

**Meeting of the Senior Persons' Council**  
**on 18<sup>th</sup> June 2012**  
**at Manning Heath Village Hall, Mannings Heath**

**NOTES**

<b>Attendees:</b>	Barry Mursell	(BM)	-	Chair, Broadbridge Heath
	Keith Barraclough	(KB)	-	Resident, Billingshurst
	Judith Hollingdale	(JH)	-	Resident, Henfield
	Ann Gover	(AG)	-	Resident, Warnham
	Paul Smith	(PS)	-	Resident, Nuthurst
	Bryan Sunderland	(BS)	-	Resident, Southwater
	Eva Matschy	(EM)	-	Resident, Horsham
	Carole Duffy	(CD)	-	Resident, Horsham
	Lesley Ainslie	(LA)	-	Resident, Henfield
	Betty Ogden	(BO)	-	Resident, Henfield
	Dot Davidson	(DD)	-	Resident, Mannings Heath
	Frank Bockling	(FB)	-	Resident, Billingshurst
	Pat Dean	(PD)	-	Resident,
	Joyce Shaw	(JS)	-	Resident
<b>Officers:</b>	Clare Ebelewicz	(CE)	-	Snr Youth & Older Persons Officer, HDC
<b>Cllrs:</b>	Sue Rogers	(SR)	-	Cllr, Steyning & Ashurst
	Adam Breacher	(AB)	-	Cllr, ???
	Kate Rowbottom	(KR)	-	PCllr, ???
<b>Visitors:</b>	Greg Charman	(GC)	-	Community Safety Mgr, HDC
	Damian Brewer	(DB)	-	Equalities Officer, HDC
	Chris O'Riordan	(CO)	-	Family & Carer Support Co-Ordinator, Stroke Assn
	Roy Davidson	(RD)	-	Resident
	Pearl Blackmore	(PB)	-	Home Instead
<b>Apologies:</b>	Peggy Weeks	Cllr Brian Harvey		
	Ken Longhurst	Cllr David Sheldon		
		Cllr Brad Watson		
	Janice Leeming	Denne NH Council		

**Resignation:** Jane Hobbs

**1. Welcome, Introduction and Apologies**

**BM** welcomed everyone to the meeting and attendees introduced themselves.

**2. Notes of last meeting on 18.04.12**

- Are they correct record of meeting?

All agreed they were a correct record of the meeting

- Matters Arising/Progress against agreed actions:

Item 3: Pride of Place Campaign with reference to Member's PfaAP Advisory Group. A member asked if we were planning to make detailed observations of that group. **BM** said there was a later agenda item concerning this and **SR** will be happy to answer any question at that time.

Item 4: Health matters re Commissioning Body from SASH, which are in transition phase at moment. **BM** said that we are still intending to comment about providing medical services in relation to increase in housing. **BM** got point across strongly and will continue to push this. **DD** said that the developments at Crawley, Billingshurst, Faygate etc were not mentioned at the last meeting. **BM** said an official request could be passed to the Commissioners for considerations.

#### 4. Elections of:

- Chairman of Senior Persons' Council:

Nominations received for **BM**. **CE** asked if all were happy for **BM** to stand for 3<sup>rd</sup> year. All agreed. **BM** was elected as Chairman.

- Vice Chairman of Senior Persons' Council:

There were no nominations for this post. **ACTION: Appointment/Election of Vice Chairman to be considered at the next SPC Executive meeting and included on next SPC agenda.**

#### 5. Appointment of Senior Persons' Council Executive

Following a review of the SPC using an ageing forum toolkit, it was proposed that **BM**, as Chairman, established an Executive.

The Senior Persons' Executive, which would meet on a regular basis to the SPC, would provide direction, steer and management for the SPC. This would help empower the SPC and its Members. One task would include discussing suggestions/recommendations to put forward for the agenda of the SPC meeting.

**BM** requested approval of this approach and to confirm appointment of SPC Members to the Executive. **BM** was seconded by **LA**. A vote was held; there were no votes against.

Members are:

Barry Mursell  
Carole Duffy  
Paul Smith  
Ann Gover  
Dot Davidson

Bryan Sunderland  
Lesley Ainslee  
Keith Barraclough

The SPC Ex had met a couple of times as a 'pilot' run.

**FB** said he wished to resign from the SPC Executive.

Anyone wishing to be involved in the Executive to let **BM** or **CE** know.

#### **6. Correspondence received since last meeting**

None

#### **7. Presentations from Guest Speakers**

- Damian Brewer, Equalities Officer - HDC

**DM** said his role is to provide support to HDC in relation to its responsibilities outlined in the 2010 Equality Act. This included promoting opportunity for good relations between differing groups of people, whether this be age, disability, race, belief, sexual orientation etc.

Through everyday work at the Council, there is the need to make sure none of these groups feel discriminated against.

In addition to this role, **DM** said he is there to support equality impact assessments.

When a new policy was coming forward from HDC, he would review it to make sure people can access this service and ensure that it will work fairly for all people.

**DM** said his role was also to liaise with other groups in Horsham district including the Access Forum for disabled people, who meet every 3-4 months to discuss local issues for disabled people.

**DM's** role also covers collecting information on demographics and he has produced a community profile document. This document collates various data on sources available to people from different groups, for example, the Ageing Society.

There is a 5% ethnic population in the district, which we may find has risen. There is the need to know how to engage with those from different backgrounds (ie different black and ethnic minority) in district.

There is an Equalities Newsletter, produced every 6 months, which can be found on the HDC website.

If anyone has any issues they would like to promote, please let **DM** know.

Question were invited:

**AG** said it can sometimes be difficult for older people to make contact with groups and to become involved, and asked if it was possible for us to be invited into these groups, perhaps as a guest, as we want/need to be more proactive. **DM** said there may be scope for partnership working and will feed back to Cllr Andrew Baldwin, as relevant Cabinet Member and Chair of Access Forum. **DM** said there may be a couple of ways he would be able to help by including information in newsletters and providing contacts.

**BM** also gave the example of the SPC, which he described as the 'best kept secret' in the district. Although we have information on many websites and various publications, **BM** said it was a big problem getting people to come to our meetings.

▪ Greg Charman, Community Safety Manager (Horsham DC)

**GC** explained he worked in the Community Safety Team at Horsham District Council. His role was to support the Community Safety Partnership and to provide information to residents.

The Community Safety Partnership came into being in 1998 following a Government statement that the days of police working on their own had come to an end, as not all disputes/incidents can be resolved by the police alone.

The Community Safety Partnership brought all relevant bodies to together, to work together in partnership.

**GC** is employed by HDC, but works with the Partnership. The CSP need to build a picture of what has happened, in order to identify priorities for the agenda for the next year, which includes among other things:

- Road Safety
- Environmental crime - e.g. graffiti, litter etc.
- Violent crime in homes and on the streets.

In trying to make things safer, the CSP focus on key priorities. A Strategic Board meets on a day to day basis regarding the operational action plan.

**GC** said it was important to reinforce we are a very safe district.

At today's meeting, **GC** said he wanted to focus on one area, which falls under 'acquisitive crime', and is felt to be an indicator of the recession as it includes fraud and forgery.

Taking in the broader picture, people aged over 60 are much more likely to be a victim of certain types of crime, including acquisitive crime. **GC** provided some examples of (how) this crime (occurs):

- Telephone
- Request for card details over internet
- Convincing person to pay for item with no intention to supply
- Using the computer to persuade person to pay for repair work i.e. gutters etc
- Copying bank details at cash point machines

Break down of statistics reflect:

- 60 % of victims are over aged 60
- 33% are male
- 17% are female
- 50% are companies rather than individuals
- More males than females are likely to be a victim
- Wards of Chantry, Storrington/Sullington and Town Centre are where most offences take place. Town Centre crime breakdown shows mainly shoplifting and can produce a complicated picture.

**GC** said there is a need to better communicate to older residents about certain crime types, as some don't fully understand that these things are happening and **GC** said he would like advice from the SPC on how this could be done. **BM** said he would take this agenda item to the SPC Executive for a response. **GC** said he has advice sheet on most scams, which he will give to **BM**.

A question was asked whether **GC's** role as Community Safety Manager covered issues of uneven pavements. **GC** said these concerns should be directed to WSCC Community and Economic Development. **BM** asked **CE** to invite to a future meeting. **CE to action**.

**PS** referred to the location of muggings etc. Some spots were not well lit, could these be improved?

**GC** said there were regular meetings, to look at 'hot spots' in terms of where crimes happen - this takes the uncertainty away of unknown locations and helps CSP consider changes / improvements for these areas.

**GC** added that the public place CCTV system network is extending to Southwater and Billingshurst. Consideration has been given to further areas but, in trying to put cameras where needed, there is a fine balance between too few versus too many.

**PS** said some people, who complain are anti CCTV as they feel it is an invasion of privacy. It is a fine balance as people would not want cameras everywhere, just hot spots where crime is highest.

**AG** asked if it was possible for members of the public to attend the meetings. **GC** replied that the police, in certain areas, have local meetings which enable local residents to attend and express their views. Information from these meetings is then fed to the CSP.

It was agreed that there is the need to reinforce we are a very safe district with one of the lowest crime rates in the UK and the safest District Council area in West Sussex.

- Cllr Sue Rogers, HDC Councillor for Steyning and Ashurst and Cabinet Member for a Safer and Healthier District

**SR** said her role included the older persons' services and that there were a number of things raised previously which she would like to respond to.

CE had previously talked about the importance of the SPC and Pride of Place Advocates and SR said she was impressed with role of this Strategy. She is planning to progress.

SR said she has reconvened the Members Preparing for an Ageing Population (PfaAP) Advisory Group, which is supportive of progressing the Pride of Place campaign locally. An item regarding this was to be on Agenda at the Informal Cabinet meeting, this Thursday.

SR is proposing all District Councillors sign up as Pride of Place Advocates. She said she would like to take it further and invite Parish Councils to sign up. The campaign is about seeing things through older people's eyes (i.e. lighting in community regarding safety etc) and PCs are well placed to see these things.

Referring to Steyning and the extra care at Britons Croft, which is closing, SR said consultation by Saxon Weald is taking place this week on the future of the land. At the end of last year, Steyning conducted Housing Needs and Older Person's Surveys. Results have been instrumental and Saxon Weald will include these. There is a clear message that working with PCs can help provide services we need.

Later this year, sees voting for a new Police and Crime Commissioner. SR said questions need to be asked on front line policing and the message needs to come from Horsham District, to stop resources being diverted to other areas. We need to make sure we remain a safe district.

KB referred to the village of Billingshurst, which previously had Police Officers but now just has a PCSO.

SR said that she had discussion with Jan Leeming regarding the role of Village Agents. This is a paid role, operated within communities, providing services to older people. The role may encompass welfare.

BM thanked SR and said he thought the point made regarding the PCs was very valid. SPC has pursued them with regard to their parish plans and recognition of the older person, as many plans appeared to be focused on the younger person.

It was agreed that the letter to Parish Councils regarding Pride of Place be from SR and BM jointly.

- Senior Youth and Older Person's Officer (HDC)

CE gave presentation on Horsham District's ageing population. Please refer to slides at end of presentation.

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

- Preparing for an Ageing Population (PfaAP) - Notes and Action Plan to come

**BM** attended last meeting of PfaAP on 5<sup>th</sup> December, which included an agenda item by Jon Dean of Roundabout Talking News.

- Horsham Town Community Partnership

**CD/PS** were to attend the last meeting of HTCP but **CD** did not receive an invitation and **PS** was on holiday. **CE** has resolved the issue regarding **CD**'s invitation.

**PS** does not feel he qualifies to attend these meetings, as he is not a resident of the town. **CD** only to attend future.

#### 9. Updates on SPC Projects

- Action Plan - Update and Progress

**BM** said that the last meeting of the SPC Executive was attended by Janice Leeming, CEO of Age UK Horsham District. Janice spoke about plans for Horsham District Age UK and its services.

Other issues discussed were:

- Members to champion various issues important to SPC.
- Constitution review.

**BM** referred to Action Plan and provided an update.

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

None.

#### 11. New Issues the SPC may wish to consider

**BM** asked for suggestions; these included:

- **EM:** Cost of residential care.
- **BO:** Pensions. **Action: CE to invite guest to address SPC.**
- **BO:** Lack of Sheltered Housing Wardens. These have been taken away.
- **SR** said this was a very serious issue as a result of changes to funding from WSCC, which has led to Saxon Weald taking these steps. Due to the many changes happening, it would be very useful if someone from WSCC was invited to attend a future meeting of the SPC. **Action: CE to invite guest from WSCC.**
- **FH** has had a similar complaint from residents of another housing association. **FH** put forward the idea to perhaps bring in younger people to help - maybe there was opportunity with so many out of work
- **BO** said scheme managers were put in as replacements, which are good, but they are not on site all the time
- **DD:** Health Services regarding consultation with the public.
- **FB:** Intergenerational gatherings. He would like to see more older and younger living side by side.

## **12. Publicity Update:**

- 2012 Newsletter

This is due. **CD** and **AG** to produce next edition

- Parish Council

**BM** suggested contacting PCs for their views on which campaigns they would like SPC to support on behalf of the older person.

- HDC Older Persons Web Page

**CE** referred to the above, which is updated with meeting notes.

**FH** asked if people use it as she didn't think it was user friendly. **BM** said he has as heard the same thing said.

## **13. SPC Member Update**

Contact Details - all to inform **SG** of any changes to contact details.

## **14. Newsletters and Publications of interest to the SPC**

**DD** referred to the issue raised last year on lack of public transport. The hospital and PCT didn't think this was their problem and WSCC couldn't help. No resolution was found. **DD** referred to the HDC published leaflet on how to get to hospital.

**SR** reported on a piece of work WSCC is doing looking at Community Transport links. A group, undertaking this ongoing work, was seeking to identify gaps in transport. **SR** to arrange update for the next meeting.

## **15. Any other business**

**KB** agreed to print 'official' member name cards for the SPC meetings.

**FB:** When members attend various meetings, on behalf of the SPC is it possible to have name badge for identification? **Action: CE to look into this.**

## **16. Dates of future meetings:**

- *Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> September 2012 at West Chiltington Village Hall*
- *Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> December 2012 at the Millennium Hall, Roffey in The Chichester Room*