioning Group.

Questions were invited:

BM asked if the Trust was aware of plans for significant housing development in Horsham. He expressed concerns that plans for the rapid expansion of Horsham, with many new houses, may not have not been taken into consideration by the Trust.

JCB answered that, as the link for the increasing population comes through the Commissioners and the Trust haven't been commissioned to meet additional need, **JCB** will take this concern back to the Commissioners.

JW gave Crawley as an example of putting alternative provision into community. Alternatives were put into A&E, expanding the service, which means patients don't have to go to East Surrey.

BM asked **IH** why the extra 10,000 people living in Horsham haven't been built into the Hospital Trust figures - were they aware of these?

IH emphasised that they continue to work towards getting a hospital for the District but it is difficult. **IH** added that the Government want more housing in the District. He said the Council will continue to put opportunities forward for a hospital and make representations from Strategic Planning, as it is obvious a hospital is needed.

DD queried problem of accessibility as half of patients come from West Sussex and the journey can take from 1½ to 3 hours by public transport. Suggestions put forward were increasing car parking or sponsoring a bus. **JCB** replied that the car parking area is being increased at present and more parking should be available from October.

DD asked if they would have the prime responsibility for a significant incident at Gatwick Airport.

JCB confirmed this, saying that this fact had been taken into consideration and the numbers are factored into planning.

JL asked if there was anything in place for older people coming out of hospital, which will ensure they can get home safely and can cope.

JCB confirmed transport services are in place and that the Trust are working with Commissioners, Community and Service Providers to ensure things are in place for care to avoid people being at risk when discharged.

MJ said it is a recognised fact that older people tend to deteriorate if in hospital for prolonged period.

BM recommended **JCB** visit the website of Amanda Waring, who experienced problems when caring for her elderly mother, the late actress Dorothy Tutin. Information and films about dignity in care can be found on her website.

- Tom Warder, Action in rural Sussex (AirS)

TW gave brief outline of AirS:

Action in rural Sussex is a charitable organisation based in Lewes. **TW** works in the area of Housing & Community Engagement, which covers rural housing and enabling, helping districts with the provision of affordable housing.

TW reported there is a shortage of affordable housing in rural areas due to lack of building over the last 20-30 years and the 'Right to Buy' scheme.

The change in the housing market has also made a difference in rural areas, with rise in prices making huge affordability gap in what people can purchase.

The shortage of affordable housing impacts on the sustainability of rural communities with young people moving into urban areas, leading to the break up of family networks. We now have the young and families wishing to return to their local area for this family support and, with a lack of affordable housing, this is a real threat for these areas.

AirS hope to address these issues by meeting Parish Councils and discussing their needs using information gathered through Housing Needs Surveys, carried out in parishes to

ascertain housing situations and needs of the local community.

The Rural Enabling Programme seeks to provide local affordable housing. This is via rural exceptions sites, which are 100% affordable housing, and allow for development on certain land, which may not be given the right in the normal way. This is only for when local need can be proven and seeks to keep local people in area.

TW referred to the Older Person's Housing Needs Survey carried out in 4 parishes; Ashurst, Slinfold, Shipley and Steyning.

This was focused on the 50+ age group, with more specific questions. The outcome of this report shows that the majority of people want to remain in their own homes so need help to enable them to do this. This research also highlighted services older people say they need / want to remain independent. Many such services already exist in the District.

CE has helped in circulating information to older people for services available.

With awareness and concerns voiced that needs of the elderly are not being met, there is an initiative by Hastoe Housing called Home to Home. Hastoe are offering to purchase the homes of older people wishing to downsize, at slightly reduced rate. They will then provide an alternative home, which suits their need. This pilot has been going well.

TW referred to a campaign called 'Over the Hill?' which encourages older people to be more proactive regarding living in rural areas (i.e. putting forward their needs for services and housing.)

Further information on this campaign can be found via the website or for hard copies of information on either of these, please contact Shirley Gardner on 01403 215207 or email Shirley.gardner@horsham.gov.uk.

Questions were invited:

Q: PS asked what legal powers councils have to encourage the building of affordable non-social housing for local people who don't want to move from own village.

TW said AirS were looking to address this through a policy facilitating approved development for Category 1 and 2 settlements. With Category 2 settlements having population under 3,000, development has to meet local need and criteria to include affordable housing.

IH said since 2007, the District Core Strategy Inspector awarded Cat 1 and 2 status. The Council was working to redesign policies to make the opportunities available.

PS asked how this would provide for local people.

TW said this would be guaranteed if in rural exception site, but if on open market, it may be more difficult.

PS queried what difference the Localism Bill would make.

IH said it could give power for the Parish to request open market housing.

FB spoke of inter-generational housing, which is seen further north of the country but not in this area and perhaps this should be considered.

TW said affordable housing developments are not for any particular age group and can be for anyone. Affordable housing is built to lifetime standards, so appropriate for older, disabled and young.

BO commented there were 120 houses being built in Henfield with only a small amount for social housing. There were also three bed houses being built which are out of the reach of young people.

- Clare Ebelewicz, Senior Youth and Older Person's Officer - Horsham District's Ageing Population

This item has been deferred.

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 to follow

This meeting group includes representatives from other organisations in area. It gives update and information on ongoing projects.

- Horsham Town Community Partnership

No meeting to report on but AGM being held tonight.

6. Updates on Senior Persons' Council's Projects

Action Plan - Update against progress including:

- SPC Executive

BM reported that at last meeting of the SPC, there was a discussion regarding the formulation of a sub-group, which will hopefully make SPC more effective, independent and streamlined. This group - the SPC Executive - is being formed. Responsibilities will include producing agenda for these meetings. One discussion was on revising the Constitution.

This hub group began to appoint Champions, as outlined in Diagnostic Tool and Action Plan.

Frank Bockling informed the group he will be resigning from SPC due to health problems. This resignation has been accepted, with regret, and **CE/BM** thanked **FB** for all his past support and work for the SPC.

7. Updates on Consultations the SPC has been invited to respond to or has responded to.

Nothing to report.

8. New Issues the SPC may wish to consider

- Friends of Horsham Museum Poster Project

BM referred to the above has poster project. Volunteers are needed to catalogue and carry out research on.

- 'Over the Hill?' Campaign

CE suggested SPC Executive look at this in greater detail and decide if worth putting before main SPC agenda.

9. Publicity Update

HDC Older Persons Web Page (<http://www.horsham.gov.uk/community/3406.aspx>)

CE said there had been a slight revision of District Council website with SPC having its own page (link above). Notes of previous meetings have been uploaded onto this and are now available to the wider public.

MJ felt it was a 'long way around' to get to this page, involving searching on 'older people', which results in two top results, of which SPC was the second.

IH said HDC were very committed to changing their website to make it more 'user friendly'. Plenty of Councils have good websites, which are much simpler and easier to use.

10. SPC - Member Update

Members were asked to amend/forward any revised contact details (ie new email addresses etc) to Shirley.

11. Newsletters and Publications of interest to the SPC

Nothing to report.

12. Any Other Business

FB said that although he will be leaving the SPC, he would be pleased to carry on with support for any events planned in Billingshurst, where he lives.

BO raised a query regarding state pension. CE to see if Hazel Ware (DWP) can attend future meeting.

JS said, at the last SPC meeting, she and Martin Toomey had volunteered to attend a meeting with Saxon Weald regarding Britons Croft and Dingemanns but heard nothing about this. BM provided update on his dialogue with Saxon Weald.

13. Dates of future meetings

- 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

