

Meeting of the Horsham District Older People's Forum
Tuesday 2nd June 2015 at Washington Village Hall, Dore Room

Notes

Attendees:	Martin Bruton (MB)	-	Chair, Denne NC & Horsham Resident
	Paul Smith (PS)	-	Vice Chair & Resident, Nuthurst
	Michael Jarvis (MJ)	-	Resident, Horsham Forest
	Keith Barraclough (KB)	-	Resident, Billingshurst
	Alf Goodchild (AG)	-	Resident, Horsham
	Eva Matschy (EM)	-	Resident, Horsham
	Carole Duffy (CD)	-	Resident, Horsham
	Ann Gover (AGov)	-	Resident, Warnham
	Brian Harvey (BH)	-	Resident, Horsham
	Eve Mauchel (EM)	-	Forest NC
	Paul Leavey (PL)	-	Billingshurst PC
	Lisa Boydell (LB)	-	Community Dev. & Engagement Mgr, HDC
	(Part of meeting)		
	Shirley Gardner (SG)	-	Administrator, HDC
Councillors:	Kate Rowbottom (KR)	-	Councillor, HDC
Guests:	Donna Bailey (DB)	-	Older People's Service Mgr, Impact Initiatives
Visitors:	Paul Johnson (PJ)	-	Steyning Good Neighbours Ass.
	Barbara Johnson (BJ)	-	Steyning Good Neighbours Ass.
	Lilian Bold (LBol)	-	Lay Rep. for Health & Horsham Resident
Apologies:	Lesley Ainslee	Betty Ogden	
	Connie Lucien	Shirley McCaig	
	Paul Marshall		

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

2. Notes of the last meeting on the 9th March 2015:

- Are they correct record of meeting?

Two issues were raised by **AG**:

- The omission of comments made by **CW** and **SWS**, who expressed concerns regarding road safety in Plummers Plain. **Action:** This has been rectified as an amendment to the notes (please see email of 02.06.15). **CW** has met with Andrew Moffatt, Chair of Horsham District NHW and is now the official NHW coordinator for Plummers Plain.
- Item 5 - The Constitution. The following comment was queried: "*After a full discussion on the revised version circulated today, it was proposed by **MB** and agreed by vote, that this latest version of the Constitution should stand at this point, to be updated at a further date if required.*" **AG** felt this was a misrepresentation of what had actually been agreed. This was discussed within the group who thought that the minutes were correct. **AG** requested that the Committee meet to discuss this and that they obtain the Constitution used by Mid Sussex OPC, discuss the Constitution and put to the OPF for full approval at the next meeting. **MB** pointed out that MSOPC was a registered charity and their Constitution would reflect that. **Action:** Committee meeting to be arranged following today's meeting. (This has been arranged for Friday 17th July at 1.30pm).

3. Matters Arising

- **MB** to write articles for local newspapers and contact local PCs for People's Champion. **Action:** To be done within the next three months.
- **MB** to meet with **JL** to discuss article for the Arun magazine **Action:** Meeting to be arranged.

4. Presentations from Guest Speakers:

- Neal Worth/Richard Davy, Road Safety Action Group: Older Drivers

Apologies have since been received from Richard Davy, Deputy District Commander, Central Group - West Sussex Fire and Rescue Service.

- Donna Bailey, Older People's Service Manager, Impact Initiative at Henfield Day Centre: New Activities and Services available

DB thanked the Forum for the invitation; explaining that Impact Initiatives is a Sussex based charity, supporting vulnerable people of all age groups across Sussex and has been running for over 35 years. The organisation runs a range of services to support vulnerable people of all ages across Sussex, including children, young adults and older people.

Within older people's services, there are 2 centres:

- Dingemans Centre and Café in Steyning. This is for people aged 55+ and open 4 days a week, being Tuesday, Wednesday, Saturday (lunch only) and Sunday (lunch only), offering lunches, activities, classes and trips.
- The St John's Centre and Café in Palmeira Square, Hove. For people aged 50+ and open 7 days a week. 600 people use the services at this centre, which include trips, pottery classes, bread making, yoga/tai chi and many more. This provides a place where people can go and retain independence, with the café being central to the service where people can just go for lunch or coffee.

WSCC run the Henfield Day Centre, for people living with dementia, which is currently open 3 days a week. The future of the centre was uncertain last year. Although numbers had reduced and it was not being utilised to full capacity, the Henfield Community Partnership (HCP) had the idea to retain the centre as an integral part of Henfield for local residents' use. HCP approached local providers, working with them to ascertain if there was interest in delivering services there, as it was thought to be a good resource to develop. WSCC is now in the process of transferring the building over to HCP with Impact Initiatives providing a 5 day a week service.

The centre will be modernised as it is out of date and extra work is going into this, making sure it is fit for purpose. It can also be available for hire by local organisations, making full use of the facilities.

DB said they will be working with local businesses, organising responsibility for fund raising for the centre over 3 years, and have met Proactive Care teams, linking up services within the area with the hope to increase referrals, offering a simple referral service.

The centre will be open 5 days a week, as opposed to the previous 3 days, providing support for people living with dementia and their carers, with a further 2 days for older people in general. There will be lunch provision, classes, trips etc. and the hope is for a weekend service, but this could be a couple of years away.

Support will be provided for 15 people living with dementia on 3 days, and for 20 people with general needs on remaining 2 days, with voluntary opportunities for up to 30 people.

Intergenerational work is carried out with students, who volunteer in all the centres.

DB said nearer the time they will be looking for referrals and welcomed suggestions. When the centre is open they need to have a core number of people.

Costs will be £41.00 – £45.00 per day and there will be help from Social Services and people coming through the council will be financially supported. There will be no change in the charge for current service users. Anyone from the local area is welcome but access may be a problem outside the area. It is hoped that the outcome will be that people will have somewhere to go, increasing physical and mental wellbeing.

There are still legal issues with WSCC to be dealt with but **DB** has requested that the opening date for the centre, which it is hoped will be at the end of December/beginning of January 2016, be put on the website.

MB asked **DB** for provisional opening date for putting on the HDOPF website.

(**JL** said it is hoped to roll out other clubs throughout the district and in addition to Henfield, there is an existing club in Storrington, with a further club to be opened in Slinfold in July.)

For information: There will be a Henfield Festival of Garden and Arts on 13th and 14th June. This will also include, for the first time, Henfield Day Centre.

DB said that they would be working with other providers at the new Henfield Centre including Action for Deafness and West Sussex Carers' Support.

Questions/Comments were welcomed:

KR queried the name of the centre. **DB** said it will be 'Henfield Haven', the name chosen by local residents and the HCP.

LBoI pointed out that there were a number of services available for people with dementia and the carers and it was stressed every effort should be made to avoid any clashing of days or services. There are many generic places but certain conditions need to be together, i.e. stroke/neurology etc and there needs to be more professional input rather than voluntary.

JL told the group about the two centres in Horsham; Lavinia House, which is open 7 days a week for people over 50 and the Suzanne Green Centre, for people with further or high level needs, which offers a 4 days a week service.

MB asked about the mini bus service and **JL** said the mini buses are leased to Horsham District Community Transport, which is a non-profit, independent charity based in Lavinia House. This service runs throughout the district.

DB said it is hoped the Henfield centre will have a mini bus service to pick up people from their home 5 days a week.

MB said he will ask each Parish Council whether they had an 'Older Peoples Champion and what agencies and services they have in their parish and if information was available. He would like to add this information to the website and make it available to HDC i.e. for adding to the Older Persons Directory. **LBoI** suggested that if there was no existing service, to check on what they would like.

Action: MB.

LBoI asked if the two organisations, Henfield Community Partnership (HCP) and Age UK Horsham District, were aware of the services each provides. **JL** said the HCP was approached when Age UK Horsham District were putting their services together and HCP were already opening their rural dementia services, so there is need to make sure there isn't a clash or duplication of services.

It was requested a representative from Health & Wellbeing be invited to a future meeting and **DB** suggested Susie Neve. **Action: LBoI** to arrange.

DB asked to attend the September meeting to give update on the new centre. **Action: Item** for next meeting agenda.

5. Promoting the HDOPF and keeping it going between meetings

- Finding new 'Supporters' / Future of HDOPF /Promoting the HDOPC through its website/Facebook page/ event stands/local publicity etc.

Suggestions were put forward on promoting and keeping the HDOPF going between meetings as follows:

- **BH:** Articles in WSCT, Horsham District News, Holbrook Pages and All About Horsham magazines and fliers.
- **PL/DB/PS:** Local/Parish magazines.
- **MB:** Twitter, email. Ask people if they would be willing to receive emails about HDOPF.
- **LBol:** Practice managers GP surgeries, Connexions newspaper, send notes to editors of parish magazines.
- **JL:** Age UK Horsham District magazine, The Arun.
- **KR:** Online magazine in Henfield called BN5.
- **AGov:** Use of media technology, exchange of notes with Parish Councils, request members of Parish or Neighbourhood councils highlights the OPF.
- **MJ:** Attend PC meetings – can be brought up under 'Any Other Business'.

AGov felt that much was only highlighting the Horsham area, not outlying districts, and said we need to target outside parishes, as the feeling was that we are not reaching people in rural areas who may not always be on email and are very isolated. **KR** agreed that there were gaps in rural areas.

AGov also queried print costs and the distribution of information and suggested trying for sponsorship. **MB** said we nominally have up to £500 by way of grant from HDC which pays for the hire of the rooms for these meetings. This could also be used for other admin purposes such as printing, but if we were to actually take that money it means we have to appoint a Treasurer and open a bank account etc. **MB** did not think that the HDOPF was in a position to do that at present.

JL asked the Forum to be aware that Age UK Horsham District are developing their three year plan as a charity, and would like to know what people think the priorities are for people in later life in the district. **LBol** said perhaps concentration should centre on the Care Act.

JL asked to attend meeting in September. **Action: MB** to itemise on agenda.

- Steering Committee

AG asked for date for the Committee to meet. (This has been arranged for Friday 17th July at 1.30pm at HDC Parkside offices).

6. Future topics

- What would you like to happen at future meetings?

KR: Due to absence of the 'Road Safety Action' invitee, she would like invitation extended to a future meeting.

MB: Has made contact with the office of Jeremy Quinn MP, who is available for Friday meetings only so is tentatively booking for March 2016. **JL** said Jeremy Quinn has signed up as Age Champion with Age UK.

KB: Asked for representative from Community Link Alarms.

LBol: Suggested representative from Sussex Community Trust.

September meeting issues:

MB was elected as Chair last year with **PS** voted as Vice Chair. All were asked if they were happy for both to carry on until the September meeting. All agreed and after debate on whether there needed to be an AGM, **KR** suggested designating first half hour as AGM and election of Chair for 2015/16 to be itemised on agenda. This was agreed.

7. Any Other Business

MJ expressed his concern at the path he felt the Forum was taking. He felt it was moving towards bureaucracy and queried what the group saw their function as being. He sees it as a channel, receiving information from various sources and then responsible for relaying this information to relevant people/groups. **MB** said that he thought that the Forum was a consultative body consisting of older people in the District, who could be consulted by agencies and bodies, i.e. HDC & WSCC, when considering plans or policies that affected older people. The Forum, he agreed, could also act as a disseminator of useful and relevant information. He believed that with the growing numbers of older people that the need for the Forum and its relevance was growing. He wanted to get as many people involved with the Forum as possible, hence the initiatives with the press, website, Facebook, newsletters, email etc.

MJ asked the group how many actually attended PC or NH meetings – this would let them know we are here. **PL** said people don't always come to local meetings and they can only do what people ask for.

BH raised the issue of future expenditure of the OPF and all are referred to earlier comments in Item 5.

JL gave update on Age UK Forum. Each year International Older People's Day is held on 1st October in the Drill Hall. Last year, in the Horsham District, the subject covered 'Loneliness and Isolation' and this year it is hoped to be a 'Celebration of Later Life in the District', regarding the challenges of an ageing population and what can be done.

There is a large amount of community spirit and activity created by older people in the district, and this needs to be celebrated and recognised. There will be lunch available and all are welcome. **JL** said since the idea has been raised, many people have come forward with anecdotes and she thought it may be an opportunity to publish these, and asked for any ideas and contributions.

JL will forward information regarding the Suzanne Green Open Day on 8th June, which will celebrate the life of Suzanne Green, the original funder of centre and also the October event, to **SG** - to go out before end of week. **Action:** Information received and **SG** circulated Tuesday 2nd June.

JL said Suzanne Green Centre in Horsham has vacancies at the moment and Lavinia House also has vacancies for anyone needing support for one day a week. There is also the Phoenix Stroke club in Horsham, based in the Forest Boys School.

KR said she would be pleased to talk at the October event and **DB** also offered to talk on the volunteering opportunities with Impact Initiatives.

BH requested a copy of the Horsham District Older People's Directory. **Action:** **SG** to process – copy has been sent out.

MB asked if everyone was still in agreement with holding the meetings at different venues around the district and all confirmed they were happy with this arrangement.

There is also now an updated email address for the Horsham District Older People's Forum as follows: horshamolderpeoplesforum@gmail.com.

8. Close of meeting:

Date and location of 2015 meetings:

Wednesday 9th September - Rudgwick Village Hall

Thursday 10th December - Partridge Green, St Michael's Church Room