

MEETING OF THE SENIOR PERSONS' COUNCIL ON 15th JUNE 2011
AT ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH ROOM, PARTRIDGE GREEN

NOTES

Attendees:	Barry Mursell	(BM)	-	Chair, Broadbridge Heath
	Bernard Baldwin	(BB)	-	Age UK, Horsham District
	Sean McCrumlish		-	Age UK, Horsham District
	Frank Bockling	(FB)	-	Vice Chair, Billingshurst
	Betty Ogden	(BO)	-	Henfield W.I.
	Eva Matchsy	(EM)	-	Resident, Forest
	Peggy Weeks	(PW)	-	Resident, Steyning
	Paul Smith	(PS)	-	Resident, Copsale
	Carole Arendt	(CA)	-	Resident, Southwater
	Richard Aris	(RA)	-	Resident, Roffey
	Ann Gover	(AG)	-	Resident, Warnham
	Keith Barraclough	(KB)	-	Resident, Billingshurst
	Dot Davidson	(DD)	-	Resident, Mannings Heath
	Judith Hollingdale		-	Resident, Henfield
	Robert Harari	(RH)	-	West Sussex Mediation Service
	Mig Cutbush	(MC)	-	Resident, Cowfold
	Carol Duffy	(CD)	-	Resident, Horsham
Chris Duffy	(ChD)	-	Resident, Horsham	
Pat Dean	(PD)	-	Resident, Upper Beeding	
Officers:	Clare Ebelewicz	(CE)	-	Snr Yth and Older Person's Officer, HDC
	Sheila Peever	(SP)	-	Mgr, Community Link HDC
	Shirley Gardner	(SG)	-	Admin, HDC
Councillors:	Roger Arthur	(Cllr RA)	-	Cabinet Member for Safer & Healthier District
	Brian Harvey	(BH)	-	Forest Neighbourhood Council
	Terry Oliver	(TO)	-	Broadbridge Heath PC
	Ken Longhurst	(KL)	-	Billingshurst PC
	Paul Leaney	(PL)	-	Billingshurst PC
Visitors:	CI Mark Trimmer	(MK)	-	District Commander, Sussex Police
	Julie Chatburn/ Pauline Newby	(JC) (PN)	-	South East Driveability
Apologies:	Lesley Ainslee	Jean Reeves	Cllr	Barbara Varley
	Michael Jarvis	Margery Hewitt	Cllr	Claire Vickers
	Bryan Sunderland	Audrey Beagley	Cllr	Andrew Dunlop
	Gladys Andrews	Joyce Narborough	Cllr	Pat Arculus

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

BM extended a welcome to Cllrs Ken Longhurst and Paul Leaney who are the new Parish Council representatives for Billingshurst, and also to Cllr Roger Arthur, Cabinet Member for a Safer & Healthier District.

2. Notes of meeting held on 14th March 2011

Are they correct record of meeting? Matters Arising / Progress against Action not elsewhere covered on the agenda.

- ❖ **Item 4 – Presentation on West Sussex Mediation Service.** RH pointed out that third paragraph should state: ‘On average there are two mediations per mediator per month’.
- ❖ **Item 5 – Reports from Members who have attended Events/Mtgs on behalf of the SPC.** DD corrected fourth paragraph which should state ‘BS thanked those who did attend for their support, including RA, CD and DD’.

After noting these two corrections all agreed they were correct record of meeting.

3. Correspondence received since last meeting

- ❖ Letters to Parish Councils regarding Parish Plans

CE

BM has written to 5 Parish Councils; Ashurst, Billingshurst, Colgate, Shipley and Southwater regarding the recognition of older people in their Parish Plans. These are the first of the Parish Councils to be contacted and it will be done in tranches with BM writing to all PCs in the Horsham District. To date we have received a holding letter from Ashurst stating the letter would be under consideration at next meeting; a reply from Colgate stating their proposed actions; a letter from Southwater received two days ago; there has been no response from Shipley. BM and CE attended a meeting with Billingshurst PC two weeks ago. KL was of the opinion that he thought it had gone well; it was felt that the message was well received in this parish. CE said the correspondence with parish clerk Beverley Bell was both useful and positive with shared ideas on how the SPC could support Billingshurst parish. PL said the Parish Council always had a good presentation from FB on the SPC. BM said he felt there was always a focus on youth and emphasised the SPC did not want things to be taken away from youth – the SPC would just like to see a balance and see the content of parish plans moving away from the bias towards youth and reflect older people. If anyone would like to see the replies, please contact CE.

It was agreed that, as a SPC, we must get the message across that we would want to support all parish councils. BM said he wanted to introduce the parish councils to their local members of the SPC.

RA asked what actions the SPC are expecting from the parish councils and BM replied that we would like to know what they propose to do for older people - to bring a balance between youth and older people.

4. Presentations From Guest Speakers

- ❖ Amanda Waring: Campaigning for the Elderly. BM introduced AW, stating that her website had brought this campaign to his attention.

AW

AW informed everyone that in addition to being a working actress her interest moved into the care of the elderly after witnessing the illness of her mother, actress Dorothy Tutin, who suffered from leukaemia and died in 2001. Through her mother’s treatment AW saw a lack of care, compassion and communication with the elderly patients in some hospitals and, after a negative experience in her first hospital, an alternative was found for her mother. This provided good medical and emotional care, both of which are of prime importance; it was found that the McMillan nurses redressed the balance of care.

AW decided to raise awareness of the issues through the production of short films and she made the first 10 minute film in 2005, called ‘*What do you see*. This covered the story of a woman following a stroke, who cannot speak. Since this time, 1,000 copies have been sold, with it being used as a working tool in some care homes where there has been found

to be a lack of care.

Following this came a second 6 minute film covering the area of transition into care homes entitled '*Home*'. This shows the perspective of the older person, especially those suffering with dementia; it has been used worldwide. A training pack was also written tackling ageism. This covers 10 steps of training and is used by hospitals, care homes and prisons. It is supported and followed closely by the Government.

A third film was produced on end of life care. '*The Big Adventure*' opens up and guides people through the whole subject. Finally came a last film, entitled '*No regrets*', concerning caring, grieving and dying. The emphasis being 'not leaving it too late to talk'.

These films are used as part of team building and training within care homes, to raise awareness of all steps in older person care by giving respect and dignity back into level of care. Morale of staff can be a problem but **AW** said only as individuals can we make people understand how to treat the older person and there is the need for us to stand up for ourselves.

BM told **AW** that the SPC group would be happy to help and provide support in any way needed and invited **AW** to contact **CE**.

❖ Horsham District Police Commander, Chief Inspector Mark Trimmer

**CInsp
MT**

MT introduced himself as the Chief Inspector and District Commander for the whole of the Horsham District and outlined the changes and targets since April 1st 2011 as follows:

Crime in West Sussex has reduced since he has been in post by 12% in the first year and 4% in the second year.

Horsham is a very low crime area, seeing a reduction last year in the town centre and outlying villages, and is perceived as a safe area to live.

Six districts cover West Sussex and a district bias is retained with each having a District Commander responsible for district policing. With creation of 'Hubs' including CID and investigation based custody centres, **MT** emphasised that with district based response staff there should be no reduction in the 999 service; response will always be good. Investigations within the 'Hubs' will be more professional and quicker; they will deal with and investigate crime whereas previously they would respond and investigate.

Neighbourhood policing is still active in Pulborough and Steyning, and PCs and PCSOs will remain.

MT explained he needed to work to a local policing plan, which is measured each year.

More crimes are being dealt with using community resolution

MT commented that to reduce Anti Social Behaviour (ASB), there is a need to look at the person, location and the environment.

MT referred to a 5% reduction seen in ASB crime and 15% criminal damage. Solving of crime involving injury/violence is 52% which is above the target of 50%; this last includes domestic violence. 85% are satisfied with current action. 'Hubs' can further improve the satisfaction levels by keeping people informed.

Domestic Violence (DV) leaflets are distributed to encourage more reporting and each

morning all domestic incidents are classified into medium/high risk, highlighting who they can help and find resolutions for.

Trying to reduce road deaths is a key priority and Horsham residents have best track record in the whole of West Sussex for reporting bad drivers.

Further reductions to be found; reduce energy/heating of local stations by 25%. Using local officers for response finds a reduction in mileage and cost of fuel.

The three year plan of the Horsham District Community Safety Partnership (HDCSP), which started on April 1, includes targets for five areas of crime and disorder; antisocial behaviour (ASB), acquisitive crime, environmental crime, road safety and serious violent crime.

- In addition to the HDCSP the following groups are in operation under Partnership working:
 - ❖ Community Safety Partnership (CSP)
 - ❖ Joint Action Group (JAG)
 - ❖ Target Identification Group (TIG)
 - ❖ Tactical Tasking and Co ordination (TTCG)
 - ❖ Integrated Offender Management (IOM)
 - ❖ Anti Social Behaviour Team (ASB)
 - ❖ Local Action Teams (LTAs)
 - ❖ Neighbourhood Panels (N.H.P.)
 - ❖ Youth Support Team (YST)
 - ❖ Volunteers – Southwater
 - ❖ Road Safety Action Group (RSAG)

Neighbourhood watch was also felt to be vital for Sussex Police.

- Each year the Police Authority set out the objectives for policing Sussex for the following three years in the Local Policing Plan (LPP). In most cases, targets were exceeded. These targets sought to:
 - ❖ Cut crime
 - ❖ Engage with communities
 - ❖ Solve more crimes using community resolution
 - ❖ Reduce anti social behaviour
 - ❖ Reduce criminal damage
 - ❖ Solve all injury/violence crimes
 - ❖ Reduce all injury/violence crimes
 - ❖ Improve satisfaction – Police action
 - ❖ Improve satisfaction – Keeping informed
 - ❖ Improve satisfaction – Vehicle crime
 - ❖ Resolve Domestic Violence
 - ❖ Reduce Road deaths
 - ❖ Consume less energy
 - ❖ Drive fewer miles
- Issues facing Sussex Police included:
 - ❖ Budget cuts of 52m. This will probably include some staff reduction

- ❖ Changes to Police Station opening hours - reduction makes saving of £2m
- ❖ Collaboration with other forces
- ❖ Look at new ways of working
- ❖ Improve Partnership working

Questions were invited:

- Q. **BM** asked if Road Safety Police Driving Course was still in operation.
- A. **MT** replied that, although WSCC do run courses, this course is no longer running.
- Q. **FB** mentioned that in Southwater excellent work is done by the PCSOs. There is a drop-in run by PCSOs on a Thursday evening. **FB** asked if this could possibly be expanded.
- A. **MT** said he would be keen to do this, but in the economic climate the question is how to 'man' it.
- Q. **RA** asked about cyber crime and stated that when he wanted to report an incident, he found that no one was aware of the process. He eventually contacted Scotland Yard and was directed to an outside organisation. He would like to clarify if there is anybody in the police force who would deal with this?
- A. **MT** confirmed this was a difficult area to investigate because of the nature of the crime.

- ❖ Senior Rural Housing Enabler, Action in rural Sussex

TW

Apologies were received from Tom Warder, who will attend a future meeting.

- ❖ Consultant Practitioner/Centre Manager, South East Driveability
Anuraj Varshney

Julie Chatburn and Pauline Newby attended the meeting in place of Anuraj Varshney.

JC/PN

JC and **PN** explained that South East Driveability, based at Maidstone, provide driving assessments for older people and people with medical conditions or disabilities when they are ready to return to driving.

South East Driveability belongs to the Forum of Mobility Centres which is a network of 17 independent organisations covering England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. They offer professional, high quality information, advice and assessment to individuals who have a medical condition or are recovering from an accident or injury, which may affect their ability to drive, access or egress a motor vehicle.



People can attend whichever Centre is the most convenient for them. All Centres offer advice and assessment to people who wish to begin, or return to driving following an illness, injury or accident. They also offer advice with regard to getting in and out of a vehicle, and with regard to loading and transporting a wheelchair or a scooter into a motor vehicle. Some Centres also offer assessment and advice with regard to wheelchair or scooter selection. Generally, advice is confined to cars rather than motorcycles or heavy goods vehicles.

Referrals may come from a variety of organisations, including the Royal British Legion who refer soldiers who have had amputations, hopefully helping them into employment. The DVLA can also refer people.

As people can be particularly concerned when referred from DVLA, **PN** explained the process. After arriving at the centre there is a health and safety check list at which time they will look at range of movements, identifying any difficulties found (i.e. any special needs, vision test, brief physical assessment) and memory testing.

JC said they are trying to get the message to drivers aged 80+ that the assessment is an easy process and their purpose is to keep older drivers on the road, enabling them to keep their independence etc.

BH asked that, apart from previously mentioned 'bodies', who else refer. **JC/PN** replied that it can be doctors, health professionals, self referrals, charities, stroke associations, MS association and referrals can also come from relatives.

PW said she had experienced the driver's assessment recently as she had referred herself. She said she found the experience very good and reassuring.

TO agreed, saying he had attended the centre at Banstead. He was there for 3 hours and found it a very friendly, warm environment with good facilities.

JC and **PN** emphasised that people need have no fear of attending these centres, as everyone is put at their ease and they have no intention of penalising anyone.

Leaflets were available at the meeting if requested.

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

❖ Horsham Town Community Partnership

CE

CE explained that Horsham Town Community Partnership (HTCP) was run by a core team, comprised of volunteers and residents, united by a wish to improve their community. The HTCP will tackle projects or issues affecting the town and its residents.

CE reported that she attended the inaugural meeting of the HTCP earlier this spring. The launch of the HTCP was on 18th June, 12.00pm at 5.00pm in Horsham Park. **CE** suggested that two SPC members who live in Horsham town should join HTCP on behalf of this group. Volunteers should speak to **CE**.

❖ Preparing for An Ageing Population

BM/BS

HDC had approved its Preparing for an Ageing Population. This was being translated into action through HDC Service Plans and a shared multi-agency action.

Anyone who would like a copy of final version of the Strategy or Action Plan should contact **CE**.

❖ Ageing Population Conference

CE

CE said she attended a national Conference on the ageing population in London at the beginning of May. This was very health focussed. Notes are available if anyone is interested.

❖ Presentation to Billingshurst Parish Council

BM

BM reported that at the beginning of June he had made a presentation to Billingshurst Parish Council about the Senior Persons' Council.

❖ South East Empowerment Forum for Ageing (SEEFA)

CE

CE attended South East Empowerment Forum for Ageing last Friday. SEERA brings together people to help identify and promote issues relating to older people and demographic change. The Forum aims to influence regional strategies, policies and services to ensure the needs of older people are met.

BM and CE said they were keen for 1 or 2 SPC members to attend these meetings to represent the SPC. Anyone willing to do so should let CE know.

6. Updates on Senior Persons' Council's Projects

❖ South East Regional Research Project

BB/BM

BM said that most national grants are directed to the north of the country as there is the belief that the South East is an affluent area. Age Concern South East is challenging this opinion with support from Age UK Horsham District and the SPC. A series of interviews are taking place. PS, CD, AG, MH and MJ are meeting with groups of older people to talk through a set of questions. The results will be fed back to Government via Age Concern South East.

Age Concern South East made contact with BB and CE choosing Horsham District for pilot. The SPC was at the heart of this work and thanks are extended to all who are holding interviews.

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

❖ Bus Consultation

CE

CE raised issue of West Sussex County Council's consultation on the proposed changes to bus services. The Consultation is still open. CE has list of bus services affected and also a copy of form to return with comments. BM and CE suggested an overall response from the SPC and individual responses from SPC members who are strongly urged to respond on services which affect them.

MC said there is a campaign being run in Cowfold, as the bus service for the hospital used by local surgery for referrals and some school services could possibly be lost. MC read out a letter that Cowfold Parish Council were sending to WSCC regarding the proposals. BM suggested referring to SPC support in the letter.

Anyone who wants to make comments see CE after mtg.

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

❖ Life is for Living 2011

CE

CE said that she has done review on the 2010 event which previously attracted over 400 people, with 50-60 exhibitors. With support from DC Leisure who provided venue free of charge the cost was minimal. Because of this kind offer in recent years, LiFL has been held in the north of the district, which may not be accessible for vulnerable residents in other parts of the district. CE has proposed taking LiFL to parishes and communities. CE was currently looking for suitable vehicle as base linking into local farmers markets and fetes etc. CE agreed to keep all up to date with progress. TO endorsed mobile facilities saying moving around is a valuable and positive move.

❖ Beyond the Lens

CE

CE informed everyone of other project proposal, using photography to illustrate the lives of

Horsham District's older people.

9. Publicity Update

- ❖ Later Life Newsletter (attached)
- ❖ HDC New Magazine

CE

CE explained that the next edition is due out in the autumn - September/October time. There is normally a page or so dedicated to information about issues and support for older people. Editors have requested that these articles should not be written by **CE** but by older people. **CE** has asked **BM**, as Chairman of the SPC, to write an article and also encouraged any member of the SPC to forward articles that may be of interest. Please send suggestions to **CE** by 29th June.

10. Senior Persons' Council – Member Update

Following a recent letter about updating the SPC mailing list 6 requests for removal from the SPC Members list have been received. These were from:

Mr T Coyle
Mrs P Suter
Dr Roy Spencer
Basil & Wendy Tilley
Roy Spencer

11. Any Other Business

- ❖ **CE** informed all of correspondence received from the following:

Joyce Narborough who has sent her apologies. Joyce is due to have surgery and will hopefully return in the near future. **Doug Rands** replied to a letter sent from **BM** thanking him for his previous support and commitment. Doug was the PC for Billingshurst and following the recent elections, Parish Council observers are now Ken Longhurst and Paul Leaney. Doug's reply stated that he had enjoyed the involvement and has belief in the SPC's commitment to older people and congratulated the SPC on its work.

- ❖ **BB** explained he is leaving Age UK Horsham District for health reasons, and **BM** thanked him for everything he has done. Sean McCrumlish, who is on the board of trustees, will be replacing **BB**.
- ❖ **AG** pointed out that the positioning of card machines at check outs in shops made it easy for a person's pin number to be seen by anyone nearby and encouraged others to be aware of this.
- ❖ **BM** apologised for dismissing the issue of abolishing cheques at a previous meeting, and thinks the SPC should be involved. **BM** to write to banks about abolishment of cheques.
- ❖ **PW** said that through Age UK Horsham District, she qualified for help at home at a cost of £10.00 per hour. She was concerned at the latest letter she received that informed her of a considerable price increase. **SP** said that this was due to reduction in funding from WSCC. Therefore, to continue to offer this service, there has to be an increase in cost to the user. There are reduced rates for anyone on state benefits. If anyone is

eligible, or thinks they may be eligible, they should contact Angela Everitt at Horsham District Age UK who will look into eligibility. Contact details for Angela are: Tel. no. 01403-274495 or email ageconcernbenefits@horshamvcs.com.

- ❖ **DD** asked if there could be a reschedule of meeting dates in future as, with the first meeting date in the year being winter, this can mean problems for access and travel. **CE** said they will look into this.
- ❖ **KB** asked for update on the re writing of the Constitution. **BM/CE** explained that the review of the Constitution was part of a bigger review of the SPC that was led by Cllr Andrew Baldwin, as former HDC Cabinet Member with responsibility for older people. . Since the May elections, there has been a new Cabinet Member in place – Councillor Roger Arthur - and we need to engage with him regarding review.
- ❖ **FB** gave his apologies for lack of commitment to the SPC in the last 12 months, but he hopes to be more involved. He will make a decision by the September meeting on whether he can carry on.
- ❖ On **EM's** behalf **CE** referred to a letter which recently appeared in the WSCT from Mrs C J Maidment regarding Living Wills policies. It mentioned a request from Francis Maude MP to local health trusts, asking them to review their policies. For contact information re. 'Living Wills' please contact 020 7937 7770 or visit www.livingwill.org.uk.
- ❖ **KL** asked how we know who and where the elderly in our villages are. **CE** mentioned piece of work being done by Tony Skelding, Emergency Planning Officer at HDC. He is working with Sussex Police and Parish Councils to identify vulnerable people in local communities.
- ❖ **BO** said Henfield Parish Council had sent out a letter asking if anyone would need help in extreme weather conditions.
- ❖ **CE** informed everyone that a national conference is to be held on 29th June called 'Too Old to Care' and is about the role of grandparents. There is a small cost to attend and if anyone is interested, please see **CE**.
- ❖ **CE** explained that she had received a letter from Western Sussex Hospitals NHS Trust, who is committed to improving its performance and is keen to give staff, patients and the wider local community greater involvement in how our services and facilities should develop in the future. To help us do this, the Trust are applying to become an NHS Foundation Trust.

Western Sussex Hospitals NHS Trust has a vision for the future that puts the patient at the heart of everything we do and is guided by the principles and values about which we care deeply. The Trust **care...**

- ...about quality
- ...about you, the patient
- ...about safety
- ...about improvement
- ...about sustainability
- ...about local services
- ...about being joined up

A central part of or planning for this future is becoming an NHS Foundation Trust. NHS Foundation Trust status will give greater freedom and opportunity to deliver the following vision and strategy by:

- Protecting independence and making the Trust more accountable to the local people
- Greater financial freedom and more stable funding to invest in services, as well as the freedom to retain and reinvest surpluses and access wider sources of funds
- Using the stronger structures and improved organisational skills gained through the FT application process to become better able to implement the Trust's vision and play a more influential role in local health care provision
- Creating a new sense of purpose for staff and stakeholders, and a new culture of organisational discipline that will better equip the Trust to meet the challenges ahead

Western Sussex Hospitals NHS Trust began preparing for the Foundation Trust (FT) application process in July 2010, when it began recruiting its new membership base. If the Trust's application is successful, FT status will be granted in December 2011.

CE explained that the Trust need to recruit a large membership that is made up of local people and representative of the community it serves.

Joining is easy - and free. Just use either the printable or online registration forms by following this link:

<http://www.westernsussexhospitals.nhs.uk/about-us/foundation-trustapplication/membership/> .

At the moment, the Trust is managed by a Board of Directors. If the Trust becomes a Foundation Trust, the Board of Directors will be accountable to a Board of Governors elected by the local community.

In September 2011, the Trust will begin electing representatives of its membership to serve on the proposed new Council of Governors. All members are entitled to stand for election to the Council of Governors.

- ❖ **AG** said the SPC was mentioned in the Warnham PC magazine.
- ❖ **CE** reported that she had been in touch with Fiona Wellings, a Regional Project Co-ordinator with Meridian TV on the Digital Switchover Scheme. The Digital Switchover Scheme has been set up by the BBC through an agreement with the Government, to offer practical help at switchover to older and disabled people who may face greater barriers in switching to digital TV. The Help Scheme purpose is to make every effort to ensure that approximately 7.1 million eligible people can continue to watch public service television channels after switchover.

12. Dates of Future Meetings:

- *Thursday 15th September 2011 at Rudgwick Village Hall, Rudgwick at 10.15am*
- *Friday 9th December 2011 at Beeding & Bramber Village Hall at 10.15am*