

BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL

OLDER PEOPLE'S COUNCIL

10.00am 21 AUGUST 2012

ROOM 126, KING'S HOUSE

MINUTES

Present: Councillor Hazelgrove (Chair)

Also in attendance: Chair of Pensioner Association – Howley and a representative from Age UK, Brighton & Hove –Durrani

Other Members present: Tonks, Bojczuk, Eyles, Steer, Terry, Brown, Vincent, & Wakeling.

PART ONE

65. APOLOGIES AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- 65.1 The Chair paid tribute to former member Colin Carden who had passed away on the 19 July 2012. Colin was a member of the OPC from 2007 - 2012. A collection amongst the OPC members raised £75 towards the Martlets Hospice on his behalf.
- 65.2 Councillor Geoffrey Bowden, Co-optee Penny Morley & Pensioner's Forum Association representative - Isla Robertson sent their apologies.
- 65.3 Wendy Walker (speaker from the Keep) had sent her apologies and would present to the OPC later on in the year.
- 65.4 Marion Couldery was appointed into the OPC by members as a Co-optee for Rottingdean Coastal and Woodingdean Wards.

66. MINUTES

- 66.1 The minutes were approved from the 19 July 2012.
- 66.2 Matters arising: members were still interested in receiving an update from Community Safety, in particular about cold-calling.
- 66.3 The Chair asked for an update from partners:
- (1) Pensioner Action , Sue Howley's update included:
- People's Day was a success and used as an opportunity to extend the distribution of the Pensioner magazine, which was written by older people.

- The magazine was used to promote the improvement of GP services campaign. There were an unexpected large number of responses received by post even though postage was not supplied.
- At the Patient Participation Group (PPG) meeting on GP surgeries many concerns were raised. The aim of the meeting was for older people to influence the recommendations made. Pensioner Action would be taking forward the issues raised from the meeting.
- Another concern raised was from older carers and the 15 minutes allocated time for assisting patients. It was felt that the time was too limited to have any impact on the patient.
- Members noted that the PPG was compulsory and set up costs were £500. There were a variation of meetings ie. once a month to every 6 months, a wide range of people attended and there were many national guidelines which seemed to complicate matters for the PPG.
- The Primary Care Trust's (PCT) funding would cease for Pensioner Action, it was more than likely that funding would be extended by 3-6 months. There was a strong possibility that the organisation would continue through the pooling of budgets

(2) Age UK, Mehvish Durrani's update included:

- Kat Pearce was job sharing as interim of Chief Executive Age UK, Brighton-Hove.
- Funding cuts of £30k had meant that there were redundancies. The charity was carrying out a financial analysis of its services and funding streams. It was understood that the charity shops were managed by a separate national company.
- Promoting the marathon to raise funds for the charity.
- Feedback from the OPC was whether leaflets supplied by the charity were useful to customers.
- Further clarification was needed on the agenda for the Age UK AGM.

67. ANNUAL REPORT

67.1 The Secretary confirmed that the final draft was with the design team and would meet the necessary deadline.

67.2 The annual report would be in large text and would be 8 pages long, summarising the OPC's commitments, two articles on Age Friendly City (AFC) & the Local Account and dates of the public meeting. 400 copies have been ordered. If further copies were needed A5 leaflets would be produced instead.

67.3 The Council had a distribution list which included older people groups, councillors, sheltered homes and local libraries and the annual report would be circulated to these places.

68. UPDATE ON THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION (WHO)- AGE FRIENDLY CITY (AFC)

- 68.1 The Secretary informed members that at Full Council on the 19 July 2012 Councillors approved the application that the OPC put forward for AFC.
- 68.2 It was uncertain whether the WHO would send a response to the application for AFC and whether there would be some kind of assessment made. Responses would take a while.
- 68.3 Annie Alexander, Public Health Programme Manager would be driving this forward
- 68.4 Members highlighted the following points which included:
- That footpaths had deteriorated due to uneven pavements and how these had become real hazards.
 - There was a need for more seating areas. Members asked for more information on how many new public seats were installed in 2011 and how many were removed; including parks and the seafront. Also what were the reasons for moving or removing the seating areas?
 - Members felt that services communicated mainly through computers which was not always a suitable medium for older people
 - Restaurant furniture on forecourts was also an issue for the partially sighted, people with walking frames and prams. It was suggested the OPC could survey this as a group and feedback to the Council.
 - Find out information from the European Union (who sponsors the programme). Manchester are the only other city with AFC status, it was important to find out how they approached the programme, involve partners and the council. It would be useful to have an older people's project speaker (who attended the recent conference), from Dorset.
 - It was noted that there would be an AFC launch and this would be an opportunity to invite speakers from Manchester and Dorset.
 - By joining the WHO information would be made available which would include help and guidance.
 - The OPC needed working groups for the 9 areas which included housing, environment with leadership from the council and input from partners. The groups would need to ensure that topics of interest for older people were discussed, to utilise the OPC website, Grey Matters Productions, and older people from residents associations.
 - It was important that these areas of concern were addressed as a baseline and assessed as part of the AFC. Additionally the deficits of having such a status needed to be identified.

69. OPC EXPENSES

- 69.1 Members agreed to utilise their bus passes as much as possible and in exceptional circumstances expenses could be claimed for other travel options. It was understood that the budget was tight and to keep printing to a minimum. **MB** would e-mail all members letter templates so that they could write letters using pre-printed paper.
- 69.2 The Treasurer announced the OPC Bank account balance as per the 29 April- 2011 statement. **PT** would request a more up to date statement for the next meeting.

70. CONSULTATION ON THE COUNCIL'S CORPORATE PLAN

70.1 Comments to be included in the consultation were :

- (1) Further reference was needed to older people and engagement with AFC.
- (2) Private sector housing forum, sheltered homes and housing associations should also be referred to.
- (3) Street lighting being replaced with more dim lighting will be an issue for the safety of older people and may not encourage them to go out in the evenings.
- (4) The issue of older people dying of starvation and hyperthermia needs to be raised.

71. OPC WORK PROGRAMME AND UPDATE

71.1 The Chair asked members what information they wanted to know about for the Housing update at 18 September meeting. Members asked for more information about what proportion of new homes were going to be sheltered accommodation. How would older people residents be treated in light of the Welfare Reform Act and the "under occupancy" housing benefit scheme. (This was in reference to housing benefit received according to the number of people living in a property, rather than the size of the property).

71.2 What support was available for older people in private accommodation?

71.3 It was noted that people were means tested, when allocated services and then reassessed. Most services went out to patients in private accommodation and that the council commissioned this work out. The OPC meeting on the 23 October would cover this information.

71.4 Co-optee Penny Morley had sent an e-mail suggesting a planning meeting to discuss the OPC's future priorities. Members agreed this for the 20 November meeting, which would also include work on AFC.

71.5 Wendy Walker to be rescheduled to speak at the 18 December meeting. The Christmas meal would be at the Bali Brasserie after the meeting.

71.6 Members round up included:

- (1) Grey Matters Broadcasting Company is part owned separately by the OPC & Age UK. Radio Reverb charged £10 for each session. The time slot of the broadcast had been changed this incurred an extra expense. Work was progressing to find another Doctor to speak on the radio network, as this was very popular with listeners.
- (2) The LINK had organised a number of visits to care homes and GP practices and FT had visited 2 with residents. This included going through a questionnaire. Observations were that the residents seemed happy and the care home was comfortable clean residents happy. The assessment was written up by LINK.
- (3) Feedback from the recent Planning meeting that JW attended was that a Planning Brief for Medina House, Hove was requested, to restore the building. A second petition was heard for The Level, in which 70 people were against the moving of the proposed location of the Rose Garden communal area to a shaded area. The Skate Park would be placed where the Rose Garden was going to be.

- (4) VB withdrew her decision to be a representative for Grey Matters Radio. Anyone interested in taking up the position to contact Sharmini.
- (5) A further Palliative Care meeting would take place in September or October as funding for this project had been extended by another 2 years. Members involved in this group are CV, HS and MB.
- (6) People's Day attracted some attention for the OPC. The event was well organised. The OPC Secretary had also taken part in the debate called "Our City".
- (7) CV had attended 3 meetings for the LiNK Steering Group. Main topic of discussion was the transition of LiNK responsibilities into Healthwatch under the changes to the Social Care Act.
- (8) At the End of Life Stakeholders event, Brighton and Sussex University Health Trust (BSUHT) and other healthcare professionals were discussing how to stream line care for patients, processes for the last stages of life and plan to develop a more systematic approach to ensure people are treated more humanely. A report would be produced.
- (9) There would be a Waste Advisory Group meeting on the 8 September.

72. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

72.1 Members received the new council diary; there were limited numbers of these.

The meeting concluded at 1.00pm

Signed

Chair

Dated this

day of