

**BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL**

**OLDER PEOPLE'S COUNCIL**

**10.15am 17 SEPTEMBER 2013**

**JUBILEE LIBRARY JUBILEE STREET BRIGHTON BN1 1GE. TEL: 01273 - 290800**

**MINUTES**

**Present:** Jack Hazelgrove (Chair), Francis Tonks, Mike Bojczuk, Val Brown, John Eyles, Harry Steer and Colin Vincent

**Co-opted Members:** Penny Morley, Janet Wakeling and Nick Green

**PART ONE**

**18. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

18.1 Jack Hazelgrove welcomed everyone to the AGM. He and Francis Tonks were standing down after this meeting as Chair and Vice Chair whilst remaining on the Older People's Council.

18.2 Copies of the OPC Annual Report 2012 – 2013 were distributed.

**19. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING. ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND TREASURER'S REPORT**

19.1 The Chair was delighted that a new team of OPC officers will be taking over from the next meeting. He announced that Mike Bojczuk (Chair), Penny Morley (Secretary) Colin Vincent (Vice Chair) and Harry Steer (Treasurer) had been elected in a ballot of members.

19.2 He congratulated the team and also encouraged older people to vote and stand as candidate at the next OPC election, 2015.

19.3 Acting Treasurer Harry Steer told the meeting that the bank had closed the OPC account as it had not been used for some time. The balance was not lost; however the current bank may take some months to resolve this issue. Meanwhile there was no statement of account or balance sheet for this year.

19.4 He reminded the meeting that OPC was supported by the Brighton & Hove City Council but was independent from it. The main OPC expenses are dealt with by BHCC, via the scrutiny team.

**20. COMMUNITY AND VOLUNTARY SECTOR FORUM - UPDATE**

20.1 Libby Young, CVSF Operations Manager gave facts and figures about the Community and Voluntary sector. She outlined changes to CVSF within the Transforming Local Infrastructure Project, and how CVSF will be supporting the community and voluntary sector in the future.

20.2 The National Council for Voluntary Organisations estimated there were more than 160,000 voluntary and charitable organisations in England, approximately half of which have annual income less than £10,000, are unlikely to have paid staff and rely solely on donations. There were an estimated 16.1 million volunteers in England. Volunteers are thought to contribute around £23 billion to the UK Economy.

20.3 The 2013 CVSF audit called 'Taking Account' of the size, importance and value of the sector locally is in progress. Figures from the 2008 audit showed an estimated 1,600 groups and organisations in Brighton & Hove, 700 of these are estimated to be small, informal groups. It is estimated that there are nearly 20,000 volunteering positions in Brighton and Hove and that nearly 60,000 volunteering hours per week are given in Brighton and Hove. This volunteering is worth over £24 million to the local economy.

20.4 The local community and voluntary sector is made up of different types of organisations and groups eg community groups, informal groups, voluntary organisations, charities, social enterprises, resident and resident organisations, co-operative and community interest companies. They can be run by just 2 or 3 committed volunteers or be part of large international organisations with hundreds of employees. The common factor is that the primary purpose is not for profit, and working for the benefit of local communities and people.

20.5 The local community and voluntary sector contributes an estimated £96 million to the local economy every year.

20.6 Community and Voluntary groups/organisations are community led and run, they provide volunteering opportunities and are well placed to reach isolated communities. They are a source of knowledge and expertise to help identify emerging issues facing communities, provide a champion voice and inform better and more targeted services and service planning. They bring in additional funding into the city eg from national government and independent grant and trust funding.

20.7 Libby Young outlined the main challenges facing the community and voluntary sector that includes: finding resources needed to support volunteers; fluctuating funding that impacts on the ability to plan; 'squeezing' of contracts; significant monitoring and evaluation requirements and meeting demand for services at a time of reduced public sector funding, more people turning to community and voluntary sector groups to meet their needs, and changes in key areas of national policies and priorities.

20.8 CVSF, an independent charity, has existed for about 15 years and has over 350 members. The main focus of its work has been around informing, networking and representing CVSF members for the benefit of local communities. CVSF is now broadening the support to include capacity-building to ensure a sustainable, diverse and influential Sector.

28.9 The Transforming Local Infrastructure Project is bringing about changes:

- The volunteer Centre, Performance Development Service, Skills Exchange and CVSF have all merged to become one new sector support organisation.
- CVSF will be the legal organisation through which the new organisation will operate. It has changed its charitable objectives to enable for a wider scope of support services, and is developing a new name, and identity for the new sector support organisation.
- This new organisation will be moving to reside in Community Base, so that it is more accessible to the people of Brighton and Hove.
- The new organisation has developed a new business plan and new services.
- The new organisation will have a new staffing structure to deliver the new services
- The project has had widespread engagement, involvement and consultation both with CVSF members, the wider sector other sector support organisations in the city, and also funders.

28.10 New CVSF Services will continue to support the Sector to influence key decision-makers. It will also however, focus more of its time on developing sector partnerships and consortiums to be able to bid for, manage, and deliver on large public sector contracts for public services

28.11 It will also provide support around volunteering, both good practice support for those developing and running volunteers schemes, but also help people to access volunteering opportunities, matching local people with the right local organisations. This will include a focus on working with people with additional support needs to ensure that they are able to access the volunteering opportunities they are interested in.

28.12 It will provide more one-to-one support to ensure the Sector has the right advice, information and knowledge, to run their groups and organisations as effectively and as efficiently as possible. This will also include support for workers and volunteers in the sector to develop their skills through providing training courses, a mentoring programme, and by sharing skills and knowledge.

28.13 It will provide access to low cost, high value consultancy services for the sector and connect more closely with the business sector.

28.14 The substantial changes such as new brand, new staff, and some of the new services are expected to be in place by the end of the year/early 2014.

28.15 The Changes aim to ensure that:

- The sector will continue to be influential
- More people and more diverse people will come forward and volunteer and be involved in community activity
- Community and Voluntary Sector Groups and Organisations will have access to more resources, and more opportunities to develop their skills, which means they are better able to govern and manage themselves and as a result are more sustainable

28.16 Further information on becoming a member, receiving a free newsletter, using the volunteering service was available on 01273 – 810230.

28.17 Libby Young answered questions on the structure of the TLI project, posted on the CVSF website; the use of the 'theory of change' approach; and the development of Healthwatch, detailed in newsletters and on-line, or more information on 01273 – 810235.

28.18 The Chair thanked Libby Young for her helpful thorough presentation.

## **21. MAJOR TRANSPORT PROJECTS - UPDATE**

21.1 Principal Transport Planning Officer Robin Reed gave a presentation and showed a video on the busy roundabout at Seven Dials that had several routes in and out including buses. There were around 26,000 vehicle movements per day. In three years there had been 20 accidents involving 23 casualties with slight or serious injuries.

21.2 The environment was 'very poor', with narrow pedestrian areas and clutter, and long indirect pedestrian crossing routes. The area was also difficult for cyclists due to perceived and actual danger.

21.3 Some pedestrians jumped over the road barriers causing additional dangers. The area was generally 'infuriating for all,' he said, but changes were controversial. He set out the disadvantages of guard rails, and reasons why rails could increase accident rates; and the measures taken to retain a 130 year old tree.

21.4 UK roundabouts tended to have high accident rates so transport planners investigated different, overseas, design standards. A bigger roundabout with all traffic in a single lane was hard to miss so that traffic had to reduce speed. A raised curb allowed large vehicles to turn. Improved paving and street surfacing and less clutter were all beneficial.

21.5 RR detailed the consultation that had taken place. Some of the proposals that had not been supported by residents were not taken forward, he confirmed.

21.6 The scheme was approved at February 2013 Transport Committee and was expected to be completed in December.

21.7 RR described the Lewes Road traffic scheme, which was just finishing, between the gyratory and University of Brighton buildings. The route carried around 35,000 bus passengers and 1,500 cyclists each way per day. Uniquely, modelling showed that more people are already choosing sustainable transport than car. Modelling of current and future trip attractors took into account the Amex stadium, the Keep, Universities, the Level, Preston Barracks. The bendy buses required special infrastructure.

21.8 Traffic counters indicated that people have not generally changed their route during the road works. The changes were working well and would be put to the test at the start of the new University term. From the consultation 63% of respondents were in favour.

21.9 The new scheme that avoids conflict between buses and cyclists is the first use in the UK. All the funding was external and formal opening is due on 5 October. It includes a wider cycle

lane, dedicated bus lane, single lane traffic, new bus stops, shelters and seating. Road crossings for pedestrians to Wild Park and Moulsecoomb station are being improved.

21.10 Monitoring the impact of the new scheme including road safety, bus journey times and improved air quality, will continue into 2014/2015.

21.11 RR answered questions on public seating, monitoring traffic movements, and results of consultations, all openly available on the website.

21.12 Replying to other questions he said bus lanes would be enforceable from 30 September; the council worked with both universities who have dedicated transport contacts.

21.13 Emma Friedlander, Public Realm Officer, outlined the consultation on Valley Gardens, the 'underused' green space of some 23 acres stretching from the Level to the Aquarium. It was in effect like a gyratory and a series of clumsy junctions. There was no detailed design but different options were being considered for consultation for traffic travelling North-South.

21.14 One concept would be for all North-South traffic on the West of Valley Gardens with bus lane/cycle lane/paved area on the East.

21.15 Options would be modelled, then consultations would help inform the detailed design. The Council website gave full details.

21.16 The meeting discussed bus routes in the area that could help relieve the pressure on St James' Street.

21.17 Answering questions EF said improvements at Pool Valley could possibly be included. Looking at all the Gateways to the city was a separate piece of work.

21.18 The Chair Jack Hazelgrove thanked the officers for their detailed thorough information.

## **22. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 23 JULY 2013**

22.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 22 July were agreed.

## **23. OPC WORK PROGRAMME**

23.1 Nick Green was welcomed to the Older People's Council as co-optee for the period up to 2015.

23.2 Sue Howley of 'The Pensioner' magazine said funding including through advertising, was being sought for the 11 November issue of the Pensioner magazine. A bid was being made for funding to set up a website. Councillor Bowden said he was continuing to investigate how the magazine may be supported more sustainably as it was aimed at older and perhaps isolated readership.

22.3 Members were encouraged to send all their funding suggestions to Sue Howley, or OPC Chair or Vice Chair who also sat on the Pensioner Interim Group.

22.4 OPC noted the future meeting dates and gave an update of their activities. HS, member of the Practitioner Alliance for Safeguarding Adults said it had been clarified that people who self-

neglect cannot be forced to accept help - also he had contributed to research study, the OPC input into the Planning consultation on the Amex Stadium;

22.5 CV was following up his interest in wheelchair-accessible taxis; PM said there was much dissatisfaction around extended opening hours in the Roundhill area (Councillor Bowden highlighted the Cumulative Impact Zones and alcohol licensing of supermarkets); JW summarised latest planning developments;

22.6 PM outlined the Ageing Better Big Lottery Fund bid being drawn up by Age UK Brighton & Hove in coordination with the voluntary sector – also the Age Friendly City focus group formerly run by Pensioner Action. PM suggested topics for OPC to link in with AFC headline topics eg Transport;

22.7 FT reported he had attended the formal opening of The Level – the café would be opening in 2014 – any member who was prepared to be a ‘mystery shopper’ should contact FT – People’s Day would be June 14<sup>th</sup> 2014 though with reduced funding.

22.8 CV asked about the Winter Contingency Plans for this year; NG circulated forms for commenting on Personalised Health Care; JH referred to a National Pensioners’ Convention on benefits. VB had attended meetings with Age UK and the Keep ser Group and had heard an introduction to the Transforming Local Infrastructure project.

22.9 Councillor Bowden updated OPC on the Health and Wellbeing Board and Adult Social Care meetings. He said Councillor Bill Randall had been appointed the Councillor ‘Heritage Champion’ for the city.

22.10 On behalf of all OPC, the new Chair Mike Bojczuk thanked Jack Hazelgrove and Francis Tonks for all their hard work over the years as Chair and Vice Chair. He was pleased they will continue to serve as members. Jack and Francis received a round of enthusiastic applause.

The meeting concluded at 1.00pm

Signed

Chair

Dated this

day of