

SECRETARY'S REPORT - JANUARY 2015

- **Proposed dissolution of the OPC**
 - Meeting with Jason Kitcat - note of the meeting
 - Letter to Political Opposition - G Theobald & W Morgan with details of replies. Conservative Leader does not support the existence of OPC but acknowledged this may not be the position of his group
 - Rebuttal of the proposals re OPC
 - Report to the Age Friendly City - Forum
 - OPC Elections - schedule set, over 20,000 Older People registered to vote in the July election. Postal vote between 18th June and 2nd July.

- **Budget Proposals - raised with the Leader with officers brief**
 - Budget brief for OPC Public Meeting - copies circulated
 - Copies to Age UK Forum for circulation
 - Copies to go onto the web site
 - Copies to go to press & Councillors so as to understand our perspective
 - Support from NPC
 - John Barry - previous Secretary of OPC - now with Somerset Day Centre that received a Health Watch Visit which described them as example of best practice
 - Community Works have been supportive. Seeking information about our situation. Sent details of the Sussex Police Commissioners setting up a Sussex Elders Commission as part of SPC advice team
 - The Pensioner - thanks to Sue for circulating details of OPC meetings to elist of subscribers

- **Age Friendly City _ Steering Group** December minutes circulated and next meeting in March when situation with vol sec orbs and OPC should be clearer. Winter warmer seminars have been run for front line workers

- **Age Friendly City - Forum** will be meeting in February and looking at how Communications to Older People in the City could be improved. Val Cane - University of Sussex event International Solidarity & Equality on 24th January run by NUT.

- **CIPFA survey "Perfect storm of council pressures** - details of report circulated to OPC member

- **Portslade LATS** meeting - notified Harry - meeting 19th January

- **Arts Course for adults with learning difficulties** - being run by Grace Eyre had some available places
- **Mind's Out Online Support Group** - space to chat with LGBT person who has understanding and experience of mental health issues
- **Meeting with Council Officers** - Head of Policy, Head of Communities & Equalities & Adult Social Care rep - for Tuesday 27th January with OPC officers
- **Press coverage** - Brighton & Hove Independent, The Argus - letter re hostile article by Adam Trimmingham. Brighton & Hove Independent journalist briefed about situation with OPC . They carried an article that the Green party have voted to call for Jason Kitcat to stand down.
- **Attended Economic Development & Culture - 15th January 2015 - the main item re Fees and Charges which were controversial i.e. charging for non-residents to enter the Museum were deferred to be part of the budget considerations.**

The Committee agreed not to renew the Section 106 Developer Contributions Temporary Recession Measures after the 31st January. The number of unimplemented planning permissions for residential development is now at the highest level (apart from 2010/11) for six years. Committee agreed draft list building heritage partnership agreement for land at the University of Sussex. Neighbourhood Area for Brighton Marina & Neighbourhood Forum is deferred to obtain further information. Clearly some concerns about this. A revised Conservation Strategy. was agreed

- **Trust for Developing Communities**

A meeting was held in December 0 Francis & Jack attended - to try to establish a steering/older peoples group for older peoples activities in B&H. TCD had been "tasked" with forming and supporting older peoples advisory/steering groups that would embrace the voices of 55+ individuals and groups from neighbourhoods such as Hollingdean that had not previously been heard. Keen that it not duplicate Pensioners Forum or Older Peoples Council - discussed The Pensioner. BHCC officers attended - Graeme Simpson, Owen McElroy. Val - comments re this initiative.

- **The Revolutionary Potential for Older People** - Fabrica 15th January - details were circulated