

Meeting of the Senior Persons' Council
on 26th September 2012
at West Chiltington Village Hall, West Chiltington

NOTES

Attendees:	Barry Mursell	(BM)	- Chair, Broadbridge Heath
	Keith Barraclough	(KB)	- Resident, Billingshurst
	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
	Michael Jarvis	(MJ)	- Resident, Horsham
	Pearl Blackmore	(PB)	- Home Instead
	Janice Leeming	(JL)	- CEO, Age UK Horsham District
Officers:	Clare Ebelewicz	(CE)	- Snr Yth & Older Persons Officer, HDC
	Rob Jarvis	(RJ)	- Snr Hsg Options Officer, HDC
Cllrs:	Adam Breacher	(AB)	- Dep. Cabinet Mbr with Responsibility for a Safer & Healthier District
	Kate Rowbottom	(KR)	- Pride of Place Champion
	Brian Harvey	(BH)	- Forest Neighbourhood Council
	Kenneth Longhurst	(KL)	- Parish Cllr, Billingshurst
Visitors:	Malcolm Alexandre		- Resident, West Chiltington
	Janine Wise		- Age UK Horsham District
Apologies:	Cllr Paul Leany		
	Shirley Gardner		
	Cllr Sue Rogers		

Resignations: Jean Scott, Anne Hubner, Carol Butler

1. Welcome, Introduction and Apologies

BM welcomed all to the meeting and introductions were made around the table.

2. Notes of last meeting on 18.04.12

- Are they correct record of meeting?

2 amendments as follows:

- Page 2/Item 3. Sentence should read "A member asked if we were planning to make detailed observations **to** that group".
- Page 6/Item 7. Should read "**FB** referred to the village of Billingshurst, which previously had Police Officers but now just has a PCSO".

3. Matters arising not elsewhere covered on the agenda:

BM thanked **KB** for production of name cards.

4. Elections of:

- Vice Chairman of Senior Persons' Council:

PS was nominated for this position and was seconded by **CD**; therefore **PS** was duly elected as Vice Chairman of the Senior Persons' Council.

5. Correspondence received since last meeting

None.

6. Presentations from Guest Speakers

- Community & Economic Development Manager, West Sussex County Council - Duncan Barratt:

DB gave a presentation on West Sussex Community & Economic Development Team and invited questions. Please see Handout.

BM: Asked if there was an age limit for volunteers.

DB: Replied that there was no age limit, as long as individuals were fit and able to do work safely.

BM: Commented that under **Information**, 'Youth' is listed but there was no mention of Older People.

DB: Agreed, and said this was a good point!

MJ: Asked if contractors on highways are responsible for signage, or WSCC?

DB: Many contractors were responsible for delivering highways on behalf of WSCC, but he added that not all people working on the highways were doing so on behalf of WSCC (e.g. Seeboard). WSCC was responsible for co-ordinating works, where possible.

FB: Asked if the PCC will have control of the finances - who has control now? Additionally, **FB** asked where the money is coming from and why needed?

DB: Replied that there currently there is a range of organisations with crime and disorder responsibilities including Sussex Authority, WSCSP, HDCSP, Probation etc. The PCC will cover West and East Sussex and Brighton & Hove. **DB** added that as we move forward, making a strong pitch for 'our' share of funding will be important. There was very little money to support PCC. There would be a PC Panel to audit PCC.

BO: Raised subject of overgrown blackberry bushes, which she has been trimming, cutting herself. **BO** added that there were lots of people sitting at home on benefits. Could it be that these people are required to complete tasks like hedge trimming, ditch clearing?

DB: Said the WSCC have processes in place to support Community Payback schemes.

BM: Asked if **DB** would come back in a year's time to talk about how it has gone? **DB**: Said he would.

- HDC Pride of Place Champion - Cllr Kate Rowbottom:

KR is one of three Councillors for Billingshurst & Shipley area, and she has been appointed as the Pride of Place Champion, **KB** gave a brief update and invited questions.

The county's society is ageing and nationally, one in four children born today are likely to live to 100.

KR: Explained that Horsham District Council recognises that, as the number of older people rises, it is important that as many as possible remain active and able to contribute to the local community for as long as possible.

KB: Explained the Age UK Pride of Place campaign recognises that Councillors can bring co-ordination and

leadership to understand people's priorities and drive improvements forward. The campaign invites Councillors to make:

- time to listen to older people
- change happen to improve the neighbourhood. (Assist in improving neighbourhoods)
- an ongoing commitment to keep people involved

Additionally, Pride of Place highlights that for many older people, lack of good quality support and infrastructure within the neighbourhood can act as a barrier that prevents them from being active locally. The campaign notes that small improvements can enable older people to continue being active for longer and long-term benefits of improvements could significantly outweigh the costs.

KR: Talked about HDC support of the Pride of Place Campaign. This included:

- **KR** being appointed as Horsham District Council's Pride of Place Champion
- 17 Horsham District Councillors registering as Pride of Place Advocates. As Pride of Place Champion, **KR** will be working on persuading others to sign up!

KR: Said her role as Pride of Place Champion will be an evolving one! But, **KR** expects to be meeting and speaking to older people in the District and to understand the challenges they face, their issues and views and 'championing' their voice. Possible role in highlighting success and sharing best practice (across the District) to improve quality of life of older people.

KR: Talked about Other Pride Of Place Related Work:

- Councillor Sue Rogers and SPC Chair, Barry Mursell, are writing to all Neighbourhood and Parish Councils in Horsham District to encourage them to register support for Pride of Place Seminar, (at least one Councillor per Parish).
- Member Seminar on 28th November led by national and local Age UK experts. They will facilitate discussion considering what older people need in their communities and the role of Horsham District Council. This Seminar also offers an excellent opportunity to share ideas and learn from each other.

KR: Spoke about the recent Preparing for an Ageing Population Member Advisory Group. There was a presentation from Age UK CEO (Janice Lemming) on the agreed Strategic Direction of Horsham District Age UK.

PS: Asked if there is there is a plan to have a HDC policy? **KB/CE:** Confirmed this and referred to the Preparing for an Ageing Population (PfaAP) Strategy.

- Horsham District Council Housing Services - Cllr Adam Breacher & Rob Jarvis:

AB explained that **RJ** and he would discuss current housing allocation and opportunity through Localism Bill.

They explained that currently anyone can go on Housing Register and HDC must 'service' all applications.

The Localism Act enables HDC to be more specific about who goes on Register and who HDC helps.

There were 3 options, arising from review of the housing allocation review:

- No changes, so retain the status quo
- Tweak housing allocations policy slightly, maybe focus on those with local connections
- Be brave & radicalise local policy (e.g. priority for volunteers or those trying to seek local employment)

This review could mean that those working would be in higher priority category band.

Currently, homeless people were a priority and the Council had an “urgent duty” to find accommodation as soon as possible. This means these individuals keep going ‘over the top’ of those in need of re-housing (e.g. because of medical need, current property unsuitable).

If people have no local connection, they could be dispersed into private sector, out of the district.

Questions were invited:

MJ: Do you consider why people are homeless, whether intentional or not?

RJ: Every council has to check out all homeless claims & determine their priority level. If determined intentionally homeless, the council may not help.

PW: Said she can’t understand why HDC are not considered building pre-fab houses?

RJ: Explained this would be an issue for planning to consider.

DD: Found survey difficult to fill in as yes/no, would have preferred to rank people.

BM & KR: Agreed.

AB: Said that the consultation on housing allocation priorities has only just closed, but still further submissions will be accepted.

▪ ST@RT (Community Transport) - John Griffiths:

JG: Explained that he been involved in community transport since 2004. This included Crawley Community Transport, Bluebird, Surrey Community Transport. He was also involved in ST@RT.

JG: Explained the following:

- 110 Community Transport & Car schemes in West Sussex
- Crawley and Bluebird schemes have £300k p/a turnover
- No support above CT schemes to help / support them, except CTA in London & Manchester

JG: talked about ST@RT:

- There is some duplication in CT. ST@RT seeks to provide some co-ordination
- ST@RT to provide one point of contact for Community Transport
- ST@RT was begun 3 years ago and started as social enterprise
- It is a co-operative involving local authorities, community transport organisations and other organisations such as Age UK.
- Organisations pay £10.00 p/a membership
- ST@RT is encouraging CT operations to try to work together, but not easy as different systems
- Many CT groups operating under S19 permits, but are operating illegally. So, part of ST@RT’s role is education
- ST@RT is also trying to provide support with integration transport
- ST@RT has also done some consultancy work for Parish Councils on their transport needs, such as good neighbour schemes
- Consultation with Parish Councils revealed many don’t know how many people are housebound. One example, consultation highlighted in one Parish, 5 people had not left their house for 10yrs, but they were surrounded by people who have cars, so ST@RT linked them up.
- ST@RT encouraging CT schemes to lend each other minibuses
- ST@RT looking at whether to create a Horsham Community Transport scheme involving existing providers

- Any Community Transport operators doing door to door services cannot recover more than 30% from charges. Department of Transport report in 2007 quoted that the average cost of door to door services was £8.00. **JG** feels the most these operators can charge is £3.00, therefore they need to find £5.00 per person/journey. This is why many CT schemes do contract work. (£45k per accessible vehicle).

Questions were invited:

BH: Asked if there was a central phone number?

JG: At the moment, the role of ST@RT is to help CT operators. Members of public should contact their local operators.

PS: Asked does WSCC have list of CT organisations?

JG: Confirmed it is on their website

DB: Added that WSCC was trying to put together a toolkit to help communities find best transport solutions for their area.

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

None

8. Updates from SPC Executive

- Action Plan - Update and Progress

BM: reported progress was slow but being made.

- Age UK Grant

CE: Reported that the SPC, as a recognised older persons' forum, had received a grant of £250 from Age UK.

- Guidance to Community Safety Partnership

BM: The SPC Ex Group had made suggestions to CSP following presentation at the last meeting.

9. Updates on Senior Persons' Council Projects

None

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

- What issues would you like to highlight?

DD: Spoke about problems faced by older people, who have to leave private care homes (e.g. unsuitable accommodation, changing needs, death). There appears to be a lack of clear guidance for older people in relation to care (e.g. financial rules, rights etc.). **DD** also mentioned the need for support for those who wanted to visit those in homes (e.g. CRB).

JL: Highlighted the human side of the rules, which was there to protect public money. If there is some kind of trend, and we collate some case studies, we could highlight these issues at a national level.

Every Age UK including Horsham District Age UK provides Information and Advice Service, as well as a link into the national Age UK helpline. **JL** urged people to use this.

JL: Recognises the impact of loneliness and isolation on older people, and mentioned a piece of work with WS Public Health to understand the 'problem'. This was building on the research work of SPC who work with Age UK South East.

JL: Added that Age UK Horsham District have visiting and befriending services, as well as home help services.

12. Publicity Update:

- 2012 Newsletter

CD: Reported she and **AG** have produced this. Vote of thanks from SPC.

- Parish Magazines

BM: Said he will wait to action, to see what support the Pride of Place was to Parish Councils.

PS: Said we also need to consider other local magazines (e.g. those produced by churches).

- HDC Older Persons' Web Page

CE: Reported this was updated with notes of meetings. There was a new page about Pride of Place and it is hoped this will be Cllr's pages, where they have signed up as Pride of Place Advocates.

13. SPC Member Update

Please complete contact sheet with any changes to contact details.

14. Newsletters and Publications of interest to the SPC

None.

15. Any other business

KB: Asked about date of next SPC Executive meeting. **BM** to confirm.

KB: Asked if it was possible to reduce margins on notes, so few pages and less waste. **CE** to ask **SG**.

CE: Spoke about plans for forthcoming Older Person's Day, which included a Health and Wellbeing Event in Swan Walk.

FH: Asked if RSL properties for older people have chains? **RJ** said this was not a standard feature. It was suggested this may be something the SPC wish to recommend. **CE** to include on agenda for next meeting.

16. Dates of future meetings:

- Thursday 13th December 2012 at the Millennium Hall, Roffey in The Chichester Room

Dates for 2013:

- Thursday 14th March at Faygate Village Hall, Faygate
- Thursday 20th June in Council Chambers, Billingshurst Conference Centre
- Wednesday 11th September in Committee Room, The Steyning Centre, Steyning
- Tuesday 10th December at Ashington Community Centre, Ashington