

**MEETING OF THE OLDER PERSONS' COUNCIL  
WEDNESDAY 26<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2005**

**Present:**

John Hills (Horsham)	Ann Smith (Horsham)
Barbara Ellis (Southwater)	D Lawson (Horsham)
Matt Dakakni (Steyning)	Nina Smith (Southwater)
Jean Agate (Horsham)	J Narborough (Horsham)
Jane Hobbs (Horsham)	Bob Smith (Horsham)
Frank Bockling (Billingshurst)	S Dean
Carole Duffy (Horsham)	J Dean (Woodmancote)
Betty Ogden (Henfield)	Connie Lucien (Horsham)
Lesley Ainslie (Henfield)	John Curtis (Horsham)
Julie Stone (Storrington)	Carol Stokes (Horsham)
S Lane (Horsham)	Norman Foot (Horsham)
Brenda Soltysik (Horsham)	Alan Smith (Horsham)
Dorothy Cotton (Southwater)	Peggy Weeks (Steyning)
Enid McGurk (Coolham)	
L.Cottis (Horsham)	

**Also present:** Veronica James (Horsham District Age Concern), Shelley Denman (Horsham District Council), Cllr Mrs Vivien Lyth

**ACTION**

**1. INTRODUCTION**

V. James welcomed everyone to the group and explained that it had been formed following consultation with older people who had identified a need for a mechanism through which they could put forward their views. It was hoped that the group would empower its members to identify issues of concern and take action to address them.

It was also envisaged that the group would help inform the Community Strategy.

**2. IDENTIFYING ISSUES**

The group was asked to think about things that they liked about living in Horsham District and things they would like to change.

### **Things we like about living in Horsham District:**

- Horsham is a pleasant town - not too large
- Good shopping
- Horsham Park
- Open spaces
- Pedestrianised centre
- Bus service has much improved of late
- Flowers and seating around Horsham are great
- Riverside Walk
- Parking Zones
- Good leisure facilities
- Pavilions in the Park
- The Capitol
- Age Concern day centre
- Sociability and Security
- Primary Care Trust
- Plenty to do – mostly good disabled access
- Good facilities
- Information circulated by HDC
- Historic framework
- Public library and museum
- Festivals ie autumn town centre festival
- Christmas lights and Horsham in Bloom

### **Things we don't like/would like to change:**

- HDC magazine should just be circulated to libraries rather than to every resident as it costs a lot of money
- There should be short term parking permits for the temporary disabled
- Lack of A&E hospital
- Better pavements / cobbles in Carfax
- More daytime theatre, films?
- More disabled parking for the Capitol and Drill Hall
- Longer hours for shopmobility especially for Christmas late night shopping
- Car identify badge for 70+ to allow parking in more spaces
- Some clubs for senior citizens are in danger of closing because no help in village halls for meeting senior citizens / moving chairs and rates for hiring halls are too high
- More litter bins in car parks
- 20mins free limit in car park not enough for older people who take longer to reach the shops

- Some cycling lanes are so narrow and near to traffic
- Provision of public conveniences
- Closure of local post offices
- Keep wardens
- Leg room in the Capitol
- More NHS dentists
- Policing in Carfax to avoid cycling
- Transport
- Better health
- More exercise
- Council Tax too high for pensioners
- Roads around Horsham are untidy
- Bus fares are too high
- Buses (number 61) have great difficulty in negotiating Amundsen Road because of badly parked cars. It would be nice to have a bus service however infrequent on Sundays and later than 6.15pm on weekdays
- Although not strictly HDC, healthcare is a worry for older people
- Too many halls during the day are taken over by groups for the under 5s
- Cheaper venues for club meetings and groups
- Tennis sessions for older people in the park as more convenient than BBHLC
- More litter collection
- Southwater in particular is suffering with an abundance of teenagers getting into mischief the authorities are aware of this but what can be done?
- Blue Badge holders are not able to get into parking places in Storrington due to parents and children
- Dirty bus shelters
- No police
- A post office near my home
- Someone to take me to Waitrose once a week
- Chart and Lawrence back!
- Easier transport to East Surrey Hospital
- Make people feel safer going out at night
- Action to repair vandalised telephone kiosks
- Park and Ride is expensive especially if there is only one person
- Buses on route 98 are very unreliable

### **3. ACTION**

Some of the things that the group would like to see changed were discussed further and actions identified:

Extend shopmobility to late night Christmas shopping

**Shelley to speak to Bryan Vines the Council's Transport Services Manager to see whether this would be possible and report back to the next meeting**

**S.Denman**

Making people feel safer at night

The group felt that the following would help make people feel safer:

- Bringing back community Police stations
- More Police at weekends

**It was agreed that a representative from the Police should be invited to attend the next meeting of the group to listen to everyone's ideas and concerns.**

**S.Denman/  
V.James**

- Many Registered Social Landlords (RSLs) do not allow tenants to keep pets but dogs would be a good deterrent and would make people feel safer. Keeping pets also had positive health effects.

**It was agreed that the RSLs should be contacted to find out more about their policy regarding pets and whether they would consider being more flexible with older tenants.**

**S.Denman/  
V.James**

- Making the Community Link alarm more accessible for those on low incomes

**One of the Council's Community Link officers would be invited to a future meeting of the group to explain more about the scheme**

**S.Denman**

More exercise

The following were suggested as being good ways of encouraging older people to exercise:

- Tennis session for older people in Horsham Park
- Tai Chi and Yoga
- Special sessions eg. Aqua Aerobic at Pavilions

**Shelley agreed to speak to the Council's Leisure Link team and find out what activities were currently available and report back to the next meeting.**

**S.Denman**

- Make occupational therapy more flexible
- Tarmac the cycleway from Christ Hospital
- Exercise classes in halls should run through the school holidays

**Comments to be feedback to the relevant agencies/authorities (social services/County Council)**

**S.Denman**

Lack of transport

The points below were put forward in relation to transport issues:

- Need better disabled access into Horsham railway station
- Better access to buses
- More taxi drivers aware need to help older people with shopping

**Comments to be feedback to Councils Transport Services Manager.**

**S.Denman**

- transport to hospital

**Shelley to bring details of the existing Hospital Transport scheme to the next meeting**

**S.Denman**

Help with housework and shopping

Some members of the group were not aware of existing schemes or where they could go for help.

**Information about the scheme run by Impact to be brought to the next meeting. Information about the services offered by Age Concern to also be circulated. If there is a gap in provision this is a project that the group could look to establish.**

**V.James**

More daytime films/plays

It was suggested that there should be more films/plays during the day time targeted at older people.

**To be fedback to The Capitol manager**

**S.Denman**

*Help in village halls for senior citizen clubs - It was felt that many clubs for over 50s were closing due to high charges for hall hire and lack of help moving furniture*

This was of concern to the group.

**Possible ways of addressing this problem to be discussed at the next meeting.**

**S.Denman**

#### **4. OTHER THINGS!**

##### Communication of Information

The group felt that there was some confusion over the roles and responsibilities of the District and County Council. The group was also not aware of some of the facilities and services that were currently available for older people and it was felt that there needed to be better information about where people could go for support.

**It was agreed that the best way of disseminating the information would be discussed at the next meeting.**

**S.Denman**

##### Temperature of Pavilions Pool

A number of people commented that the temperature in the main pool at Pavilions is too low and that a lot of over 50s are now not going.

*Further to the meeting Shelley has found out that the pool temperature has been lowered slightly as it was too warm for the competition swimmers. Trying to meet the needs of all pool users is difficult but the comments of this group will be fedback to the Pavilions manager with a view to raising the temperature.*

##### North Heath Lane litter collection

A member of the group expressed concern that there did not seem to be adequate street cleansing in the North Heath Lane area.

**Shelley agreed to pass on this concern.**

**S.Denman**

## **5. HOW WE WANT THE GROUP TO RUN**

There was a discussion about how the group should run in the future and the following was agreed:

- It should be called “senior” not older persons council
- The group should continue to meet as a big group every two months with smaller sub-groups being formed if necessary
- Venues for the meeting should be moved around the District
- Transport should be arranged for people who can't get to meetings
- People should be able to claim mileage for attending meetings
- Veronica and Shelley should continue to facilitate and Cllr Mrs Lyth should continue to attend meetings
- Links should be developed with the youth council

A draft constitution for the group had been prepared and it was agreed that this should be altered to reflect the comments that had been made.

**S.Denman**

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

It was agreed that the next meeting of the group should be held on **Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> April at 12pm, venue to be confirmed.**