

BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL

OLDER PEOPLE'S COUNCIL

10.15am 23 APRIL 2013

ROOM 126, KING'S HOUSE

MINUTES

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

Co-opted Members: Marion Couldery, Penny Morley and Janet Wakeling

Others Present: Councillor G Bowden, Kat Pearce (Age UK Brighton & Hove), Sue Howley and Peter Lloyd (Pensioners' Association)

PART ONE

1. PROCEDURAL BUSINESS

- 1.1 OPC Chair Jack Hazelgrove welcomed everyone to the meeting especially representatives of older people's organisations.
- 1.2 Councillor Rob Jarrett had given his apologies.
- 1.3 Due to illness, item 2 on the agenda, consultation on the Biosphere Bid was now replaced by a presentation on the consultation on communal recycling bins.

2. BACK OUR BIOSPHERE BID, CONSULTATION

- 2.1 Cityclean officers Ollie Lewis and Hollie Smith outlined the proposed communal recycling service in some central areas of the City where there are currently communal refuse bins in place. The scheme was being trialled because recycling rates were poor at present in certain areas; there were several practical reasons for this. A 2011 trial in Brunswick and Adelaide had shown significantly increased recycling rates and increased resident satisfaction.
- 2.2 Members of the Older People's Council were invited to reply to the current consultation and to encourage others to do so. Closing date is 6 May 2013.
- 2.3 Answering questions the officers said assisted collections for disabled people would remain unaffected by the trial. The pilot had led to an increased uptake in assisted collections amongst people who had not realised they were entitled to this service. There were an estimated 6,000 households in the City who used the assisted collection service.

2.4 OPC Members questioned how locations of communal recycling bins would be decided, asking how far an average person would need to walk to their nearest bin.

2.5 There would be a loss of some 120 car parking spaces, none of which were disabled spaces. Replies to the consultation would help inform a balanced solution to this issue. Unused black boxes would be collected and reused.

2.6 Collection frequency of the communal recycling bins would be on a 'trial and error' basis and each collection would be weighed and recorded.

2.7 Batteries can be put in with mixed recycling. Around 95% of all collected recyclable materials were used in the UK. Only two types of plastic – PET1 and HDP - were currently collected. Other plastics had low market value and were not recyclable in this country. The organisation Wrap helps influence supermarkets and other businesses to reduce water in various ways.

2.8 Further information is available by phone 01273 – 292929 or website link:
<http://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/index.cfm?request=c1276214>.

2.9 Some Members were interested to visit to the Hollingdean materials recovery facility.

3. THE EUROPEAN UNION - WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR ME?

3.1 The Chair welcomed Elisabeth Sweeney, Regional Liaison and Networks Officer of the European Parliament. He put on display the Certificate showing Brighton & Hove joining the WHO Age-Friendly City initiative from 1 April 2013.

3.2 Elisabeth Sweeney outlined the MEPs and their work and made suggestions as to how the OPC could in a larger forum provide a 'platform' for involvement and debate about the EU. She provided committee membership details and answered questions on the 2012 European Year of Active Ageing and Solidarity Between Generations, with contact names, written reports and website references.

3.3 The next European election is on 22 May 2014. Europe Day is celebrated every 9 May; the 2012 celebrations included a particularly successful event at Europe House by 'The Amazings' group over 50 year-olds offering teaching and craft skills, contributing to intergenerational solidarity. The South West Seniors' network held their South West Assembly in March 2012 including a speaker on 'Campaign to End Loneliness,' based in London.

3.4 Regarding examples of funding opportunities, the Interreg programme for which a European partner organisation is needed, is still in progress and 'Smart Cities and Communities' was calling annually for proposals. A contact from the European Commission has more details.

3.5 Elisabeth Sweeney answered questions and said the facts of EU funding into the UK can sometimes get 'lost' in media stories and gave examples. Information is available on future funding strands - the Council's European Office can be contacted; MEPs are also good sources of information, as are Europe Direct centres and local chambers of commerce and libraries. She provided contact details and leaflets.

3.6 Members discussed the potential for local radio broadcasting eg Panel discussion with a local MP and MEP on the run-up to the May 2014 European Parliament elections.

4. BREAK

5. MINUTES

5.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 19 March 2013 were agreed.

5.2 Matters arising:

At 117.7 Marion Couldery pointed out the importance of volunteering opportunities for older people that also helps reduce social isolation. She asked about progress with the City's volunteering strategy. Penny Morley asked how OPC could attract more people to the public meetings. It was suggested that other venues could be used such as community rooms at sheltered housing.

5.3 AT 119 the vacancy in membership was noted.

6. PEOPLE'S DAY

6.1 Sue Howley set out various People's Day (15 June) activities that Pensioner Action is arranging in the Brighthelm Centre, from 11am – 5pm. This was being organised by Lifelines Project in co-operation with a wide range of older people's organisations and support services. There would be publicity that would complement the OPC stall; each would have information on the other.

6.2 Colin Vincent would attend on behalf of OPC at a planning meeting for this event on the afternoon of 1 May.

6.3 There was a question about filling in the rota for the OPC stall and how to attract more visitors to both events. This would be discussed at the next OPC meeting.

6.4 Copies of 'The Pensioner' would be available later this week.

6.5 'Older People's Day' would be added as an item for OPC Chair to discuss with the Council Leader on 30 April.

7. PENSIONER ACTION

7.1 Sue Howley, Chair of Pensioner Action reported that Pensioner Action had not been successful in applying for funding from the Clinical Commissioning Group, that wanted to focus more on vulnerable and housebound people. This meant that 2 staff would be leaving at the end of June 2013.

7.2 Pensioner Action had been in existence for more than 22 years. Now the aim was to be positive about what had been achieved, stress the lessons learned, and 'pass on the baton.' The Committee hoped that volunteers could still be involved, and that public events,

neighbourhood groups and the Pensioner magazine could continue, possibly in an enhanced format.

7.3 Chair of The Pensioner Editorial Committee Peter Lloyd set out the history of the magazine that provided a 'dialogue' between service providers and older people plus editorial comment. The magazine had been produced for more than 10 years. 4,000 copies were published three times per year and distributed free to readers in sheltered housing and libraries and council officers. Care agencies, community nurses and other volunteers also distributed the magazine. Target audience were frailer people; however it was also relevant for more active older people. A 4p reader questionnaire was being planned for the next issue to demonstrate the impact of the publication.

7.4 Harry Steer, formerly on the editorial board, said it would be sad if a quality product had to close.

7.5 Mike Bojczuk referred to the Big Lottery Fund launching of £70 million funding in England to address social isolation and improve the lives of older people.

7.5 OPC Members asked that OPC take action to help support a future for the magazine, especially as it linked well with the Age-Friendly City agenda, equalities and community safety. Councillor Bowden would investigate alternative funding sources.

8. LETTERS TO THE PRESS

8.1 There were none

9. OPC WORK PROGRAMME AND UPDATE

9.1 Kat Pearce reported that this was her last visit to OPC as interim CEO. Age UK Brighton & Hove had appointed Jessica Summer to the permanent CEO post. From the end of April there would be a larger management team of 4 people. A project launch was being planned.

9.2 On behalf of OPC the Chair thanked Kat for her work and involvement with OPC.

9.3 Age Friendly Cities would be the subject of debate led by Mike Bojczuk and Isla Robertson of Pensioner Association 11 May at 1pm, as part of the Speakers Corner project at Brighton Festival. Mike Bojczuk had been interviewed on Age Friendly Cities for Grey Matters radio.

9.4 Francis Tonks attended the transition of the Link to Healthwatch. He and Colin Vincent would be attending the all-day Adult Social Care City Summit on 11 June, on the future of Social Care. Following weekend demonstrations in the City at the weekend, Francis Tonks would be making a comment at the Community Safety Forum.

9.5 Colin Vincent would be attending the 11 June event and will be replying to the consultation on taxi licensing and disabled people.

9.6 Janet Wakeling noted proposals to remove disabled parking bays outside the eye hospital.

9.7 Val Brown was on the Keep User Group and would link with OPC on developments.

9.8 Penny Morley is attending Pensioner Action meetings on Age Friendly Cities.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The meeting concluded at 1.00pm

Signed

Chair

Dated this

day of