

**MEETING OF SENIOR PERSONS' COUNCIL**  
**6<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2005**

**Present:**

Mr John Curtis (Horsham)	Mrs Betty Ogden (Henfield)
Mrs Lynn Cottis (Roffey)	Mrs Julie Stone (Henfield)
Mr Alan Cottis (Roffey)	Mr John George Hills (Horsham)
Mrs Joyce Narborough(Horsham)	Mr Bryan Sunderland (Southwater)
Mrs Jane Hobbs (Horsham)	Mrs Vi Anderson (Horsham)
Mr Matt Dakani (Steyning)	Mrs Carole Duffy (Horsham)
Mrs Dorothea Cotton (Southwater)	Mrs Margery Hewitt (Rusper)
Mrs Nina Smith (Southwater)	Mrs Ann Smith (Horsham)
Mrs Barbara Ellis (Southwater)	Mr Alan Smith (Horsham)
Mr Bob Smith (Horsham)	Mr John Dean (Woodmancote)
Mr Frank Bockling (Billingshurst)	Mrs Sheu-Ching Dean (Woodmancote)
Mrs Carol Stokes (Horsham)	Mrs Enid McGurk
Miss Dulcie Lawson (Horsham)	
Mrs Leslie Ainslie (Henfield)	

**Also Present:** Kathryn Hayhurst and Philip Laroche (Sussex Police), Sheila Peever (Horsham District Council), Councillor Mrs Vivien Lyth (Horsham District Council), Shelly Denman (Horsham District Council), Veronica James (Horsham District Age Concern)

**Apologies:** Connie Lucien, Peggy Weeks, Brenda Soltysik and Jean Agate

**Action**

**1. NOTES OF MEETING HELD ON 26<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2005**

The notes of the meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> January were agreed.

It was asked that it be recorded that there had been a point made about the need for a larger hospital in Horsham.

**2. FEEDBACK ON POINTS RAISED AT THE LAST MEETING**

Registered Social Landlords Pet Policy

At the last meeting it had been suggested that older people would feel safer if landlords allowed them to keep dogs/pets. It was also thought that there would be health benefits to allowing them to do so.

Both London and Quadrant and Saxon Weald had responded to a request for information relating to their policies. It seemed that both would allow pets in some circumstances.

It was noted that the **Cinnamon Trust** will help take care of pets for the elderly this includes walking dogs.

**Tel: 01736 757900**

[www.cinnamon.org.uk](http://www.cinnamon.org.uk)

#### Sports Activities available for over 50s

Shelley had circulated information about activities that the Council's Leisure Link department ran for over 50s with the notes from the last meeting.

**The group was asked to feedback any information about activities which they were aware of that were needed in their area.**

#### Hospital Transport

Information was circulated about the new hospital transport service which had been launched by the Surrey and Sussex Healthcare NHS at the beginning of September 2004.

It was noted that the District Council was aware of the difficulties residents could face in terms of accessing hospitals and would be undertaking a feasibility study into establishing a new hospital transport service(s).

The point was made that there was a need to offer a similar transport scheme for residents living in the South of the District who wanted to travel to Worthing hospital. It was also suggested that timetables should be easier to read and put lower down lampposts.

It was noted that it was possible to book Horsham Community Transport Scheme to get to any hospital as long as they had difficulty using public transport. The contact number is: **01403 250202** between 9am-12pm Mon-Friday. £2 for first mile and 60p per mile thereafter.

**As transport seemed to be subject of interest it was agreed that it should form the topic for the next meeting.**

#### Extension to shop mobility scheme to cover late night shopping at Christmas

Further to the last meeting Shelley advised the group that she had approached the Councils Transport Manager to see whether it would be possible to extend the shop mobility scheme to cover late night shopping at Christmas. He had agreed to implement this with effect from this year.

### **3. MAKING PEOPLE FEEL SAFER – DISCUSSION OF CONCERNS AND IDEAS**

Kathryn Hayhurst (Sussex Police Crime Prevention) and Philip Laroche (Police Community Support Officer for the Billingshurst area) attended the meeting to listen to views and answer questions.

#### **Qus: How to contact the Police/Local Police station?**

**Ans:** For a non-emergency everyone should use the **0845 6070999** number which is the police call handling centre. They will then direct the call to the appropriate Police station/officer.

A member of the group felt it would be useful if the extension numbers of the individual Police stations were publicised but it was acknowledged that a lot of villages in the District did not have their own stations and that to ensure the most appropriate response it was best to ring the call handling centre.

#### **Qus: Foot patrols, how many times do you patrol in different areas?**

Philip Laroche explained that the role of the Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) is to spend as much time as possible on foot patrolling in different area. Shifts are 8/9/10 hours, usually until midnight.

West Sussex Police department has more PCSOs than any other force. The group expressed the view that the PCSOs did provide a reassuring presence.

Some members of the group expressed an interest in Neighbourhood Watch. Kathryn Hayhurst suggested that anyone interested should contact her [Kathryn.hayhurst@sussex.pnn.police.uk](mailto:Kathryn.hayhurst@sussex.pnn.police.uk).

#### **Qus: Damage to cars, youths causing problems and anti-social behaviour orders**

**Ans:** The group was advised that Horsham District Council now had an Anti-Social behaviour co-ordinator and that as a result a number of young people had been issued with warning letters about their behaviour and some had been issued with Anti-Social behaviour contracts. The young people issued with these were then monitored for a month to ensure that they did not break the terms of the contract. It was hoped that this, together with initiatives to provide additional facilities and activities for young people, would reduce incidents of anti-social behaviour.

One member of the group was from Southwater where there was a community Police Station. The enquiry desk was manned by volunteers who were also able to deal with minor enquiries such as lost keys. It was felt that this was an effective system and one which could be replicated across the District.

#### **5. COMMUNITY LINK ALARM**

Shelia Peever, the Council's Community Link co-ordinator, attended the meeting to speak about the scheme.

The aim of the Community Link alarm service was to help people remain safe and independent in their own home. Current users of the service were aged between 18 and 100.

If someone has been a victim of a bogus caller the Police will pay for an alarm to be installed. The Fire Brigade and Trading Standards are also involved in the scheme.

#### **6. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the group will take place on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> July 2005 at the Steyning Centre, Fletchers Croft., Steyning.