



ENFIELD BOROUGH OVER 50s FORUM

www.enfieldover50sforum.org.uk

Minutes of the Meeting Held on Tuesday October 30th 2007

Present: 85 members

Apologies: None

1.0 MM welcomed members to this special meeting and began by announcing the sad deaths of Derek Friggens and Rita Smythe, who were both very special to the Forum. The proceeds of today's raffle will be sent to Macmillan Cancer research at the request of Derek's family.

1.1 MM asked members to indicate their support for the defending the Freedom Pass petition and the decision was unanimous. Petitions were passed round and members were encouraged to get them filled in and returned. MM will write to David Burrowes to ask why he voted against the Mayor's powers re the Freedom pass.

1.2 Tomorrow there is a meeting at Forest Road Health Centre about a new housing development at St Joseph's Road for older people and with 24 hour support staff and on-site care provision.

1.3 The National Benevolent Fund is offering free holidays to Eastbourne from 11-17 November. Let Monty know if you or a friend is interested.

2.0 THE SPEAKER-Ray James-Director of health and adult social care for LBE.

MM introduced the speaker and asked how in touch are social services with those older people who live in isolation from friends, family and neighbours. He asked if it would help if there was some LBE coordination between all the church and voluntary groups who currently work on their own-and gave the example of the 20+ volunteers that we already have who would be willing to shop for a neighbour-like the Bromley scheme.

RJ introduced himself with his CV- a background of 16 years work for our council. He champions the needs of people who the council most needs to support i.e. older people, learning difficulties, physical difficulties, mental health issues, homeless.

The budget is currently £150m per year with 1000 staff in the department. They support 3,000 households and 6,000 people. He spoke about residential care and they are working for choice and control to keep people independent. Skinners Court is a good example. 1:4 of us will be affected by mental illness and there is a stigma attached to it. With learning difficulties-more people are now surviving into adulthood and expectations are higher. He spoke of carers and the estimate for Enfield is 29,000.It makes financial sense to support them as the burden on the public purse would be much more.

The future-direct payments were explained and the need to give a person choice and control over their independent living. There is not enough money given to councils for care and support and there should be a national debate on the future generations and decade's needs. Selling homes to provide care is a national debate and not local Government Issue. The biggest challenge is to shift the mindset from not knowing best what other people want and giving the individual informed choices. Residential homes were discussed and as residents are vulnerable, it is important that homes reach the minimum standards.

MM gave RJ a ticket for the Christmas social.

A variety of questions followed and RJ answered them all.

3.0 Development Officer Report:

The membership total is currently at 1588 paid up members

The Loose Women trip is now full

The new Walks leaflet is available on the table-lots of information

The Edmonton mini forum is meeting next on Monday November 26th at Forest Road health centre, to discuss the 2008 programme of meetings.

The Christmas markets trip to Germany is now full and leaving on November 30th

OG is taking names for the Greek night out on Jan 16th 2008 to Waltham Abbey

Express through creativity classes are available on many courses-details on the back table.

4.0 Social Secretary report:

Roddy spoke about the Christmas social on Dec 12th. Tickets are still available.

5.0 Roy Barrows report:

1. RB reported that the Arboretum trip to Lichfield was a great success, with a moving scene of remembrance. The Forum has donated £100 to put in a commemorative brick. There may be a return trip next year. The raffle for the deaf/blind charity Sense raised £100.

2. The next Freedom pass trip will be to the Albert Hall and the V&A museum for lunch and a tour.

3. Skinners Court coffee morning on Jan 15th is a talk by a Forum member on their visits to Antarctica, with slides.

6.0 Irene Richards:

Irene reported on the Arsenal winners and what a great night they had, especially as the score was 7-0 to Arsenal! The raffle made £2500.00 profit for Forum funds and thanks to Warburtons and also all those who sold tickets.

Attention was brought to a scam from those who put a PDS card through your door, telling you to call a premium rate number -09066611911 as they couldn't deliver your post. The fraud hotline is 0207 239 6655.

7.0 Secretary report:

TW reported on the over 50s day at Edmonton leisure centre and said it is now fully operational each Monday.

Future meetings: The coffee morning at Skinners Court on Nov 20th is fully booked-Older drivers

The date of the next Forum meeting at The Civic Centre in the conference room is on **Tuesday November 27th** at **10am for a 10.30am start.**

AGM Agenda

- 1.** Apologies
- 2.** Guest speaker-Richard Webber, deputy director of operations, London Ambulance Service
- 3.** Chair report
- 4.** Secretary report
- 5.** Treasurer report
- 6.** Development Officer report
- 7.** Social secretary report
- 8.** AOB
- 10** Raffle