

**BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL**

**OLDER PEOPLE'S COUNCIL**

**10.15am 21 FEBRUARY 2017**

**ROOM G79, HOVE TOWN HALL, NORTON ROAD, HOVE, BN3 3BQ**

**MINUTES**

**Present:** Colin Vincent (Chair), Penny Morley, Francis Tonks, John Eyles and Lynne Shields

**Co-opted Members:** John Cook (Older Peoples Council)

**Others Present:**

**PART ONE**

**279 PROCEDURAL BUSINESS**

279.1 Apologies were received from Mike Bojczuk, Nick Goslett, Jack Hazlegrove and Michael Whitty. There were no declarations of interest.

**280 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

280.1 The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed and signed by the Chair.

280.2 Matters arising

Re: 263.4 KA emailed HR about the total number of staff employed by BHCC. No response, beyond a holding reply, *so KA to chase this up.*

Grey Matters to become a standard item on the agenda for future meetings. KA has now put all the 2017 meetings onto the Issue Manager System.

LS requested that the Pensioner Action logo be removed from their agenda template, which has now been done.

OPC not received a reply from Stu Hale about possible OPC representation on the Engagement Sub-Group of the Adult Safeguarding Board. KA has sent follow up email on 23/02/17.

JC has received an email from the Alzheimer's Society as they are closing the dementia cafes in the city, so only the Patcham café will remain in operation. *JC to seek clarification on the situation from the Alzheimer's Society.*

## 281 OPC WORK PROGRAMME

281.1 The OPC agreed to seek a meeting with Geoff Raw, the Council's Chief Executive regarding the future of the OPC & see if Cllr Gill Mitchell is available to attend the March meeting.

281.2 The OPC were awaiting the written answers to their supplementary questions they asked at the Policy, Resources and Growth committee meeting. KA has followed this up with Democratic Services.

281.3 Health & Wellbeing Board issues:

- The OPC noted that there had only been a single tender received for Community Short Term Services and no contract had been let.
- The date for the second meeting of the HOSC STP working group is still to be arranged.
- Age Friendly Cities to let Annie Alexander know that the OPC would like to see a focus on dementia and include information on dementia cafes.

PM to write to the Chair of Audit & Standards Committee regarding cash collection parking issues.

Fairness Commission: Larissa Reed (Executive Director for Neighbourhoods Communities & Housing) is now responsible for the recommendations. *KA to write to Larissa (copied in to LS) and invite her to a future OPC meeting when she will have sufficient information on progress – potentially April.*

OPC to offer support for the Men in Sheds initiative and JC to act as the lead. Could cover this in a Grey Matters programme. JC to contact Steve Andrews (Trust for Developing Communities). OPC also recognised the growth of the Fix it Cafes.

## 282 SECRETARY'S UPDATE

### OPC - SECRETARY'S REPORT - FEBRUARY 2017

**Budget cuts to Health & ASC** - A full brief about the budget was circulated to OPC members outlining the impact of the budget cuts in ASC on older people. A press summary was also issued. The Argus published an article on the 4th February which was circulated to OPC members. Chair & Secretary of OPC appeared with Frank le Duc on The Vote on the 6th February which was broadcast on the 8th and the link to Latest TV website was circulated. Letters were sent by a number of OPC members to both local Councillors & MPs concerning the impact of the cuts. Also contacted Possibility People, Age UK & Community Works, the latter included our brief in their newsletter & responses circulated. The brief was also circulated to political leaders & Councillors. Received a response to our brief from Health & ASC acknowledging a rise in demand for services but aims to reduce demand! **The final decisions on ASC proposals for cuts will be at the full budget meeting on Thursday 23rd February.**

**Future of the OPC** - Subsequent to the OPC officers meeting with the Council

Leader on the 10th January (where we were notified at the end of the meeting that the previous night the Leaders meeting had agreed to remove administrative support and cease support for OPC elections as from April 2017) we received a formal letter notifying us of this decision. The Secretary wrote to Leaders of Conservatives & Greens seeking confirmation that this was their position. The Leader of the Conservatives confirmed this but the Leader of the Green Party refuted support for this and invited OPC to meet with him. Meeting held on the 27th January with BHCC Officers to discuss the proposal and subsequently full note of meeting sent by Secretary to attendees & OPC members. OPC officers met with Electoral Reform Society to discuss options/costs re-elections & await response to information forwarded. Paper drafted for PR&G meeting issued on 2nd February which now proposed to discontinue support to OPC from April 2018. **Suggest OPC officers meet to discuss next steps and draw up options for the OPC to consider. Mike has sent comments and others welcome.**

**Policy, Resources & Growth (PR&G) Committee** - met on the 9th February. OPC members put a range of public questions to the Committee covering Fairness Commission & Access, Tower House, Community Transport, ASC & dementia and Future of OPC. Verbal responses were given by Council Leader & written responses awaited. Paper "Proposal to Discontinue BHCC Support for the Older People's Council" put to the Committee and passed with support by Labour & Conservative Councillors.

**Health & Well Being Board** - held on the 31st January. OPC officers attended. Annual report on Safeguarding presented and also Annual Review of ASC charging policy. Brooke Mead, for people with dementia, due to open in the summer. Finally, procurement of Community Short-term services which OPC had discussions with CCG about resulted in no tender being let due to only one bid.

**Age Friendly City Forum** - next meeting at Age UK on Monday 27th February at 10.15 to discuss topics for future Steering Group, consider sensory impairment & preventable sight loss and update about OPC.

**Age Friendly City Steering Group** - Meeting on the 30th March and will be considering sensory impairment & preventable sight loss in older people. Range of information circulated to OPC members re HIV & Over 50s as they are the fastest growing group of people with HIV and 1/3 of people with HIV are over 50. Report on helping older people maintain a healthy diet circulated. Also circulated information on Parliamentary consultation on Housing & Older People by 24th March. **OPC still need to consider Action Plan & suggest issues for 2017 - suggest Dementia & Access.**

**Active Ageing Fund** - BHCC officer Julie Stacey replied to OPC re number of older people on Pension Credit who hold a Leisure Card and this is a mere 12. Take up of Leisure Card overall in the City relatively low at 763. **Suggest we raise this further with Julie & seek joint meeting with Freedom Leisure to discuss.** Also need to establish what & whether BHCC has bid for the fund.

**Audit & Standards Committee** - Karen obtained links to a range of information re cash collection CoinCo International which entered into administration owing BHCC

£3.243 million. They were collecting between £200k & £300k a week. The Administrators are RSM Restructuring Advisory LLP and the period of administration extended to May 2017 when company will be wound up.

**Citywide Connect** - The next hubs which run from 10 to 2.30 with lunch provided are: - 22nd March - **East** at Dorset Gardens Methodist Church, 29th March - North/Central at Brighton Unitarian Church, New Road and 5th April - West at Ralli Hall Community Centre, Denmark Villas Hove.

**Grey Matters** - Chair broadcast information & advice with a number of BHCC & NHS officers re: Falls and John Cook is now Secretary of Grey Matters. **Suggest standing item on OPC agenda.**

**OPC Matters - email** - Mike B has set up an email for the OPC on **brightonhoveopc@gmail.com** which we can use in the future. He also arranged via Karen for payment by BHCC of £67.28 for annual registration fee for OPC website. Mike also sent details of BHCC budget, OPC situation and date of March public meeting on the 21st March at the Jubilee Library to all email contacts held on the website. Karen updated and circulated contact details to all OPC members.

#### **Invitations to OPC**

**SERTUC** - Public Services Committee Health Conference re NHS Crisis "How do we sustain its future" on Saturday 25th February 10.30 to 16.00 at TUC Congress House, 23-28 Great Russell Street London. Details circulated.

**Sick Festival** - Runs from the 20-25th March in partnership with the Attenborough Centre for Creative Arts at Sussex University & Brighton & Sussex Medical School. A wide range of artists & events. Details circulated.

**Dementia Action Alliance** - Open event on the 9th March from 12.00 to 16.00 at Brighthelm Centre, North Road, Light Lunch provided.

**Safety in the Home for Older People** - A free training opportunity for those that visit older people in their homes. To be held on Monday 6th March or Tuesday 28th March 9.00 to 17.00 at Friends Meeting House, Ship Street. To book contact **ellie.katsourides@brighton-hove.gov.uk**

**Men in Sheds Project Leach Court & Brighton College** - organised by Fabrica. Chair arranged to visit the project.

**Shoreham Harbour Project** - OPC invited to consultation event but this was subsequently cancelled. John Cook prepared to take up planning issues.

**International** - Micro projects forwarded EU programme which would require 80% matched funding. Principally about service delivery & more suited to vol sector.

**Adults without Children** - Notification of meeting 23rd February at Cornerstone Centre at 6pm. Speaker Kirsty Woodward Director of AWC UK.

**Open Strings Music** - host free monthly open sessions. Contact **www.openstrings.co.uk** or Isabel Emerson 01273-965350.

**Dementia Friendly Course** - in April, organised by Strike a Light making a life history book. However, it costs £100 (£80 concessions) for a four week course, with three hours a week. Contact Nicola Benge 07727006538

**Strike a Light** - range of cultural events including dancing with dementia in collaboration with Jewish charity, Jewish Care in Kemp Town.

**Health watch** - inviting submissions to magazine with a deadline of Thursday 23rd February with a maximum of 200 words and phone number contacts.

**Alcohol & Ageing** - Training provided by Pavilions on 19th July or 23rd November. Details circulated by Becky Woodiwiss of AFC Steering Group.

**Mayors Charity Banquet** - at Royal Pavilion on the 3rd March for a 5 course meal at £80. Contact 01273-291225 for bookings.

**Brighton Sussex Medical School** - Looking for volunteers aged 65+ for a project on sleep and memory. Please feel free to circulate to any contacts that may be interested. Contact Dr Sara Baluch on 07393761947 or email [s.balouch@bsms.ac.uk](mailto:s.balouch@bsms.ac.uk) for further details.

**Care Quality Commission (CQC) Ambulance Service** - the CQC will shortly be inspecting the South East Coast Ambulance Service (SECAMB) in May. They are seeking feedback from users about the service. Feedback can be by phone on 03000616161 or [www.cqc.org.uk/tellus](http://www.cqc.org.uk/tellus). **Hospitals** - they will also be inspecting the Royal Sussex & Princess Royal Hospitals in April and again are seeking feedback about the services. The contact details are same as above.

### Newsletters

**Health watch** - Press release re: another Doctors surgery closure in Lewes Road. This makes 7 in recent times and negatively impacts on those at Bevendean that were redirected to Lewes Road when that closed. Secretary pointed this out at CCG meeting on 24th January.

**Community Works** - January newsletter with a range of training information. Also request for trustees and information re health & wellbeing reps that are in a pilot project due to be reviewed in April. Also information on Accessible Information Standard whereby all organisations that provide NHS care or Adult Social Care are legally required to follow the Accessible Information Standard and they are currently reviewing this. The February newsletter includes OPC budget briefing.

**Digital inclusion Newsletter** - Range of information re activities in Brighton. Mike B is a digital champion and involved with this work. Contact [judith.field@citizenonline.org.uk](mailto:judith.field@citizenonline.org.uk) on 07471 351969 for further details.

**Age Action Alliance** - range of newsletters covering issues across the UK. Highlighted Terence Higgins study on HIV, Fuel poverty, Alcohol harm amongst older adults. Also Age Friendly City newsletter by Nottingham Council worth a read.

**National Pensioners Convention** - Campaign bulletin circulated. Covering Attendance Allowance staying national, Conservative Ministers comments re caring for parents and growing pensioner inequality. Brief on intergenerational issues also produced & circulated.

**Brighton & Hove Age UK** - NHS Feedback & Concerns report which was commissioned by CCG re health engagement. Older people interviewed and majority did not know who to make a complaint about NHS services. Report made a number of recommendations including the need for improved communication with older people.

**Connect & Share** - Lynne S circulated Citywide connect news update. Need to sign up individually to obtain access to information at [sharetribe@sharetribe.com](mailto:sharetribe@sharetribe.com)

**Fabrica** - Details of cultural events including drawing, film etc. Contact 01273-778646 for further information.

**LGBT Mental Health services** - newsletter with a range of information re training and activities of the group. Mail address at Community Base, 113 Queens Road.

**Penny Morley**  
Secretary OPC

## 283 MEMBERS' UPDATE

### Lynne Shields

Feb 8th Meeting with Electoral Reform covered in Penny's summary

Free 9th Meeting with Councillor MacCaferty re future of the OPC.  
Policy and Resources Meeting. Question posed to Council

Feb 20th Age Friendly City Forum Distribution of Minutes and agenda for next meeting.

Feb 21st OPC Meeting.

Feb 23rd Age UK Research on Nutrition in later years.

Feb 27th Age Friendly City Forum Meeting.

March 8th OPC Officers Meeting.

### John Cook

- Now Secretary of Grey Matters (GM) – need for more support for the only presenter, to meet with University of Brighton on this. Opportunities for the OPC to make greater use of GM.
- Will seek clarification about the dementia café.

### John Eyles

- Met with Cornerstone about possibility of making a 10 minute video about the positive work in the community such as Cornerstone and Impact Initiatives. This could be used as a blog and put on the OPC website etc.
- Also exploring the great video done by Kennedy Street on the alcohol treatment project.

### Penny Morley

- Visited BMECP to find out more about the group for Older Chinese people and 50+ BME group. PM to contact them about visiting the groups to explain the work of the OPC

### Francis Tonks

- Involved in the leaflet to research by Age UK and University of Brighton into ASC and self-funders. Took part in interviewing three potential researchers.
- Pensioners Association meeting last month highlighted the struggles being faced by their officers. Next meeting is the AGM which will consider schemes such as Send a Cow to Central Africa, to enable villages to become self-sufficient.
- Unison Women's Conference stalls included one for Nicaragua.
- Patient Participation Group is planning a healthy eating event in the Open Market.

## 284 CODE OF CONDUCT FOR OPC MEMBERS

284.1 KA has emailed a copy of the code of conduct for OPC members to the newer co-optees and will bring printed copies to sign to the March meeting.

**285 BHCC BUDGET 2017/18 - JAMES HENGEVELD, HEAD OF FINANCE**

285.1 James Hengeveld (JH) explained that he last spoke to the OPC in December just after the budget papers had been released for PRG committee; which had outlined how the council hoped to make over £21m savings, taking account of the rising costs of adult & children's social care and homelessness. 99% of the December proposals are still in the budget which is due to go to Budget Council on 23.02.17. This included a 3% ASC precept and a 1.99% Council Tax increase (the maximum level without triggering a referendum) giving an overall council tax increase of 4.99%.

285.2 The Government had confirmed its final financial settlement to local government on 20.02.17, which would be providing no new money. As a unitary authority we would see increases, as well as decreases, in different kinds of funding including the New Homes Bonus and ASC grants. Business Rates revaluation would also impact on the city, which had seen local business rates increase. But the redistribution mechanism for business rates income meant that the council would not benefit; the council only benefits from new businesses. The proposed level of Revenue Support Grant (RSG) remained the same. The settlement also saw a 2% decrease for Public Health. It was confirmed that in 19/20 there would be the move to councils being able to retain 100% of their local business rates (currently only retains 49%). This would then mean that the council would benefit from the growth in businesses. JH confirmed that nationally income from rates could only increase by 2% (RPI). The recent revaluation of every property had led to a 15% increase in rateable values. In turn the threshold for small business rates had been doubled from £6,000 to £12,000 (based on aggregated premises –so only available if really a small business). The council itself would be most affected in the increase in rateable values for schools and nurseries. The issues surrounding business rates are of greatest concern in a location which loses a key business.

285.3 *Q: Could landlords be charged for student accommodation, as this represents £6m lost income in the city?*

A: JH explained that this could only be achieved by national legislation. Agreed this had a significant impact in university towns such as Brighton & Hove.

285.4 In December the proposed budget was not balanced, but some changes internally and financial settlements meant that the February final budget could balance. The details of this could be found in Appendix 2 of the report to Budget Council.

*Q: The OPC raised their concerns about the potential overspend on community equipment at the last PRG committee. Was this as a result of outsourcing this service? They would like lessons to be learnt to inform future commissioning.*

A: JH explained that although he was not privy to the detail, he understood that the issues had arisen due to the demand for, and management of, the equipment. This pressure was shared between the council and the Better Care Fund, extra money for one year and risk provision had now been set aside. The issues with Coin Co have been the subject of an audit report.

**286 BHCC BUDGET 2017/18 - CLLR DANIEL YATES**

286.1 Cllr Daniel Yates (DY) explained that the city was not alone in facing cuts to public health (an in-year cut on top of budget cut last year) and the challenges facing Adult Social Care (ASC) in terms of reduced funding and increased demand and expectations from service users. As much of ASC is made up of statutory services, it was becoming the largest part of the council's spend. The challenge to identify resources meant that difficult decisions needed to be made and placing pressure on other council services. There is a 1.6% increase year on year on ASC spend, but this means that a larger number of people are accessing the services. The 3 year picture is better. There had been a legacy of undelivered savings in this service, but the outstanding debts have now been cleared and are able to meet the additional demand identified for the forthcoming year.

286.2 While other council services had taken cuts to increase these resources, this had enabled measures like investing £1.7m into the sustainability of the residential and home care sectors – which had been identified as high risk areas due to the fragility of the markets. This had been done by paying as much as possible for placements, as there is no back up way of meeting this need. As a result, Brighton & Hove had not experienced the same loss of residential care places as other locations. They were working with providers to ensure that carers are paid a Living Wage and working towards the Brighton & Hove Living Wage, to make it a positive career choice.

286.3 Another key area of demand is services for people with Learning Disabilities, representing £2.9 m. Many of the people using these services are also aging and some have complex and costly needs, including the assessment and adaptation services.

286.4 Public Health was now being squeezed of resources, after a period of not facing the same cuts as other services, at a time of increased demands on its budget. A s151 officer has to sign off its expenditure, but there is flexibility on what is counted as Public Health including activity and lifestyle choices. The Health & Wellbeing Strategy has a key focus on social isolation, and its impact on mental and physical health.

*Q: Why has there been a 10% cut to the older peoples' preventative care budget?*

286.5 DY: All councils were facing such significant resource issues, that they were moving from austerity to poverty. Even Surrey had been forced to consider a 15% council tax rise because of its budget situation. Brighton & Hove was a year ahead at putting money into home care and residential care, although it was recognised that the Living Wage was a bare minimum. If the market felt that the council was not paying enough for care, then it could fill its beds from the private sector.

286.6 *Q: I understand that the council is reviewing those on long term care, and hoping that this is unlike Capita who offered bonuses to remove people from the waiting list.*

DY: In-house resources are being used to review these cases as it is in the council's best financial interests. This review is very important as the peoples' needs may have changed, for example over the last 15 years, and it will identify if they have greater or lesser needs than recorded – as was the case with users of Tower House.

286.7 *Q: Why did the first report on Community Transport not take full account of social isolation and its impact on health, but described its use for 70+ women who wanted to*



*go shopping? The OPC to ask a written question about this proposed service cut at the PRG committee.*

DY: Social isolation is not just about people being able to get outside; it is also how you feel about being in your home for the rest of the week. The aim is to give the same opportunities to get out of the house as other people and make people feel better connected in their own communities. A cut in community transport is a less worse option than preventing people getting a residential care placement. There needs to be a better delivery model for this service e.g. encouraging volunteers like Adur, and they were looking at this issue with community groups. I acknowledge that there can be issues in attracting volunteers who have sufficient time and skills. It is unfortunate that this service has been presented as a shopping service, rather than enabling people to get out and see their friends.

286.8 Q: *What can be done to attract more doctors, nurses and carers to work in Brighton & Hove and remain working here? The city is experiencing real problems in attracting permanent staff and so having to rely on agency staff.*

DY: NHS staff in the city receive national pay and conditions but there are high house prices and rental costs, so affordability becomes the key issue. To attract UK residents and those from abroad to work here, one needs to make wages as good as possible and work to reduce housing costs. The proposed NHS Sustainability & Transformation Plans (STP) recognise the need for more key worker housing to be built in redundant public space for doctors, nurses and residential care staff. Future problems will arise from the 20% cut in training and there are also a significant number of NHS staff in their 60s who are due to retire. This will result in a large number of people leaving the NHS and not being replaced.

286.9 Q: *Would you consider calling a city wide conference to develop a model for dealing with social isolation? Most community hubs have social isolation on their agenda and so it would be really useful to get them together to talk about how to develop this model.*

DY: Public Health were working with community and voluntary sector organisations and were looking for innovation rather than being prescriptive. I have noted this suggestion. There are really useful projects such as Men in Sheds and they were working with them to see if any buildings could be freed up for them to use.

286.10 Q: *We are concerned to hear about the possible ending of the dementia cafes in the city. Do you think the process seems inconsistent, whereby pilots are set up and then discontinued?*

DY: These pilots should be evaluated to see if they are working. This is an area where the city needs to improve on, where projects are mainstreamed without checking if they deliver outcomes or learning for the next time. The Health & Wellbeing Strategy is working to identify a measure for social isolation and its impact on health. This would need to capture the wellbeing of the individual and their feelings of control over the isolation. It would need a baseline, such as the % of city's population who were at risk of isolation who felt able to connect with the community. Peter Wilkinson is the lead for this issue.

286.11 Q: *Transport was key to improving the social isolation of those who want to move around. The Fairness Commission looked into this issue. It was recognised that bus passes were not suitable for all. There could also be better use of train stations such as Moulescomb. Could travel concessions help this situation? Both improving rail travel and extending the short hop on buses was looked at a few years ago, but could there be a pilot scheme to test these out?*

DY: Rail travel was not the responsibility of the council, but Warren Morgan had called for the establishment of a collaborative South East Network to look at improving rail travel. This could look at issues such as how to encourage more people to use public instead of private transport, but would also be valuable to look at how to encourage people out of their homes onto public transport. There are increasing numbers of accessible buses, but also taxis which can feel safer and enable the development of a relationship with a particular driver.

286.12 Q: *What could the Health & Wellbeing Board (HWB) do to help?*

DY: The OPC should be particularly concerned about what is happening with supported bus routes in the forthcoming year. It was important to highlight to those working in transport that their decisions one can make whole communities isolated. There would be formal consultation on concessionary transport to enable a decision to be made in Autumn 2017. The isolation of older people had to be a priority, as otherwise they are trapped in their community. There is a need to focus limited resources on those at greatest risk. Where there are supported bus routes, these needed to be as comprehensive as possible. The concessionary bus scheme was more than the statutory level, and when the council is forced to reduce its service to the bare bones, putting money into ASC to reduce social isolation will take money away from other important services such as parks.

286.13 Q: *A number of concerns have been identified about the community equipment including increased spend and getting returned equipment back into use. There were also concerns about the management of the commissioning of the service.*

DY: The new chief executive of the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) has previously managed community equipment services and more funds have been identified for this service. He understood that a significant percentage of the overspend had related to schedules of delivery, which meant it needed to be better planned. Overspend was to be welcomed in certain areas, such as Disabled Facilities Grants, because this is enabling people to stay in their own homes and remain independent.

## 287 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The meeting concluded at 1pm

Signed

Chair

Dated this

day of

