

SENIOR PERSON'S COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON TUESDAY 7TH DECEMBER 2010 AT 10.30AM AT
LOWER BEEDING VILLAGE HALL, LOWER BEEDING, WEST SUSSEX

NOTES

Attendees:	Barry Mursell	BM	-	Chair, Broadbridge Heath
	Frank Bockling	FB	-	Ass. Chair, Billingshurst
	Claire Ebelewicz	CE	-	Snr Youth & Older Persons Officer, HDC
	Bernard Baldwin	BB	-	Chief Officer, Age Concern Horsham District
	Garry Mortimer Cooke	GMC	-	Town Centre Mgr, HDC (part of mtg)
	Paul Smith	PS	-	Resident, Copsale
	Richard Aris	RA	-	Resident, Roffey
	Carole Arendt	CA	-	Visitor
	Keith Barraclough	KB	-	Resident, Billingshurst
	Judith Hollingdale	JH	-	Resident, Henfield
	Lesley Ainslie	LA	-	W.I. Henfield
	Carole Duffy	CaD	-	Resident, Horsham
	Chris Duffy	ChD	-	Resident, Horsham
	Bryan Sunderland	BS	-	Resident, Southwater
	Terry Oliver	TO	-	Cllr, Broadbridge Heath PC
	Michael Jarvis	MJ	-	Horsham Forest
	Mrs Lyn Rose	LR	-	Cllr, Nuthurst PC

Apologies: Connie Lucien
Carol Stokes
Ted Jones
Peggy Weeks
Jean Reeve

1. Welcome, introductions and apologies
2. Notes of meeting held on 1st September and matters arising

CE stated that we were waiting for a copy of the notes of the previous meeting held on 1st September but **MJ** produced a copy he had received. **CE** will scan these and circulate to members of the group. This will mean agreeing both sets of notes at the next meeting. No matters arising.

3. Correspondence received since last meeting

None.

4. Presentation from guest speaker

Garry Mortimer-Cook (**GMC**) - HDC Town Centres Mgr gave a progress update since his presentation at SPC meeting on 8th September:

- Concerns had been expressed by members prior to the last meeting regarding the number and placement of 'A' Boards in the town centre and

requests were made for the Council to resolve this issue. **GMC** had outlined a proposed trial scheme to control the A Boards which members had supported subject to the administrative and cost burden on the businesses being kept to a minimum.

- **GMC** asked for feedback on any differences which have been seen since then and said that the boards need to be placed directly in front of the business in question or in the Carfax, on a smooth surface on one level, adjacent to shop front 2 metres away.
- **GMC** reported that the trial scheme had been implemented since the middle of the year on behalf of WSCC Highways (the County Council is the primary authority for the highway and a pavement is still classed as the highway) and had resulted in around 70 licences being issued. Each business had agreed to meet conditions in terms of where the A boards were placed, their safety and had provided evidence of current Public Liability Insurance. Up to this point the licences had been issued free of charge.
- Each licensed business displays an A 'sticker' in their window and their boards are limited to one per business directly in front of their premises. Some businesses would want to make a case for displays remote to their premises and a process has been identified for considering these.
- Implementation had been effected with the assistance of the HDC Street Scene Team and proved very time consuming. As a result the trial, although initially just for 6 months, has been extended while WSCC and HDC considered how the scheme could be continued and what administration cost. Any fee that would be levied on businesses would be relatively small and in direct relation to the cost of maintaining the scheme.
- **GMC** said he would appreciate any feedback on the impact of the scheme on the street scene and the group's original concerns.
- **BM** said he had noticed less in way of obstructions away from buildings. Regarding the administration cost, the Council didn't want any additional financial burden on shops and costs needed to be kept to a minimum for businesses. The question was asked whether there was any chance of the scheme being extended to District towns and villages. **GMC** said he had spoken to Matt Starling of WSCC who as the original architect of the scheme was working on a report at the moment which, if accepted, may pave the way for the scheme to be adopted throughout the county. HDC can provide any parish or local town with terms and conditions - but it does take time, including administration, to establish and run it. It is unlikely HDC will be able to implement it themselves throughout the District.
- **MJ** made comment on 'A boards' which are adjacent to a property and, using last week as an example with the covering of snow, said that when there has been no clearance, people are unable to walk next to the buildings and have to walk out onto the snow. **BM** said there needs to be a standard agreement so disabled groups know they need to walk 2-3 ft out and then this would be OK.

- **GMC** said that unfortunately there was no perfect solution and the consensus is that it will stay as 'adjacent with shop front' **TO** thought the scheme was a good idea and made the suggestion of having an advisory note displayed by shopkeepers in the event of adverse/severe weather conditions e.g. snow and ice and **GMC** agreed.
- **RA** said that small businesses belong to small associations and **GMC** said that the representation amongst retailers was not good as many businesses displaying boards are big businesses and not part of a trade association. **RA** made the suggestion of 'putting the ball in their court' to some extent and **GMC** said that although a voluntary scheme would be ideal, it had been proven not to work with any consistent effect such is the mixture of businesses.
- **MJ** referred to the uncertainty regarding parked cars etc in East Street. **GMC** said that the East Street set up is result of 7-8 years of work and people are aware that before this trial was put in place there was a full road closure between 10.30am – 4.00pm. Most businesses were in favour but two ends of the street raised petitions against each other, which made it difficult implementing scheme, and there were some unresolved objections that lead to the compromise that is now in operation. The shared space scheme in place gives access only for delivery vehicles and disabled parking in designated areas and also space in the scope of the scheme for limited tables and chairs for restaurants. The County Council has agreed to receive a report, next spring or possibly June, with feedback from businesses and the public on how the street is working and any proposals for its further operational improvement. There is a great deal of support and a desire for the street to be closed at core times either day or evening but the shops not having rear access are expected to object to any new proposal for street closure in the daytime. Such objections would require a public enquiry to consider and closure – the cost of which would fall to the Councils and was therefore unlikely. **GMC** invited the group to submit any feedback on the street's operations to HDC's engineers, Bob Sinclair or Nigel Weston, which they can include in the report being prepared.
- **CA** has used and has appreciation of being able to park in East Street and sympathises with business having problems. People who use the seating are not aware disabled drivers can drive down this street.
- **CD** asked if there was any signage in the street to show who can use it and who can't. **GMC** confirmed there was but that it can sometimes be missed, so the abuse of East Street continues to be a problem, although the street furniture has been placed deliberately to slow the traffic down. **TO** said that in Germany there is a standard sign stating 'mixed usage area' and **GMC** said after the hard work put into this scheme there was the wish not to have clutter/rubbish in the area and they are still looking for a solution.
- **FB** asked if it was possible for delivery drivers to make their deliveries early in morning. There is an area in Guildford which only allows early morning deliveries up to 9.00am. **GMC** thought this a good point and as businesses meet regularly and are very active it may be a good idea to emphasis about deliveries at the next meeting of the 'Quarter Traders

Group' (**GMC** pointed out, in case people were unaware, that this area is called 'The Quarter').

5. Reports from members who have attended Events/Meetings on behalf of the Senior Persons' Council

HDCP Annual Conference on 2nd December:

- Postponed due to adverse weather conditions. **CE** to advise Council members of new arrangements for the conference when these are available.

Preparing for an Ageing Population (PfaAP):

- **BM** and **MS** attended a meeting in September to support the development of a PfaAP strategy for Horsham District Council, to supersede Horsham District Council's Older Persons Strategy. The draft strategy is out for consultation, which **CE** circulated. Members are asked to read and come back with any comments by 28th January. The Strategy will be considered by Cabinet on 24th March (put back from 25th November).

The strategy sets the direction for the next five years; annual action plans are to follow - **CE** would welcome any comments from this draft.

- **CA** commented that not all people have a computer and felt that older people are discriminated against in this respect. **CE** said that this issue is recognised in the draft strategy. **CA** also expressed concerns that she had heard that after the New Year cheque books will disappear and queried what would happen to elderly people then? **BM** said that this was not a local issue and is out of our hands - anyone with a concern regarding this issue should lobby their local MP. **CA** asked if there would be the opportunity for having a clinic for the over 50s, to discuss 'getting old'. **BB** took up this query and replied that although there is no clinic, Age Concern deal with these problems daily and gave **CA** the opportunity of joining that or other relevant organisations.
- **CE** reiterated that any comments/suggestions be brought to the next meeting.

6. Updates on Senior Persons Council Projects

Christmas lunch and Entertainment for Vulnerable Older People:

- **BM** and **FB** had a meeting with people from the HYPER (Horsham Youth Council) and the suggestion was put forward about the possibility of doing something for lonely/vulnerable people at Christmas. **BB** said that there is provision for lunch on 29th December from 10.00am – 4.00pm at Lavinia House, in partnership with Age Concern who is already providing lunch. Age Concern is closed for a two week period over Christmas but opening for one day for this lunch. Volunteers from the Youth Council are to provide the entertainment. **BB** asked for any volunteers from the group to assist. Everyone is invited.
- **BM, LA, Ca&ChD** and **FB** have volunteered their services.

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

- Preparing for an Ageing Population Consultation Strategy: **CE** - covered.

Pharmaceuticals Needs Assessment: **MJ** was on the panel for the WSPCT Steering Group. Regulations introduced by the last government require all Primary Care Trusts (PCTs) to publish a Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (PNA) by 1st Feb, 2011. The West Sussex PNA looks at the pharmaceutical services available to people in West Sussex and how they might be developed in the future. Each PCT worked independently, although exchange of ideas naturally occurred within the NHS. **MJ** referred to the draft report, which had been circulated to some Members by email. It was 80 pages long. The consultation period ended yesterday

- Older People in Homecare and Human Rights Inquiry: **CE** explained that the Equality and Human Rights Commission was undertaking an Inquiry into the protection and promotion of human rights of older people in England who require or receive home-based care and support. Copies can go out if requested as it is not possible to do as a group. **BM** invited anyone who wants to comment on this to see **CE**.
- Changes to adults' social care: **CE** reported that Adult Social Care is run by WSCC. WSCC are looking to provide good support for people who are most in need but they are under pressure to reduce their spending. West Sussex is now one of only 26% of English councils who continue to meet moderate, substantial and critical needs. 70% of other councils have set their level for funded services at substantial and critical. The rest have set theirs at critical only. A consultation on changes to eligibility levels (threshold) for adults receiving social care support runs from 25 November 2010 to 3 February 2011. It was suggested that a small group be brought together to look at and feed in comments which should be forwarded to WSCC. **BM** once again asked for volunteers for anyone wanting to be involved in this - **FB**, **CD** and **RA** put forward their names. **CE** to arrange.

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

- **PS** raised an agenda issue and said he is aware that whilst the issues in relation to men are being addressed e.g. cooking - which covers a significant proportion of older men - there is one issue in relation to older women which he feels could be addressed and this is on financial matters. Some older women have never been familiar with financial matters, because their husband has taken care of such matters. **BM** agreed with this. As classes for cooking had been held, is it now a chance to hold classes for women on financial matters? **CE** said that this had been a Horsham Partnership for Older People (HPOP) project, but the Team had been unable to make this happen before the end of the HPOP project at the end of September. We are now in a transitional period, with the development of PfaAP. This could be included in a PfaAP action plan.
- **CA** brought up the issue of snow and older people. With the contacting of vulnerable people last week by the Community Link Alarm (during the bad weather), it was pointed out that this only captured users of the alarm

system. **CE** commented that Horsham District Council was working with Parish Councils to identify all vulnerable people in their parishes.

- **TO** congratulated Horsham District Council on their efforts in the adverse weather conditions – this was noted at last night's Parish Council meeting. However, **TO** commented that the parish plan was activated.
- **LR** said Nuthurst parish's emergency plan was not activated.
- **BB** commented that he and his team called all Age Concern clients to check they were ok, with additional calls to the more vulnerable.
CE said she went out with the team clearing parts of the district; it was difficult to judge where the stop and start clearing points were.
It was suggested more support could be sought locally.

9. BIOPICC – Built Infrastructure for Older People in Conditions of Climate Change

- **CE** reported on the BIOPICCC project, by Durham University: Due to global climate change it is expected that there will be more storms, floods and heat waves in Britain in future. These can have serious effects on the services, buildings, and communication routes that are important for health and social care of older people. There is a need to understand how we can keep the most crucial parts of the system running effectively. The project will develop strategies to help ensure that the infrastructures and systems supporting the health and social care for older will be sufficiently resilient to withstand harmful impacts of climate change in the future, up to 2050. Durham University will map those parts of Britain which have large numbers of older people and are likely to be most affected by storms, floods and heat waves. From these areas they will select a small number of case study areas where they will ask older people and their carers, including family and friends, and professional carers in health and social services about the services that are important to them. Durham University will also discuss key parts of local systems for care of older people with other experts such as highway engineers, hospital estates staff, etc.
- The project kicks off tomorrow with a meeting between WSCC, HDC & Durham University. **CE** was contacted for expressions of interest in this project, with the result that Horsham District was put forward and selected. Horsham District is one of the two case study areas selected by the Durham University.

10. Saxon Weald Active Citizens Day (21st May)

- This event is cancelled.

11. Publicity Update

- **New Leaflet**
CE said she was updating the SPC publicity to include 2011 meeting dates. These will be circulated to doctors' surgeries and also to Parish Councils etc. **CE** will also arrange for with press release to be issued.
- The Horsham District News magazine goes to all households in Horsham District so is be good opportunity to promote SPC. **CE** to include article. There is normally a page dedicated to older people. If anyone has any ideas for stories should be in by 16th December. (100 words max with picture).

- Newsletter
CE commented that the next edition of the annual SPC news letter was due in the New Year. **CE** already spoken to **BM** about a Chairman's foreword. **CE** gave quick overview of content of MSDC Older Persons' Forum newsletter. Last year the information was just from **CE's** perspective but it was felt it would be better written by members of the SPC rather than just **CE**. It would be good to have input/ideas from members. Articles to be written and sent to **CE** in advance of the next meeting (21.01.11) and any items need to be in by then, to print at end of January. **CE** asked for any contributions and the following were offered:
 - **BS** on the PfaAP consultation
 - **CD** on Life is for Living
 - **FB** on intergenerational activities
 - **BM** on Chairman's Foreword
 - **MJ** on PNA.

12. Senior Persons' Council Update

- No change.

13. Any Other Business

- DropBy – <http://www.dropby.co.uk/>
 This is a new website for over 60s and is a version of Facebook.
- LaterLife Newsletter
CE - November copy was circulated with agenda for this meeting. It included headlines from the Government spending review in relation to older people and other news on opening of new charities, post offices etc., talking mats, tackling isolation and loneliness.

14. Round the table AOB

- **BM** commented that Nick Herbert, Minister of State (Police) was attending January meeting of SPC. **BM** encouraged members to think of questions to ask the MP. A lot of questions about health were directed towards Francis Maude. **BM** suggested avoiding this subject.
- **MJ** to ask the MP what the new Government are going to do about pharmaceuticals at next meeting in January.
- **RA** said he is a qualified 'Adult Learning with Difficulties' tutor although he is not tutoring at moment. It had previously become clear that many students (young adults with ages through 20s & 30s with little or no education as such) were only receiving education at that age because of a ruling by Court of Human Rights which stated that they should receive education, although this only amounted to 4hours per week. The reason for this ruling being that their education comes under health authorities and not education authorities. **RA** said he was raising this point with the Council as an example of Government cuts hitting vulnerable people and wanted to bring it to the attention of everyone that the more independent we can make these people the better.
- **RA** said he now has a personal website and circulated his card. He invited contributions of articles of interest, which can be an article or

suggestion for a subject he can write about. This is a personal website with a mixture of different items on; 'how to do' hints/suggestions/ opinions/ pages of photos/adverts etc.

Website address: www.richards-webpages.co.uk

- **CA** raised the subject of being prescribed excess tablets/medication on prescriptions and the wastage involved. She asked why the patient couldn't be given an initial small quantity, with the balance being kept 'on hold'. **CA** asked all who can to follow this example as it would save much time and money. **CA** mentioned to her chemist thought this a good idea. **JH** agreed about the tablets/medication item. **MJ** said he would pick up at his next Pharmacy meeting. **BM** suggested inviting someone from pharmacy section of NHS to come to next or a future meeting. **MJ** to follow up.
- **KB** pointed out that on a recent letter it was noted that it still showed Chris Dier on the letterhead and needs updating. **CE** to action.
- **LA** - Life is for Living event was well received and asked if this was being held again next year **CE** said there is a small budget for this and, although not something we may be able to sustain indefinitely, Horsham District Council hopes to run next year's event as the feedback was very positive. **CE** suggested LIFL could be an agenda item for future meeting. **CE** was querying whether the event is reaching the most vulnerable people in district or only people who can get there to the venue and therefore active people. All to bring ideas for next meeting.
- **CaD** asked about meeting dates and venues. See below.

14. Dates of future meetings - 2011

- Friday 21st January at Henfield Village Hall
- Monday 14th March at Washington Village Hall
- Wednesday 15th June at St Michael's Church Room, Partridge Green
- Thursday 15th September at Rudgwick Village Hall
- December meeting TBA

Speakers who were unable to attend the meeting of 7th December would be invited on various future dates.

Meeting closed at 12.05pm