

BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL

OLDER PEOPLE'S COUNCIL

10.00am 20 NOVEMBER 2012

ROOM 126, KING'S HOUSE

MINUTES

Present: Hazelgrove (Chair), Tonks, Bojczuk, Brown, Eyles, Steer, Terry, Vincent, Couldery, Morley and Wakeling

Also in attendance: Councillor Geoffrey Bowden

PART ONE

89. PROCEDURAL BUSINESS

89.1 Note 10.15am start time for all future public and non-public OPC meetings.

89.2 Marion Couldery was welcomed to the meeting.

89.3 Apologies from Isla Robertson of Pensioner Association.

90. MINUTES

90.1 At 83.5 peg feeding was a healthcare technique.

90.2 At Item 84 Sue Howley said all interested in helping engage with older people on Age Friendly City were invited to the next Pensioner Action meeting, 10am – 12.30am on Tuesday 27 November in the Friends Meeting House, that would be attended by Annie Alexander (Public Health Programme Manager) and Emma Daniel (CVSF) (ACTION - All)

90.3 At 85.4 The Head of Scrutiny would be asked to invite relevant officers from Social Care, Public Health and Housing to speak at 22 January 2013 OPC meeting on implications of the budget proposals for older people's services. Members were interested in how the European budget situation would affect project funding, eg Interreg. (ACTION - Scrutiny)

90.4 At 86.1 The annual affiliation fee was £15 and this had been paid.

90.5 At 87.5 Older people were more likely than other age groups to be concerned about restructuring of bowls clubs and mobile libraries.

90.6 At 87.9 Noted that Hove Square proposals were on hold. On proposals for road crossings at Seven Dials, Francis Tonks had written to the Argus that zebra crossings were less

preferable for the elderly and partially sighted than the existing traffic lights. Age UK Brighton & Hove had also made representations about erecting a sign to indicate their offices nearby.

90.7 Regarding major development proposals, eg Lewes Road, Brighton Station Gateway and Seven Dials the Chair Jack Hazelgrove noted that OPC members, both individually and as a group could respond. The Council's Forward Plan would be included on all OPC agendas to enable early discussion and where possible a combined response from an older people's perspective to influence decision-making, contribute to Age-Friendly City. OPC Member attendance at Committees was a crucial part of getting early information and early input into policy development. (ACTION – Scrutiny, all)

90.8 Penny Morley noted that in development proposals, 'Consultations' and 'Equalities' did not include 'older people' in the list of groups to be consulted; whereas older people ought to be considered specifically as a matter of course, age being a protected characteristic, and should be part of Equality Impact Assessment. Councillor Geoffrey Bowden said OPC ought, as routine, to be a consultee on all proposals eg the Seafront Strategy. OPC would write to Councillor Ben Duncan as lead on Equalities.) (ACTION - Scrutiny)

90.9 The Chair Jack Hazelgrove noted that in discussion with the Leader Councillor Jason Kitcat, there had to be reluctant acceptance that no more could be done within the Council about holding an Older Peoples Day in the foreseeable future.

90.10 Francis Tonks who served on the Steering Group for (all) People's Day, said the OPC stall at that event was well linked with other Health and Wellbeing organisations, which was valuable. Harry Steer said some smaller organisations that he represented, wanted an Older People's Day; they did not consider it worthwhile to attend People's Day, as they would not be noticed there.

90.11 Members were glad to have participated in Peoples Day and the Tea Party with the Mayor.

90.12 It was suggested that all older people's groups work closely together, eg towards a consultation launch day for Age Friendly City, to help attract support and funding – so that would be a 'de facto' Older People's Day. The Public Health Programme Manager would be contacted. (ACTION - Scrutiny)

91. DISCUSSION OF THE OPC FUTURE WORK PLAN

91.1 OPC Secretary Mike Bojczuk outlined the draft presentation for use by OPC Members in promoting the OPC more widely eg potential funders and various organisations in the City. This would be refined based on the comments made here and would be available for all to use; the motto being 'Powerpoint or Perish.'

91.2 He demonstrated the on-line form at bahafc.freeforms.org he had designed to raise older audience participation in Age Friendly City and this was welcomed.

91.3 General issues raised:

91.4 The OPC electoral register is incomplete for residents aged between 60 and 70 years; the current canvassing system linked with the issuing of free bus passes was not working well.

Leafletting in libraries, GP surgeries and health centres had already been tried. Mike was happy to help eg help send out bulk e-mails.

91.5 Age UK Brighton & Hove, Pensioner Action, Pensioner Association, would be referred to as Partner Organisations.

91.6 The role of Councillor Geoffrey Bowden for OPC was as Administration Link Councillor and this was welcomed.

91.7 OPC successes to date were mentioned by Members – they had included many active campaigns though these were difficult to evidence. Often based on individual Members' specific interests these actions had in fact influenced Council and NHS decision-making. From now, OPC have to focus on future aims rather than the past achievements.

91.8 Engagement issues raised:

Better publicity and engagement with older people represented by OPC was needed eg broadcasting successes, more attractive photos and illustrations for the annual report, better presence on the Council's website and links to OPC website. The Secretary was concerned to involve others in helping developing the OPC website.

91.9 More older residents to be encouraged to attend OPC meetings; with posters sent out the week before the meeting, leaflets, handouts etc. Stress that this is an 'Open' meeting. But what more can be done within existing resources. Janet suggested more people from Hove would go to public meetings, were they held not in Jubilee Library but more centrally. Harry said various venues had been tried in the past but attendance had not improved.

91.10 Can encourage people to come to OPC meetings but more likely to be successful engagement by going out to communicate with existing meetings/groups/venues – neighbourhood groups, focus groups etc - as people often aren't interested in going to this type of formal meeting.

91.12 Presentations could be given at Residents Associations, local societies and activities.

91.13 The growing network of LATs, although not coterminous with OPC constituencies, were ideal for promote older people's interests; OPC Members can go and participate in these across the City.

91.15 Key areas for OPC work programme:

(Concentrating on new ways of working actively to represent older people on priority subjects)

a) The Budget and its impact on older people's services.

b) New system of performance management for Adult Social Care. Potential role for OPC eg visiting/monitoring/ providing feedback.

c) More research needed on critical issues eg the impact of increasing energy prices and fuel poverty on older people.

- d) Hangleton Knoll Project, a good model for use elsewhere in the City, could be invited to speak to OPC .
- e) Who can look at the new census data, to analyse information on older people? Are there volunteers for this?
- f) Students from Sussex University could possibly help with research – provide brainpower/ computer power and inspire enthusiasm eg in Uni lecturers, researchers on OP issues.
- g) Free pass for telephone conferencing was useful initiative if an OPC member had one hour per week to work on this. Members were asked to volunteer.
- h) Francis Tonks suggested Road Safety for the OPC work programme.
- i) Peter Terry suggested Police Commissioner as an agenda item. Allow more time before invitation to OPC.
- j) Fit as a Fiddle exercise DVD can be distributed to sheltered housing schemes.
- k) Kat Pearce suggested closer partnership working by OPC deciding on an issue-based or activity-based approach and then identifying priority 'niches' for the partner organisations.
- l) Sue Howley asked how the OPC work plan would map on to the AFC headings.
- m) Agreed that the Joint Public meeting would be held on the 18 June OPC date and Members were asked to start suggesting suitable potential topics. **(ACTION –Scrutiny, all)**

92. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

92.1 Roles and responsibilities as printed were agreed with the exceptions that;

92.2 Peter Terry was Treasurer; Marion also wished to be involved in Adult Care and Health so Mike Bojczuk was happy to 'stand down' from ACH; Colin Vincent was the OPC rep on Grey Matters; Val was interested to be spokesperson on Culture issues and this was agreed.

92.3 Janet would be the OPC link with university students on intergenerational initiatives. She was concerned at the 'technology wall' eg computers, mobile phones between younger people and older people who often preferred personal rather than electronic contact. Janet wanted to build bridges.

93. FORWARD PLAN

93.1 Noted.

94. PUBLIC QUESTIONS, PETITIONS AND DEPUTATIONS

94.1 An issue raised by residents at Patching Lodge was being followed up by officers. The Chair Jack Hazelgrove was being updated on this.

95. OPC WORK PROGRAMME

95.1 Considered under Item 89 above.

96. MEMBERS ROUND UP

96.1 Peter had made representations about buses, especially numbers 37 and 56. Francis had visited several care homes. He was serving on a mental health steering group.

96.2 Jack was going to see a film on Older People's wellbeing. He welcomed Park Crescent Clinic having a greater role in Primary Care and Mental Health provision, that would prevent people having to go to Accident and Emergency – a principle that should be extended elsewhere.

96.3 Colin had looked at the Council's Forward Plan - a key document and needed to be followed up by OPC Members inputting to their respective Council Committees. There were advantages for OPC in attending Committees - he had been to Adult Care and Health (where Re-commissioning of Day Care Services, and Link issues eg the transition to Healthwatch were of central importance to older people), plus Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Citywide Parking Review) and would be going to Licensing and Joint Commissioning Board.

96.4 John was co-optee in the Public Toilet Provision scrutiny panel – scoping meeting on 26 November. Waste Advisory Group had been postponed.

96.5 Marion was an advisor at Age UK Brighton & Hove one day per week. She had been involved in filming at Hove Park for University research.

96.6 Harry said 20 older people had spoken to Year 7 at Portslade Community College, brought photos, answered questions eg 'what was on TV when you were young?.' His local LAT included young person representatives - misunderstandings between generations had been ironed out.

96.7 Val was interested in publicity and suggested 'Silver Screen' sessions at the Odeon and Duke of Yorks as ideal opportunities. Also asked for volunteers to take forward an older people's float at Pride.

96.8 OPC Administration Link Councillor

Cllr Geoffrey Bowden said OPC members can receive Committee agenda within the same timescale as the Committee Members. By arranging with the Committee Chair in advance, officer briefings can be requested on issues of concern to older people. Questions have to be replied to – petitions can be presented – policy and direction of travel can be influenced. This is a good way into media coverage. He reiterated that he was keen for OPC to be a regular consultee especially regarding the Culture Committee that he Chaired. Eg issues such as Seafont Strategy, Mobile Library debate.

97. 12PM BRIGHTON UNIVERSITY STUDENT

97.1 Five Sussex University media students were preparing a filmed documentary on links between young and old in Brighton & Hove. Had heard 'Grey Matters' and had great fun at Hangleton Knoll Project and, bringing experience from other countries, they plan to build on

this to produce a short documentary film develop greater intergenerational understanding locally.

97.2 Parts of the OPC meeting was filmed; Janet Wakeling invited the students to her home and other individual OPC Members would be contacted if they wished to be interviewed. The final result would be checked with the OPC Chair.

98. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None.

The meeting concluded at 1.15pm

Signed

Chair

Dated this

day of