

MEETING OF THE SENIOR PERSONS COUNCIL
AT 10.30AM ON 14TH MARCH 2011
AT WASHINGTON VILLAGE HALL, WASHINGTON

NOTES

Attendees:	Barry Mursell	(BM)	-	Chair, Broadbridge Heath
	Frank Bockling	(FB)	-	Vice Chair, Billingshurst
	Betty Ogden	(BO)	-	Henfield W.I.
	Lesley Ainslee	(LA)	-	Henfield W.I.
	Eva Matchsy	(EM)	-	SPCR
	Michael Jarvis	(MJ)	-	Horsham 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
	Bryan Sunderland	(BS)	-	Resident, Southwater
	Dot Davidson	(DD)	-	Resident, Mannings Heath
Councillors:	Pat Arculus	(PA)	-	Pulborough District/WSCC
	Brian Harvey	(BH)	-	Forest Neighbourhood Council
	Barbara Varley	(BV)	-	Southwater PC
	Terry Oliver	(TO)	-	Broadbridge Heath PC
	Doug Rands	(DR)	-	Billingshurst PC
Visitors:	Kathryn Reeves	(KR)	-	HDC Strategic Planning
	Julian Carrington	(JC)	-	HDC Community Planning
	Robert Harari	(RH)	-	West Sussex Mediation Service
	Pam Mitchell	(PM)	-	Age Concern in the SE
Officers:	Clare Ebelewicz	(CE)	-	Snr Yth and Older Person's Officer, HDC
	Shirley Gardner	(SG)	-	HDC
	Bernard Baldwin	(BB)	-	Age UK, Horsham District
Apologies:	Carole Duffy			
	Chris Duffy			
	Lindsay Quirk			
	Jean Reeve			
	Judith Hollingdale			
	Audrey Beagley			
	Gladys Andrews (apologies noted for mtg of 21/1 also)			
	Carol Stokes			

1. Welcome, Introductions and Apologies (inc. Member update)
2. Notes of meeting held on 21st January 2011
 - Are they correct record of meeting? Matters Arising / Progress against Action not elsewhere covered on the agenda.
 - ❖ **A.O.B.: AG** was incorrectly credited with the comment regarding

the Christmas lunch.

- ❖ **Item 6: FB** would like to disassociate himself with the following comment that was made by **DR** - "PCs were seen on foot patrol, more than the PSCOs, who tend to be seen driving around and then gone". **FB** stated he has no problem with the PSCOs and they can be seen regularly patrolling, particularly in Billingshurst.

3. Correspondence received since last meeting

- Email from WSCC ref. 'Your day. Your say' – Copy of this was appended to agenda and a presentation from WSCC (Sally Moir) was subsequently arranged.

4. Presentations From Guest Speakers

- Community Planning Manager, Horsham District Council, plus Officer from Strategic Planning Team, Horsham District Council, on the current consultations on the HDC Local Development Framework Core Strategy Review and the LDF Statement of Community Involvement

**Julian
Carrington/
Kathryn Reeves**

- ❖ **KR** outlined the current action with the consultations and also the recent and ongoing actions into the LDF document. **KR** explained that today she and **JC** wanted to discuss the consultation approach with the SPC, rather than the LDF
- ❖ The LDF is the Local Development Framework which replaced the Local Plan a few years ago.
- ❖ **KR** explained that the LDF is a set of documents, which the Council's planning team are in charge of producing. It sets out the Council's policy on meeting the community's needs as well as the economic and social aims for the future of the district, where this affects the development and use of land for planning issues. Getting this in place is a lengthy process.
- ❖ The current consultation period runs for 8 weeks, from 21st January and finishes on Friday 18th March. Consultation has been in various ways to inform the community, including sending letters on database to all who have previously commented on LDF documents and sending out to all residents in the affected parishes, for example Billingshurst and Southwater. There have also been 6 public exhibitions, advertisements placed in the West Sussex County Times and news releases on the Council Website. All documents are also available at Parish Council offices and the library. Responses are accepted via letters and emails, although people have also been encouraged to comment online.
- ❖ **BV** asked which residents could fill in the questionnaires and was told that anyone could complete these, not just the residents specific to a particular place. The query was then raised on what was to stop Southwater residents voting for development in Billingshurst and vice versa. The Officers explained that part of the questionnaire has address details so these can and would be checked.
- ❖ **TO** asked how effective the consultation will become. **KR** replied that the questionnaires will be entered onto the computer system, comments will then be analysed and the results will be

reported back to Elected Members. It is then their decision; Officers can only make recommendations to Members.

- ❖ **MJ** asked how large a development has to be to necessitate going through this process. **KR** explained that after a development management application is submitted, it is studied and the decision is made on whether to permit or refuse the development. Officers in Strategic Planning plan for the future and look at larger strategic developments, which have documents and master plans provided. These then go out for consultation and residents can all comment on the application. Referring to the original question, **MJ** pointed out that in a particular development at Athelstan Way in Horsham, residents weren't being given the chance to comment like this. **KR** replied that this wasn't the Council allocating the land for development, but a case of a developer applying to build on this land. Decisions have to be made on where large developments go through the LDF, but there is nothing to stop anyone else putting in a planning application even when they don't own the land. Strategic Planning provide the framework for the Council to work with when a planning application is received.
- ❖ **DR** said he believed the plans for Billingshurst were flawed; that the infrastructure isn't there for the development of further housing and there is not enough money to bring all infrastructures to an acceptable level. With 1,800 new homes being suggested for Billingshurst, equating to 5,000 residents, it is felt that this is enough to affect all services. **DR** asked what the strategy and demand analysis was based upon. With people in general coming into the district, he felt that the quality of life was deteriorating in Billingshurst already. On checking with the local surgery, **DR** found that it is already fully prescribed and with thousands more coming into the village, people will lose quality of life. He felt that the infrastructure of village was collapsing and being destroyed; common sense was not being used.
- ❖ **JC** said that he felt this was entering into a specific and controversial area, which could perhaps be better discussed away from this meeting. The purpose of today was to find out if people had heard about the consultation and if they knew what it was about.
- ❖ **JC** said letters had been sent out along with summary, leaflet and questionnaire. **JC** asked if anyone had given any comments on what was sent out. One SPC member replied, saying that people have lost confidence in the process; it is negative and didn't give people a chance to voice their opinion. The questions asked weren't necessarily the points people wanted to be asked about.
- ❖ **TO** had heard Broadbridge Heath Parish Council was disappointed regarding HDC's response to people and that the time period of 8 weeks was not long enough for residents to make their views known.
- ❖ It was commented that most PCs don't meet in August and there was the probability that the consultation from HDC will be received in July. It would be helpful to the PC if there was chance of dialogue between residents and HDC.
- ❖ **JC** referred to LDF Statement of Community Involvement, which

sets out groups the Council finds difficult to engage with; these included older/younger people, people from ethnic groups etc, whether they have been consulted and how.

- ❖ **JC** asked how people would like to be consulted and encouraged SPC's suggestions via **CE**.
- Prevention & Wellbeing Implementation Lead, Adult's Services for West Sussex County Council
 - ❖ Apologies given by Sally Moir. Postponed to future meeting.
- Volunteer from West Sussex Medication Service.
 - ❖ **RH** introduced himself as a volunteer for West Sussex Mediation Service. He explained that this was a service for residents in the community, but may also involve organisations and intergenerational mediation. **RH** initially worked for the United Nations and MIND and after retiring, joined the Mediation Service 2 and half years ago, qualifying as a mediator after 5-6 months of training.
 - ❖ The Service is a charity and receives funding from various sources. In 2000, it was estimated there were 45 mediators, all unpaid volunteers, coming from all walks of life and there is continuous development with a specialist training programme, providing experience in solving disputes. There are 3 paid staff in the Horsham office taking the applications/referrals regarding disputes from across West Sussex. The running costs are approximately £70 - £80,000 per year with funding from County Councils, various local authorities and Housing Associations, Parish Councils, Charitable Trusts and PCT, as well as private donations.
 - ❖ On average there are two mediations per month covering various problems. Problems covered, in order of commonality include firstly noise, secondly boundaries, trees and hedges, followed by parking, children, pets and ball games. If the dispute involves a business, it is left to the business mediators.
 - ❖ With no bias involved, the Mediation Service does not state what the agreement should be. Mediation is about two or three parties coming together to reach an agreement, which is not legally valid or binding and either party can leave the meeting at any time. It is found though that once agreement has been reached and papers signed, approximately 85% of people will keep to it. Contact will be made after of 4-6 months to check if all is OK and the agreement sustained. Some disputes can run for 2-3 years, but once mediation is commenced more than 50% reach agreement.
 - ❖ Within the process of mediation some parties self refer and some are referred through Housing Associations or the police. The main aim is to bring all parties together in private, in a neutral environment.

Sally Moir (or Rep)

Robert Harari

NB. Contact details can be found at the end of these notes.

- Age Concern UK (South East)

Pam Mitchell

- ❖ Pam Mitchell introduced herself. **PM** was from the regional company of Age Concern UK (South East) and gave a brief overview of the organisation and her role.
- ❖ **PM** commented that the South East is seen as affluent, and therefore funding tended to be directed more towards the north of the UK, which is seen as more needy. However, there are larger numbers of older people found in the South East than any other region. These older people face many challenges including high living costs, isolation and transport etc.
- ❖ After meeting everyone, **PM** said she would like to attend a future meeting and arrange a questionnaire to ascertain current issues for local older people.

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

- Preparing for An Ageing Population

BM/BS

- ❖ **CE** referred to recent CVS Preparing for an Ageing Population meeting, which **BM** and **BS** attended.
- ❖ Some SPC Members attended the recent Scrutiny & Overview Committee. **CE** explained there was a presentation from Officers regarding the ageing population which set out the facts and figures, as well as outlining the strategy. **BS** said he had a copy of the presentation, which he was happy to share.
- ❖ **CE** commented that the strategy now goes forward to Cabinet on 24th March. Members of the SPC were welcome to attend. Once the strategy was agreed, a supporting action plan would be developed. .
- ❖ **BS** thanked those who did attend for their support, including **RA** and **CD**. **RA** commented that he was surprised there were not more in attendance from this group but **CE** suggested people do what they are able to do.
- ❖ **BM**, following on from this comment, said he had contacted Councillor Robert Nye, Leader of Council, to arrange a meeting to discuss the Council's District Plan and how it relates to older people.
- ❖ **BM** also referred to page 25 of the HDC Community Planning Review 2010, by Action in rural Sussex. This highlighted many Community Plans which had a separate section for young people but not for older people.
- ❖ **RA** reported that, at the Scrutiny & Overview Committee, he had asked if the plans that Horsham were making were integrated with other Councils' plans as well as the overall plan for all West Sussex. He said he was assured of the constant contacts between the Council's and County Council's officers to ensure that plans are integrated.
- ❖ **CE** referred to two key channels for ensuring plans were integrated, including:
 - project specific work
 - Preparing for an Ageing Population - **BS** and **BM** both

sit on the multi action working, which feeds into Local Strategic Partnership.

6. Updates on Senior Persons' Council's Projects

There were none.

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

- Service Redesign for Quality in West Sussex – Our Proposals for Better Care
 - ❖ **CE** referred to the above consultation and explained that the SPC had been asked to consider responding. The proposals set out a vision of improved orthopaedic, elderly care and ophthalmology services at Worthing, Southlands and St Richard's hospitals, alongside investment in community care. This offers the NHS in West Sussex an opportunity to secure better services for patients, both in acute hospitals and in community settings. Before any changes can happen views from as many people as possible are needed and the SPC has been invited to comment on the consultation. The consultation period runs until 29th April. **BM** suggested it would be best to go for small sub committee and members were requested to let **CE** know at the end of the meeting if this was of interest.
- Horsham District Community Partnership Conference
 - ❖ **JC** explained that the Horsham District Community Partnership Conference is a partnership, which comes together to help plan services for the district and ensures everyone is pulling together in the same direction. The annual conference, postponed from December because of the snow, is on 4th April in County Hall North in Horsham. Delegates will be voting to identify the priorities going forward.

The first part of the conference will explore progress against priorities and refine. Priorities are divided in to 4 sections:

- a) Housing/environment/transport
- b) Economy/growth/education/skills
- c) Health
- d) Crime/community safety.

The second part will include a presentation by key Speaker Davy Jones on the 'Big Society'.

The Conference commences at 5.00pm and finishes at 8.00pm. **JC** to circulate an invitation to all via **CE**.

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

- 2011 Census – on March 27th 2011 all households in the United Kingdom will be taking part in a census.

- ❖ **CE** asked if everyone had received their Census form – all confirmed.
- ❖ People need to be aware of the importance of this as it is about looking at the number of people in local areas and will be used to allocate funding and determine what services are needed. **All should respond** - if the census is unaware of you, the organisations responsible for delivering the services you need won't be aware of you either.
- ❖ The census statistics feed into the allocation of funding for local authorities, identifying the need for local services in communities.
- ❖ It was mentioned that there are a number of hard to reach groups - one of these being older people – and they may need support to respond to the Census. The Census team have been looking at ways to encourage hard to reach groups to complete this form by making them aware and checking they are able to respond.
- ❖ **BB** said if there was anyone who had any problems in completing the Census form, they should ring the contact number on the form and someone will come out and help. **BB** added Age UK (Horsham District) is having an open day on 22nd March at Lavinia House for people to get help on completing the form.
- ❖ For the last Census, 97% of forms were returned, however, there were concerns that hard to reach groups were not recognised in the results.
- ❖ **PA** said that there was a letter in the local newspaper stating that under the question, “What do you do?”, a box for ‘retired’ was omitted. **BM** pointed out that it was indeed there.
- ❖ **MJ** said he was concerned about the pressure to fill out the form as soon as it was received, but if they are returned before the 27th March another form will be sent.
- ❖ **MJ** asked about the AV referendum and if it was something the SPC should consider. **BM** commented that this was an individual issue and **MJ** commented that he was seeking clarification. **CE** to ask Elections Officer if a briefing note is available.

9. Publicity Update

- Senior Persons' Council Newsletter

BM asked if there were any comments or queries regarding the draft Newsletter, if so to let **CE** know. If everyone was happy with it, **CE** to distribute it.

10. Senior Persons' Council – Member Update

None

11. Any Other Business

- ❖ **CE** was asked, when sending emails, if the ‘automatic request for reply’, could be switched off as this action meant that people’s ‘in boxes’ were becoming over full. Confirmed, **CE** to

action.

- ❖ A show of hands was requested to check how many people were connected to the internet and it was decided to ask all who had an email address to pass to **CE** for future use. **SG** to collect emails at **next meeting**.
- ❖ **RH** asked how a person could become a member of the SPC – **BM** explained and said there was a push to get every parish in the district represented on the SPC. Currently there was not representative from Ashurst. **RH** has now become a member.
- ❖ **BB** explained that Age UK is the result of two national charities merging – Age Concern and Help the Aged. Recently, Age Concerns were given the opportunity to become Age UKs; this has been a gradual process taking 8-9 months. Age Concern began in Horsham 50 yrs ago and are celebrating their Golden Jubilee this year. The area covered by Age UK Horsham District at local level has the same boundary as the District Council. Age UK West Sussex does not operate in Horsham District. Horsham District Age UK provided a substantial range of services, as outlined in the recent spread in the West Sussex County Times.
- ❖ **DR** asked about **BM**'s visit to Billingshurst Parish Council in June. **BM** confirmed this.
- ❖ **EM** raised the subject of dementia care for the elderly in nursing homes and the big problem of shortage of staff. The result being that if there is no staff, no care can be provided. Young carers need to be taught on how to deal with things but no training is given.
- ❖ **CA** said there needs to be integration between younger and older people, so younger people understand ageing, with the appreciation that we all get older. **BB** opened Age UK at Christmas with help from young people.
- ❖ **PW** mentioned that village societies and clubs are having difficulties in continuing – younger people are not prepared to take responsibility to keep the clubs running. It is the same people taking charge all the time but they aren't prepared to keep doing this.
- ❖ **RA** raised a point from the last meeting regarding the telephone with email; it is understood that this has been discontinued and the nearest equivalent receives and sends texts.
- ❖ **AG** stated that the SPC was promoted in the Warnham Warbler.
- ❖ **KB** mentioned the pharmaceutical review and asked if there was a licensing limit for the amount of pharmacies in the area? **MJ** said as a lay member he didn't know but will investigate and stated that the final report is on internet.
- ❖ Following on from comments made previously by **CA**, **BV** said that at 'Young at Heart' in Southwater, young people help older people with computers. Perhaps this is something we could gain experience in and would be interested in hearing about. **BM** asked **BB** if Age UK hold classes on this. **BB** said that more schools are looking into this and getting involved, but this is not something Age UK is involved with. It was thought Forest School may be doing this; **BM** suggested contacting your local school to check. If not, try to persuade them!
- ❖ **FB** said that the SPC have quite a membership of 50-60 people but it is upsetting to see the same people at each meeting.

Many of the remaining people are just names and it involves much hard work and a lot of paperwork to organise these meetings. **BM** said this is going to form part of the constitution review and will be reviewed.

❖ **CE** referred to two items of AOB:

- The first was raised at the Ruser SPC meeting last year, when Natalie Brahma-Pearl joined the meeting and questions were raised about leisure facilities and friendliness of Pavilions for older people. The point was raised that one SPC member found it more convenient to use Haywards Heath leisure centre than the local facilities. DC Leisure has the contract for delivering leisure services, but this is due for renewal in 2012. Work for renewing this contract is under way. **CE** explained that Steve Hawker, who was leading on this work, was keen to meet with members of the SPC to discuss older people's needs in terms of leisure facilities, so this can be reflected in service specification, Anyone interested to let **CE** know.
- **CE** referred to BIOPICCC, which has been discussed at previous meetings. **CE** extended an invitation to Members for a Seminar on 8th June at 5.30. Anyone wanting to attend let **CE** know.

12. Future meetings

- *Wednesday 15th June 2011 at St Michael's Church Room, Partridge Green*
- *Thursday 15th September 2011 at Rudgwick Village Hall, Rudgwick*
- *Friday 9th December 2011 at Beeding & Bramber Village Hall*

Mediation contact details:

Telephone: 01403 258900 (incl. answering machine)
or 01403 257800 (Nick's desk)

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