



AGM & Public Meeting of the Horsham District Older Peoples Forum
Tuesday 7th September 2021, 10.30am via Zoom

Minutes

1. **Introductions** Martin Bruton Chairman.
No apologies received and 29 attending this meeting.
2. **Chairman's & Treasurers Report** – Martin Bruton
 - Precis of HDOPF activity during 2020 - 21 (curtailed by Covid 19)
 - a) Public meetings:
 - March 2020 Shipley - held;
 - June 2020 Billingshurst - cancelled re Covid;
 - September 2020 Rudgwick - cancelled re Covid;
 - 12th January 2021 held via Zoom;
 - 3rd March 2021 held via Zoom;
 - 25th March 2021 hosted public meeting on the HDC development proposals for Rookwood open space & public golf course with the HDC Dep Leader Cllr Jonathan Chowen and representatives of the Keep Rookwood Green Alliance (video available on YouTube);
 - 8th June 2021 held via Zoom
 - b) Discussions with WSCC, West Sussex Healthwatch, HDC and Age UK WSBH (for Horsham District).
 - c) Hosted the popular annual MP Question Time public meeting on the 6th November 2020 via Zoom with Andrew Griffith MP for Arundel & South Downs
 - d) Attended the Horsham District Dementia Friendly Communities Forum meetings & steering group via Zoom
 - e) Commenced a project to combat suicide, loneliness & isolation in partnership with HDC Health & Wellbeing & Age UK WSBH – 'Chatty Café's.
 - f) Though suspended due to Covid, continued to support the Mobility Scooter Training scheme run by Horsham Town Community Partnership following the

issue of safety with regards mobility scooter riders being raised at a Forum meeting www.horshamscootersafety.org

- g) Continued to take part in the HDC Community Lottery
- h) Working with and receiving support from Age UK WSBH
- i) Continued to update the HDOPF website and started work on a new website www.hdopforum.org. Help wanted to continue construction. Presence on social media (FB & Twitter @hdopf) with information, Horsham police crime & fraud bulletins, local events, newspaper articles etc.

3. AGM - Election of Officers: The following were re-elected:

- Chairman - Martin Bruton
- Treasurer – Graham Sitton
- Secretary – Derek Moore
- Committee - David Searle [Horsham Town Community Partnership], Lilian Bold [CCG Patient Ref Group], Bob Cusack [Age UK WSBH] & Leo Jago [Henfield], Christine Osborne [Horsham Denne Neighbourhood Council]

4. Guest Speakers

1. Katarina Broadhill Healthwatch West Sussex. Update.
 - a. Public survey on engagement with health provision underway
 - b. NHS dentistry appointments remain difficult to arrange.
 - c. NHS Health Check Ups delayed.
 - d. Review on charging for adult social care underway.
 - e. Access to GP eConsult is underway. Process is via GP practice, then transfers to 111.
2. Cllr Claire Vickers, in her new position as Cabinet Member for Community & Wellbeing, has written to all GP practices within the district, asking for information on their contact processes and current waiting times for appointments. She is aware that there is a wide variety in provision of services.
3. Laura Robertson NHS Commissioners:
 - a. Access to GP led services is currently the biggest issue. Many patients challenged with accessing services.
 - b. Delays for blood tests continue with urgent cases only at present.
 - c. Covid update; booster jabs, awaiting final guidance. Flu clinics being set up but delays in obtaining vaccines. Focus on groups who are immunosuppressed/vulnerable/in care >50 years.
 - d. We are encouraged to download the NHS App which provides a Vaccine Passport and ability to request repeat prescriptions.

4. Rosemary Pavoni provided her view on the care home situation.
 - a. The enforcement in requiring CV vaccines for all staff will cause real problems in recruiting as it's thought many will migrate to NHS where it is not compulsory.
 - b. Message from government is that personnel from other authorities will be transferred to fill the gap but many unconvinced this will work.
 - c. Staff morale is low and many exhausted. Many now contracting CV19.
 - d. Occupancy levels remain low, which means many will be trading at a loss. Without help, many homes will face closure.
 - e. Future bleak and worried about being at breaking point.

5. Alan Britten re Horsham District Community Transport resuming services.
 - a. Had to suspend due to CV19 and transmission issues.
 - b. Plan to re-start in 2-3 weeks.
 - c. Need to establish level of demand.
 - d. Contact details remain the same. Office hours 9-12 01403 250202.

5. MB gave an update on the Chatty Café's scheme.
 - a. MB has met with Shelley Gosden and Covid Information Officers from HDC to run through progress.
 - b. List of cafés held by HDC is incomplete. HDC to work on completion.
 - c. Awaiting invoice from CCs for promotional packs. HDC have agreed to reimburse this cost.
 - d. Need for more cafés to sign up to the scheme.
 - e. MB to work on promotional article for CT

6. MB gave update on Age UK WSBH. Stacey Cullen is moving to their branch in Chichester and introduced her replacement, Bob Cusack.

7. A discussion on the method to hold the next public meeting took place with a show of hands as to the preference between face-to-face or Zoom. 4 in favour for F-t-F and 13 for Zoom. It was agreed that our next Public meeting: 5th November 2021 MP Question Time with Jeremy Quin MP – will be held by Zoom. MB will contact JQ to confirm arrangement. MB made a request for questions that people want asked to be emailed to him prior to the meeting.

8. AOB and Discussion on any issues raised

9. Forum meetings for 2022 will be circulated once date and venues confirmed. Meeting ended.