

Meeting of the Senior Persons' Council
on 11th September 2013
at the Steyning Centre, Steyning

NOTES

Attendees:	Barry Mursell (BM)	-	Chair, Broadbridge Heath
	Eva Matschy (EM)	-	Resident, Horsham
	Keith Barraclough (KB)	-	Resident, Billingshurst
	Lesley Ainslee (LA)	-	Resident, Henfield
	Betty Ogden (BO)	-	Resident, Henfield
	Peggy Weeks (PW)	-	Resident, Steyning
	Ann Gover (AG)	-	Resident, Warnham
	Judith Hollingdale (JH)	-	Resident, Henfield
	Janice Leeming (JL)	-	C Ex., Age UK Horsham District
	Andy West (AW)	-	Age UK Horsham District
Officers:	Clare Ebelewicz (CE)	-	Snr Youth & Older Persons Officer, HDC
	Shirley Gardner (SG)	-	Administrator, HDC
Cllrs:	Roger Clarke (RC)	-	Cllr, HDC
	Martin Bruton (MB)	-	Denne NC
	Paul Leaney (PL)	-	Billingshurst PC
	Martin Toomey (MT)	-	Steyning PC
Visitors:	Greg Charman (GC)	-	Community Safety Manager, HDC
	John McArther (JMc)	-	Street Scene Services Manager, HDC
	Jay Mead (JM)	-	Parking Operations Manager, HDC

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

2. Notes of the last meeting

- Are they correct record of meeting?

All agreed they were a correct record of the meeting.

- Progress against Action not elsewhere covered on the agenda.

None outstanding not elsewhere covered on agenda.

3. Matters Arising not elsewhere covered on the Agenda

None arising not elsewhere covered on the Agenda.

4. Correspondence received since last meeting

CE received letter from Sussex Community NHS Trust, who had previously given a presentation on their move to become a Foundation Trust. The letter enclosed a copy of their Annual Report and Financial Statement. Anyone who wishes to see this/requires a copy to let **CE** know.

5. Presentations from Guest Speakers

- HDC Community Safety – Greg Charman, Community Safety Manager, HDC

GC reported that part of his function as Community Safety Manager was to support the Community Safety Partnership (CSP). One of the CSP's roles is to decide what the annual community safety priorities were. **GC** commented that he would like closer links to the SPC, to develop work that relates to priorities pertinent to this group, and involve them in making older people safer.

In 1998, the Government ruled that the Police were no longer solely responsible for community safety, and said that they need to work together with other partners through CSPs.

GC explained the Horsham District CSP is made up of Horsham District and West Sussex County Councils, Sussex Police, Sussex Police Authority, West Sussex Primary Care Trust, West Sussex Fire and Rescue Service and Saxon Weald. Legal requirements are placed on CSPs, including the development of an annual Partnership Plan.

Data produced by the WSCC Insight Team is used for Partnership Plan to understand 'local picture' - this shows types of crimes occurring more commonly and therefore those needing focusing on. These focus areas are recognised in the Partnership Plan and 'tactical groups' deliver the work detailed in the Plan.

GC reassured Members that there was not a high level of crime seen in the Horsham District, but there is still need to improve community safety each year. Road accidents are more prevalent in this area than gun and knife crimes, with Horsham being the safest District in West Sussex for last 3/4 years.

Priorities of areas/crime types to focus on include:

- Anti Social Behaviour (ASB)
- Domestic burglary
- Improving road safety
- Better engagement and reassurance
- Repeat and vulnerable victims
- Violence.

Some of these areas 'cross over' with older people so it was hoped that a representative from the SPC would sit on the Older and Vulnerable Persons Tactical Group, chaired by **GC**.

GC commented that he was very interested in the SPC's target hardening work aiming to make people's homes safer, especially when living independently. He commented that the desire for practical measures (key safes, spy holes) were important and noted the SPC's approaches to HDC and local developers.

There was issue raised about communicating with older people, which alluded to messages delivered through Community Group regarding burglary/targeting bungalows with older people, and a need to communicate to people in properties how to make more secure.

Questions/Comments:

BM commented that developers he had spoken to had never been asked to include target hardening / home safety measures, so nothing happens. It was felt that planners need to involve developers on this.

MB asked if they made use of Neighbourhood Watch to communicate with older people. **GC** said key messages come out from Emma Atvarnieks at Horsham Police Station to Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinators and were circulated regularly. **MB** felt none of these key messages gave reassurances, but just covered the problems seen.

MB said there was the fear of fraud among older and vulnerable people, especially by being pushed into signing up to certain things and commented that 'No cold callers' signs were being ignored, especially by charities that seemed to think they didn't apply to them.

GC mentioned the 'Think Jessica' Campaign regarding fraudulent activity (see link <http://www.thinkjessica.com/>) and also the Fire Service's 'Who Cares' Campaign, running for the over 65s as this age group seen as most vulnerable.

MB said this information could be circulated through Neighbourhood Watch and added that leaflets would also be helpful. **Action:** **GC** to follow up.

GC left Partnership Plan copies to be circulated.

- HDC Parking Services - Johanna Mead & John McArthur from Parking Services at HDC.

JM and **JMc** gave detailed presentation on the Parking Services role at HDC.

A copy of their presentation is appended to these notes.

Questions/Comments:

One SPC member commented on disabled parking payment and felt, when contacting the department, there was no help forthcoming.

PL felt there is no forward planning for parking, adding that Billingshurst will see 475 new houses built and with 80% of Billingshurst residents already commuting to Horsham, Crawley, Gatwick and London, all park in railway station area.

KB asked if Shopmobility was still operating. **JMc** said the service was still there, adding it was a service being reliant on donations.

6. Reports from Members who have attended Events/Meetings on Behalf of the Senior Persons' Council

- Horsham Joint Action Group – Repeat and Vulnerable Victims: A special meeting with invitations extended to SPC and other relevant agencies held on 22nd August

MT attended meeting as an observer and was impressed by Police leadership of meeting, which involved bringing a range of organisations together and mapping information/services, which it is hoped would help the CSP in its work.

7. Update on Senior Persons' Council's Executive

- Action Plan – Update against Progress

No updates to report.

- Future of SPC

CE informed the group that she will be taking a year's sabbatical from 25th October, as she will be going to Swaziland to run charity that works with women and children with HIV/Aids.

As **CE** will be returning to HDC at the end of October 2014, there will be no direct replacement to cover her role. However, a number of arrangements with colleagues and partners have been put into place to ensure her work is maintained and protected. **JL** and **CE** had discussion regarding how to continue with the SPC.

JL said when she came into post 18 months ago she saw how important the SPC was and added that it was vital the SPC continued. Age UK want to continue with their support in whatever way needed to ensure this was the case in **CE**'s absence.

CE said, subject to group agreement, the result of this discussion was that her role in relation to the SPC will be covered by **JL**, who will continue to organise meetings, venues, agenda, speakers etc. HDC would continue to fund costs of refreshments and venues.

JL will cover the organisational element, with support from **SG** (whose role is largely the same) and hopes the relationship between SPC and Age UK develops further.

CE commented, as a group, the SPC was 'embedded in HDC' but this closer relationship with Age UK provided an opportunity for the SPC to link in with local and National Age UK campaigns/work.

All agreed with this proposal and **AG** thanked **CE** for all her previous hard work.

NB. For those 'on line' **CE** is setting up a 'blog' for anyone interested in following her activities during her year in Swaziland. Link is: cebelewicz.wordpress.com. There is also an invitation attached for farewell drinks on 25th October in B52s in Horsham.

8. Updates on Senior Persons' Council's Projects

No updates to report.

9. Updates on other organisations' Projects

- HDC

Older & Vulnerable Persons Tactical Group - SPC Representation

CE referred to the reference of the Older and Vulnerable Person in this year's CSP Partnership Plan, and reported that **GC** has set up an Older and Vulnerable Persons Tactical Group. This was a multi agency group, and therefore **CE** asked for 1 or 2 representatives from SPC to join this Group.

The first meeting looked at the 'Who Cares?' Campaign (please see below) and the next meeting will look at the 'Think Jessica' Campaign, which deals with fraud.

AG and **MT** will attend as representatives from SPC. **Action:** **SG/JL** to advise **GC** so they can be invited.

'Who Cares?' Campaign

This is a Fire Service campaign aimed at improving fire safety in homes of older and vulnerable people. The campaign follows recognition of greater numbers of fires in homes of this group. Individuals can self refer or be referred through agency and will receive a home fire safety check. **Action:** **GC** provided contact details of Richard Davy, Fire Service – email: Richard.Davy@westsussex.gov.uk.

SIWG 'Poverty Amongst Older People' Review

CE said the Social Inclusion Working Group, which is chaired by Cllr Rowbottom, was continuing with their review on issue of 'Poverty Amongst Older People' with next meeting to be held in the near future. **BM** to attend as witness on behalf of SPC.

Pride of Place

CE provided brief overview of campaign, and said Cllrs Rogers and Rowbottom had again written to Parish Councils to nominate an Advocate. A query was raised on whether any contact had been made with their

local SPC representative, or vice versa. **BM** said he had had contact with Advocate from Broadbridge Heath Parish Council and encouraged others to make contact with their local Parish Council.

- Horsham District Age UK

Results of Loneliness Research

JL had initiated piece of work with West Sussex Public Health Research Unit looking at loneliness and isolation in the Horsham District. The findings of this research were presented at an event on Tuesday 3rd September 2013 at the Drill Hall, Horsham, called 'Loneliness and Isolation and Local Older People: impact & solutions'. This was held from 10.00am - 2.00pm and included a number of presentations.

Conference considered how partnership can work together to tackle isolation and loneliness amongst older people. Copies of the research were circulated within the group. This research built upon initial work of SPC looking at realities of ageing in Horsham District.

Results from the research showed that nearly 20% of older people in the Horsham District describe themselves as lonely. This was said to be as bad on health as smoking 15 cigarettes a day.

Following this work £3,000 was received from Age UK for research to continue with partners, West Sussex Public Health Research Unit.

The summary clarified what people thought would help them. Local clubs or groups are felt to be needed rather than 'generalised' club, as there is need to cover issues common to local people, providing interests and opportunity to meet like minded people.

Things thought to help were: getting out and about, i.e. visiting hairdressers, going to park, gardening, listening to music, chatting etc.

Age UK Horsham District has long term Befriending Scheme, and this was now currently over subscribed.

Comments:

MT said people's interests relate to the individual/inter-personal relationships. Age UK is a useful area and Village Representatives can liaise with clubs and people to get people together rather than clubs.

JL said they hoped to pilot Village Agent Scheme in Horsham District. This would be based on a model that has worked in other parts of country, which directly employ local Village Agents. This will work at local level identifying people and linking them in to local services.

JL reported that funding had been secured to employ 1 Village Agent in Billingshurst and Shipley, as a pilot. **AW** to lead on this.

A joint HDC and Age UK piece of work was mapping where, across the district, there were schemes that meet all/some of the Village Agent Scheme objectives.

CE commented on the recruitment of a Senior Pastor for Steyning and Bramber & Beeding, employed by Baptist church in Beeding.

MB suggested postman could be important link and met some Village Agent Scheme objectives.

BO mentioned Henfield Befriending Service.

BM commented on subject of warden accommodation item featured in the recent 'Rip off Britain' programme - this discussed the prices people are paying to local authority for wardens, who are now 'roving'. People are feeling vulnerable due to change in role of warden scheme manager, which has seen change.

New Housing Options Advisor Project

AW reported on the new Housing Options Advisor role, which was a full time post, describing the role which included looking at housing options for older people. Highlighted project launch on 10th October at Lavinia House.

Remodelling Options for Day Services

JL said, in response to growing number of people wanting support, there are more days available at Lavinia House, as now had more support.

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

There were no updates to report.

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

- What issues would you like to highlight?

BO commented on issue of pensions, as she had been given various advice by DWP and the Government Pension Service. **CE** suggested Age UK as first contact point (01403 260560). **BO** also commented on level of pension, which was increasingly hard to live on. **CE** suggested **JL** might know of National Age UK campaign around pensions.

12. Publicity Update

- SPC 2013 Newsletter

CE said that last newsletter was produced by Ann Gover and Carol Duffy and asked for volunteers to produce 2013/14 edition. This newsletter should give overview of what the SPC is, it's activity in previous year and what has happened/been achieved. **CE** asked for volunteers to produce future copy. **MB** volunteered but second person needed.

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

This is regularly updated.

13. Senior Persons' Council – Member Update

Contact Details – any additions/amendments please let **SG** know.

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

There were none to report.

15. Any Other Business

- **AG** working with **GC** on Samaritans Awareness Week, which was 29/09/2013 – 05/10/2013. Samaritans will have an all day/each day presence in Swan Walk, Horsham. This is not for fund raising, but just bringing awareness to people.
- **KB** asked if there was list available of where disabled people can/cannot park. **JMc** said information is available but not easy to circulate, looking at range of ways to improve this. **KB** said there is a £1000 fine if someone is found to be using a disabled space but he objects to paying for parking when others are not.

- **MB** asked who looked after the SPC web page on Council website. **SG** to liaise with Oliver Collett.
- **EM** raised issue of proposed housing developments. **CE** said the SPC could invite Barbara Childs from Strategic Planning to attend a SPC meeting to talk about planning issues if wanted.
- **RC** highlighted Partridge Green Safety Day on Saturday.
- **CE said the District Council have previously funded transport to SPC meetings but will no longer able to do so. It was hoped that people could car / lift share.**
- **CE** said the Council is asking as many residents as possible to complete Residents Annual Survey, which can be found in the new Horsham District magazine due out this month. All were encouraged to complete and return.
- **CE** circulated a paper produced for Cllr Rogers' Members Advisory Group detailing Council facilities / services for older people.
- **BM** thanked **CE** for all her hard work for the SPC and on behalf of the group wished her well in her new venture.

16. Date of Future Meeting:

Tuesday 10th December 2013 – Large Hall, Ashington Community Centre

Dates of 2014 meetings to be arranged