

Meeting of the Senior Persons' Council
on 13th December 2012
at The Millennium Hall, Roffey

NOTES

Attendees:	Judith Hollingdale	(JH)	- Resident, Henfield
	Carole Duffy	(CD)	- Resident, Horsham
	Ann Gover	(AG)	- Resident, Warnham
	Ken Jones	(KJ)	- Resident, Rusper
	Margery Hewitt	(MH)	- Resident, Rusper
	Bert Franks	(BF)	- Resident, Horsham
	Dot Davidson	(DD)	- Resident, Mannings Heath
	Betty Ogden	(BO)	- Resident, Henfield
	Lesley Ainslie	(LA)	- Resident, Henfield
	Eva Matschy	(EM)	- Resident, Horsham
	Janice Leeming	(JL)	- CEO, Age UK Horsham District
	Barry Mursell	(BM)	- Chair, Broadbridge Heath
Officers:	Clare Ebelewicz	(CE)	- Snr Yth & Older Persons Officer, HDC
	Shirley Gardner		- Administrator, HDC
Cllrs:	Morwen Millson	(MM)	- WSCC Cllr
	Francis Haigh	(FH)	- HDC Cllr
	Martin Toomey	(MT)	- Steyning PC
	Roy Cornell	(RC)	- HDC Cllr
	Kate Rowbottom	(KR)	- HDC Cllr & Pride of Place Champion
	Brian Harvey	(BH)	- Forest Neighbourhood Council
	Martin Bruton	(MB)	- Denne Neighbourhood Council
Visitors:	Janine Wise	(JW)	- Age UK Horsham District
Apologies:	Cllr Paul Leany		Bryan Sunderland
	Cllr Kenneth Longhurst		Joyce Shaw
	Cllr Sue Rogers		Peggy Weeks
	Keith Barraclough		Michael Jarvis
	Connie Lucien		Paul Smith
	Ian Woodgate - Salvation Army		

Resignation: Shirley Hewitson

1. Welcome Introduction and Apologies

All were welcomed to the meeting and introductions were made around the table.

Apologies for the last meeting not recorded were from Judith Hollingdale. Apologies from **AG** for late arrival.

2. Notes of last meeting

- Are they correct record of meeting?

All agreed they were a correct record of the meeting.

3. Matters Arising not elsewhere covered on the Agenda

None.

4. Correspondence received since last meeting

CE said correspondence had been received from PCs, who are supporting the Pride of Place Campaign,

naming their representative Advocate.

5. Presentations from Guest Speakers

- Salvation Army – Ian Woodgate

Apologies were received from Ian Woodgate.

6. Reports from Members who have attended Events/Meetings on Behalf of the SPC

- **BIOPICCC (Built Infrastructure for Older People in Conditions of Climate Change) Dissemination Meeting**

CE gave update on BIOPICCC, which looked at the impact on older people in particular, and the infrastructure in place to support older people, in the event of extreme weather conditions. Horsham District was chosen by Durham and Herriot Watt Universities as one of two case study areas, the other being East Riding.

The University has been conducting research, which included speaking to the population of older people in three 3 smaller areas of the District; one town and two differing rural locations. This also included talking to service providers including; care homes, doctors, day centres, neighbourhood wardens and parish councils as well as older people themselves about the challenges faced.

Whilst attention was drawn to cold weather, the Universities were also interested in the implications of heat waves, felt to be a hidden threat.

With research recently concluded, a Dissemination Event was held on 7th November. HDC and WSCC members were invited to a presentation of the preliminary draft report/research summary and to investigate what it means for Horsham District regarding provision for older people in extreme weather events. **MT** asked for the report to be available on the next meeting agenda. **CE** agreed to make the report available as soon as it was released by the Universities.

CE has seen highlights of draft report showing how local or grass roots support varied in different parts of the district. The report also highlighted local examples of best practice.

KR/JL reported on the Village Agent Project. This model has been seen to work well in other rural parts of the UK. It involves a person from the local community, employed part time (10hrs) and tasked with identifying and getting to know older people in the local community, linking them in to available support. A pilot for this in the Billingshurst area was being developed, with interest from the local Rotary and Lions Clubs. **KR** is helping to champion this idea. Information about Village Agent schemes to be circulated with notes and further reports to be made to the SPC as project develops.

BO said Henfield Parish Council has register of older people, who might need assistance in extreme weather, and of volunteers willing to help.

MT asked, if PC has a register of names available, could the Village Agent co-ordinate with this? Steyning have wardens with lists of people, and we don't want duplication. **FH** said the key point is parallel running – using examples from Billingshurst and Henfield and using knowledge from these. **KR** said at the moment it is the start of the idea.

JL said Age UK was running campaign on climate change. There are 23,000 excess winter deaths in this country, sometimes seen as specific to the cold, which can exacerbate symptoms of other illnesses. Age UK Horsham District received funding recently to extend its work to help increase income for older people - this Service last year raised £1million for older people in the Horsham District. **JW** is leading on the local campaign - 'Stay Safe. Stay Warm. Stay Well.'

- **Pride of Place Campaign and Seminar**

Cllr Kate Rowbottom (**KR**) is HDC's recently appointed Pride of Place Champion. **KR** said it was good to see so many Parish and District Cllrs attending the Pride of Place Seminar on 28th November. There were

presentations from **JL** and also Mary Milne (Age UK National). Examples were seen of how Councillors could help bring about small changes, making a significant difference to quality of life of older people. The Seminar went very well, with many HDC Councillors signed up as Advocates.

JL said the Pride of Place Campaign started nationally with Age UK encouraging local Councillors to sign up to help make small changes in the local community, as the Councillor's role is linking in with local people. At the Seminar, it was shown where the campaign had made a difference across the county. Although the national campaign had ended, HDC was keen to take this forward.

There was some discussion about next steps including suggestions of regular meetings, sharing good practice with perhaps a role for SPC?

KR and Cllr Rogers said, following the Seminar, there was a need to see how we can continue to share best practice. **CE** has been asked to look at how this may be achieved. One suggestion was a quarterly Pride of Place Newsletter.

MM referred to a specific highway scheme example, at the Pelican crossing in North Parade. The configuration makes it difficult for a person in a wheelchair to press the button.

MT asked if Age UK has 'Good Practice' guide; **JL** agreed to check.

MT asked if there was a central number for people to contact, which would have list of recommendations they can refer to. **JL** said there was a local Information Advice Team at Age UK Horsham District, contactable on 01403 260560. **JL** also referred to the Age UK National organisation (www.ageuk.org.uk).

Mary Milne of Age UK National, who was leading the Campaign, delivered part of Pride of Place Seminar and **CE** said the presentation material was available on the HDC website. Brochures/leaflets circulated from the Seminar were also on the HDC Website. (<http://www.horsham.gov.uk/community/15076.aspx>)

JW said Lavinia House will be opening Christmas Day, providing a 2 course dinner and small gift. This was partially funded by WSCC. Age UK were seeking to promote this. **KR** and **FH** asked for leaflets/flyers to advertise on notice boards. Regarding transport, **JW** said there would be 3 mini buses available, with maybe another for Storrington, Pulborough and Henfield. 40 have people booked to date, but there are expected to be up to 50. **BH** asked if this would be a regular Christmas event and **JW** said it was a 'one off' this year and will see how it goes.

7. Updates from Senior Persons' Council's Executive

- **Action Plan – Update against progress**

None

- **Age UK Grant**

The SPC has been awarded a small grant from Age UK. **JL** said this was an initiative from the national Age UK charity, from a scheme called Friends and Forums of Age UK. Local groups can be matched and receive a small grant, to work with local forums.

There was some discussion about whether this funding could be used to 'do something' combined between SPC and Horsham District Age UK, perhaps an annual meeting? On opening out to the group, **BM** thought this was good idea.

- **Guidance to Community Safety Partnership**

See below – Target Hardening

8. Updates on Senior Persons' Council Projects

None

9. Updates on Consultations SPC has been invited to respond to/has responded to

None

10. New Issues the SPC may wish to consider

▪ **Target Hardening of Older People Properties**

Following a suggestion from **FB** at a previous meeting, **CE** reported that she has had brief conversation with the HDC Community Safety Manager, Greg Charman (**GC**).

FB raised the issue of many older people's homes, which still don't have key door chain/'bogus caller' signs, making them more vulnerable. He also felt that having a key safe on a property signals there is a vulnerable person living there and this can deter people from having them. However, **JL** said key safes are often in use at the high end of rental properties. **MB** said if built in, it becomes part of policy and planning.

GC suggested that 'target hardening' is making properties less attractive to characters such as rogue traders, fraudsters, burglars etc. **GC** had suggested there were 4 key 'safety measures' that the SPC could support. These were as follows:

- Door chain
- Viewing hole
- 'No bogus caller' stickers
- Join local neighbourhood watch scheme

JL said some of this is in response to spate of burglaries of older people in the district, which had been discussed at the Joint Action Group. Although Horsham is a safe district, she added that she was very keen to work with Community Safety at HDC on how to get messages out to older people on simple actions to make properties 'less attractive' to criminals

Following suggestion that things were perhaps being blown out of proportion, **RC** suggested word of caution as this is a district which has a good record of crime figures, but added that times are different now, so we should all think of security measures. **MB** said psychological effect of fear of crime outweighs everything.

CE said outcome of discussion with **GC** resulted in two suggestions:

- recommending that housing developers make key safes part of house design, which could be something for the SPC to perhaps discuss and recommend and;
- SPC to develop comprehensive information pack on suggestions for older person to protect their home. This could be available at cost or subsidised.

It was suggested that a small group work with **GC** to develop these. **Action:** **BM** to form small group for/with **GC**.

MB thought Horsham Neighbourhood Watch would want to get involved and he agreed to flag the idea with them.

▪ **What issues would you like to highlight?**

DD raised a previous issue on the number of old people who don't have access to computers and highlighted the issue that things are becoming progressively computer based. **AG** asked if people are going to be able to afford the computer/broadband line fee, and as people may not have ability or funds to use computers, they may feel strongly disfranchised. **BM** suggested this is monitored. **Action:** **CE** suggested that this be agenda item for March meeting.

AV said Henfield has free laptops available through Henfield Community Partnership and lessons are offered on how to use them. **JW** said Henfield were donated number of computers from Steyning Grammar School. **JL** said Age UK Horsham is also holding computer courses for older people. **BM** mentioned there are facilities at the local library, but transport can be a problem.

CE referred to Silver Surfers at Forest School and mentioned a project called Rock IT based in Brighton and Hove, which was looking to extend across the district. Donated computers are refurbished and sold on. Young people were involved in refurbishing the computers, giving them experience and training.

JL mentioned Age UK Home Visiting Service. She was interested in looking at how they can make their service bigger, getting people connected in different ways.

11. Publicity Update

- **Parish Magazines**

CE commented new dates for SPC 2013 meetings were to go out to all PCs for inclusion in parish magazines. They would also be sent out via other media outlets.

- **HDC Older Persons Webpage**

See <http://www.horsham.gov.uk/community/3407.aspx>

12. SPC Member Update

All to inform **SG** of any amendments/additions to contact details.

13. Newsletters and Publications of interest to the SPC

None

14. Any Other Business

- **JL/BM** attended a presentation regarding Riverside Walk improvements last night.
- **LA** would like clarity on SPC Executive meeting dates. Action: **BM** to clarify.
- **BF** is a Saxon Weald tenant and came to meeting for help as he is experiencing problems with a neighbour. He has reported these to Saxon Weald, but received no positive response. **CE** suggested contacting the Anti Social Behaviour team, via contact Greg Charman, Community Safety Mgr at HDC. **RC** mentioned the Housing Transfer Directive from Central Government regarding 'undesirables' and suggested the need to highlight the situation and push to local PCSO/police and Environmental Health.
- **MT** enquired if **JL** would be attending future meetings – this was confirmed.
- **FH**, on behalf of **MM**, commented that WSCC is about to join the 'Think Jessica' Campaign with Sussex Police. This Campaign is about postal scams, where 7 in 10 older people are targeted. For more information log in to <http://www.thinkjessica.com/#>. Alternatively if anyone would like a hard copy of information contact **SG**.
- **FH** mentioned the All Party Parliamentary Group on Housing and Care for Older People, on how to build appropriate housing/help so people can stay in their own home over next 20 years. **FH** also referred to recommendations in HAPPI 1 and HAPPI 2. **Please find attachment which includes links to appropriate documents.

FH said charges are to be introduced for the Green Waste collection, which is free at the moment. This service would need to be for paid by Direct Debit/card payment and **FH** asked for any concerns about this. **BM** raised issue that some older people have just a 'basic' bank account and asked how this would work. **MT** said some people can't pay by card so shouldn't be made to do it this way, but **FH** confirmed payment will only be by Direct Debit/card payment and asked for feedback. **FH** said there is also option for having more than one bin but at an extra charge.

Following on from this **JL** referred to earlier item regarding vulnerability of older people and said this could discourage people from not keeping gardens tidy, showing the property is owned by a vulnerable person.

Cllr Andrew Baldwin is Cabinet Member with Responsibility for the Environment. **Action:** It was agreed **BM** write to Cllr Baldwin with SPC's concerns.

- **AG** said she has received telephone calls of a 'threatening nature', informing her that she needs a new computer as hers was affecting the neighbourhood. She felt able to deal with this, but said it could be a frightening experience for some older people.
BM also mentioned calls received, supposedly from the Pension Office, stating there is problem with their payment and asked for their date of birth. All are urged not to give any personal details over the phone and to report incidents to the Police, as they need this information to build intelligence/see trends.
MB said he had experienced problem with re directed mail, as he wrote 'RTS' on all mail for a deceased relative, but post office had redelivered it.

15. Dates of meetings for 2013

Thursday 14th March – Faygate Village Hall, Faygate

Thursday 20th June - Council Chambers 1 & 2, Billingshurst Conference Centre

Wednesday 11th September – Committee Room, The Steyning Centre

Tuesday 10th December – Large Hall, Ashington Community Centre