

**Meeting of the Senior Persons' Council (SPC)**  
**on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> June 2014 at Southwater Leisure Centre**

**NOTES**

<b>Attendees:</b>	Barry Mursell ( <b>BM</b> )	-	Chair, Broadbridge Heath
	Paul Smith ( <b>PS</b> )	-	Vice Chair, Nuthurst
	Janice Leeming ( <b>JL</b> )	-	CEO, Age UK Horsham District
	Michael Jarvis ( <b>MJ</b> )	-	Resident, Forest Horsham
	Ann Gover ( <b>AG</b> )	-	Resident, Warnham
	Carole Duffy ( <b>CD</b> )	-	Resident, Horsham
	Margery Hewitt ( <b>MH</b> )	-	Resident, Rusper
	Keith Barraclough ( <b>KB</b> )	-	Resident, Billingshurst
	Frank Bockling ( <b>FB</b> )	-	Resident, Billingshurst
	Betty Ogden ( <b>BO</b> )	-	Resident, Henfield
	Lesley Ainslie ( <b>LA</b> )	-	Resident, Henfield
	Shirley Gardner ( <b>SG</b> )	-	Administrator, HDC
<b>Cllrs:</b>	Sue Rogers ( <b>SR</b> )	-	Cllr, HDC
	Brian Harvey ( <b>BH</b> )	-	Forest NC
	Martin Toomey ( <b>MT</b> )	-	Steyning PC
	Kate Rowbottom ( <b>KR</b> )	-	Cllr, HDC
<b>Visitors:</b>	Greg Charman ( <b>GC</b> )	-	Community Safety Mgr, HDC
	Andy West ( <b>AW</b> )	-	Home Services Mgr, Age UK Horsham District
<b>Apologies:</b>	Martin Bruton		Dot Davidson
	Connie Lucien		Shirley McCaig
<b>Resignations:</b>	Peggy Weeks		Douglas Banks

**1. Welcome, Introductions and apologies (inc. Member update):**

Apologies:

Dot Davison, Martin Bruton, Shirley McCaig and Connie Lucian

Resignations:

Peggy Weeks and Douglas Banks. Letters have been sent to Peggy and Douglas thanking them for their past support of the SPC.

**2. Notes of the last meeting:**

- Are they correct record of meeting?

All agreed they were a correct record of the meeting

- Progress against actions not elsewhere covered on the agenda

Pride of Place at Broadbridge Heath: The presentation prepared by **BM** and Terry Oliver has been seen by Broadbridge Heath PC – now waiting for S106 monies to come through from HDC. No other villages have taken part in this project.

**3. Matters arising:**

None.

#### 4. Presentations from guest speakers:

- Horsham District Council: Dementia Friendly Horsham District – Cllr Sue Rogers

This is an important piece of work but HDC will not be able to start this until later in the year, where the plan is to work closely with Jacqui Pond, from the Alzheimer's Society Dementia Action Alliance (DAA), towards a more dementia friendly district. Jacqui gave a presentation at the SPC December meeting.

The Ageing Population Members Advisory Group is keen HDC start this work, which will commence when Clare Ebelewicz returns in November. **SR** said she is committed to this and will keep us closely updated

A dementia event on 'Isolation and Loneliness' is being held in Steyning on 9<sup>th</sup> September. Anyone with anything to contribute to let **SR** know.

Representatives from the Senior Persons' Council are welcome to attend this event, although invitations have not yet been sent out. **AG** asked if a representative from The Samaritans will be invited, as their work includes those affected by loneliness and isolation. **SR** said there will be a restriction on size of event and she will take the suggestion to the Working Group, but it is just the practical work being done at the moment.

This is a small Working Group plus all local groups, to include people who are vulnerable or in vulnerable situation. Money is available to work on this agenda, so need to keep to groups involved.

**BM** asked about involvement of local businesses. As mentioned at previous presentation by Jacqui Pond, training was being made available for businesses.

- Horsham District Council: Community Safety Partnership & Priorities for Older People – Greg Charman

**GC** gave brief overview of the Community Safety Partnership & Priorities for Older People and explained that his role is two - fold; that of the Community Safety Manager, covering Anti- Social Behaviour, Wardens, Emergency Planning Mgr and also co-ordinating the work of the Community Safety Partnership.

From 1998 the Government required agencies to work together formerly to solve crime and disorder in communities. The Community Safety Partnership comprises the statutory representatives of police, district & county councils, fire & rescue, probation service and health. As the Partnership Plan is refreshed each year, the group come together to study data regarding HDC crime and disorder and to review problems for residents in the area. An action plan is then co-ordinated from the priorities and work is focused on these.

There are experts in each field of the action plan to lead and coordinate, and with these leads being held to account, at the end of each year a review is held and things not achieved are taken forward. Key partners rely on groups such as this to deliver and without these groups they couldn't achieve what they do. Among issues handled:

- An Older and Vulnerable Persons Group has been formed, as there was the realisation that older, vulnerable people are woven through all areas of the activities they deliver and there is need to reduce these vulnerabilities.
- 'Operation Signature' (previously Operation Jessica) which highlights and deals with 'scam mail'. Looking to reduce this fraud whether it is by email, postal mail or telephone and it is their job to make people aware of these things.
- The Horsham District Older Persons' Service Directory has just been refreshed and when printed copies will be issued to all members of the SPC.
- Worked with planners, guiding work in neighbourhoods, as their role is to make sure neighbourhoods are developed with older people in mind; managing Neighbourhood Warden programme.
- Burglary prevention – older people are targeted for variety of reasons and there is need to make

- homes and person safer.
- Older Drivers booklet developed, which focusses on things which can affect older drivers, as trend is seen of drivers of a 'certain age' involved in too many collisions.
- Shopwatch network. Businesses in town centre linked to each other for circulation of information - older people targeted as seen as softer target.
- Town Centre CCTV network.
- Communication – regular key messages circulated.

The role is seen as making sure people are made aware how to make and keep themselves safer.

Representatives from the Senior Persons' Council group were invited to attend the Older and Vulnerable Persons' group.

**GC** emphasised that we live in a very safe district with the lowest crime in West Sussex and with one of the lowest in the country and didn't want people to be in fear of going out. Their function is to get these messages out there through various ways.

**Questions/Comments were invited:**

**PS** mentioned that scams can change over time, as when one scam stops working it is changed, and asked if this was monitored.

**GC** mentioned the 'little book of big scams' and can get copy for everyone. This book refers to present scams but **GC** said there will always be new ways for scammers to defraud us.

**MT** asked if there was a central contact number for people who are victims of scams and asked what they should do about the various scams.

**GC** said the previously mentioned booklet lists different departments for each scam but if it is through a telephone call they should hang up and call 101, as the police are interested. There is a 'one stop' contact number for Action Fraud – 0300 123 2040, although the booklet lists individual numbers for each type of scam. **GC** informed the group that the 'Jessica Campaign' is now known as 'Operation Signature' by Sussex police.

The point was also raised that very few have access to the internet and liaison was arranged between **GC** and **PB** for information to be given to carers to take into homes.

**MJ** asked what sanctions they have as a group.

**GC** replied that it is set up so sanctions would be levelled at them if they don't perform, leading to Central Government taking action.

**KR** mentioned that there was back up in the form of the Scrutiny Crime and Disorder group as they are able to call in other groups.

**BM** mentioned road safety and asked if this included pavements? **GC** said the groups could look into this but if it involved potholes then WSCC would deal with this.

**MT** suggested this could be part of Pride of Place issue.

- Age UK Horsham District: Village Agent Service – Andy West

Apologies were received from Chloe Stubbs from Age UK Horsham District who is the new Village Agent for Rusper & Colgate and who has been in place for 6 weeks. An update on the Village Agent Service was given by Andy West, Home Services Manager for Age UK Horsham District, who manages the services which go into people's homes.

**AW** said that a number of years have been spent developing the Village Agent Project and this commenced in December with the appointment of Village Agent, Sondra Fullbrook, covering Billingshurst & Shipley. The Village Agent is seen as a champion of older people in the village, spreading word of their needs and encouraging other organisations to get together where there are gaps in local services. They are contracted to work 10 hrs per week, but these hours are often extended.

Sondra has been attending local groups, meeting approximately 500 people so far in the 6 months she has been in place. Many of these meetings have resulted from attending various areas i.e. Sheltered housing complex, St Marys group sessions, Community Centre and United Reform

Church.

9 care packages in place through Help at Home service; to help people in their own homes.

Untapped benefits of £22,915.88p have been found and claimed back.

Grant obtained via Housing Options Project for stair lift; through 'Home from Hospital scheme.

**Questions/comments were invited:**

**BM** asked about possible expansion into other villages. **AW** said this involved a mapping exercise and there would be evaluations in the next 2-3 weeks on how the Billingshurst project has worked. **JL** said the barrier against expansion is monetary and the hope is to put in a bid to lotteries, reaching the Communities Fund, and said that anything available to back this up would be helpful for putting together a good case.

**MT** mentioned the cascading of information and how to use the information received without breaching confidentiality. Sondra and Chloe are obtaining information when out and about and will check that it is OK to use this to get any help needed. Neighbourhood Warden in Steyning came up against the confidentiality issue, this can be a barrier.

All were requested to inform the Village Agent if they knew of anyone who was lonely or isolated, they will then be signposted.

**AW** to leave information.

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

**BM:** Pride of Place, previously raised - to follow up.

**MJ** and **CD** attended Horsham Town Community Partnership Project revamping Riverside Walk. Special event on 26<sup>th</sup> June 2014 where, although the walk covers the whole circuit, it is in small sections with transport to and from each section. **Action:** Email from Damian Brewer handed out.

**MJ** and his wife are going to a Seminar in East Grinstead on "Are Older People Getting Younger" and will report back at next meeting.

6. Future Topics and New Issues for Senior Persons' Council:

What issues would you like to highlight:

- **SG** raised issue of problems experienced with changes to the Meals on Wheels Service by the RVS and the negative impact felt - any information to **SG**.
- **KB** asked about the future of SPC executive and review of the constitution – to be taken up with new chair at next meeting.

What would you like to see at future meetings:

- Speaker from RVS regarding Meals on Wheels Service.
- Representative from Horizon Ward. **AG** said it was not widely known what services are available from Horizon Ward, the recovery ward at Horsham Hospital. **JL** mentioned prevention and assessment teams, falls team. **Action:** **SR** to contact hospital matron of Horizon Ward.
- Presentation on Dementia. **PB** asked about possible presentations on dementia and it was mentioned by members that, although there have been two presentations regarding this subject at previous meetings, it would be helpful to have the different stages explained, from nurses perhaps who deal with dementia on a daily basis. **PS** said it was not clear as to the difference between forgetfulness and dementia and an address to us on this subject would be helpful. **Action:** **PB** to do presentation on dementia and how to cope.
- A representative from Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) as concerns were raised about loan sharks and pay day loans companies. **PS** said CAB has much information on this. **Action:** Speaker to be arranged.

7. Chair Elections

**BM**, the present Chair of SPC, is to stand down at the end of this meeting due to other commitments. Martin Bruton (**MB**) was elected to stand for new Chair and in his absence **JL** read out nomination for **MB** and this was officially proposed by **LA** and endorsed by **BM**. **JL** then read out email from **MB** with his proposals (please see attached for information). There was a show of hands for support and all agreed. **PS** offered to continue as Vice Chair of SPC and as there were no objections, this was also agreed. **MJ** thanked **BM** for all his previous hard work for the SPC in all areas.

8. Any Other Business

**AG** raised issue of possible ways of increasing numbers of the Senior Persons' Council. More people from different villages and areas needed.

9. Close

Date of next meeting: Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> September at Pulborough Village Hall.