



ENFIELD BOROUGH OVER 50s FORUM

www.enfieldover50sforum.org.uk

Minutes of the Meeting Held on Tuesday July 31st 2007

Present: 78 members

Apologies: R.Beare, I.Edwards

Visitors: Charles Scott from Help the Aged (finance director)

- 1.0 MM** opened the meeting with a welcome to members and the announcement that David Snell, Forum member recently passed away and several forum members attended his funeral. The committee agreed that the proceeds of today's raffle should go to Cancer Research or the British Heart Foundation-both of which have been nominated by Alice Snell for donations in memory of her husband.
- 1.1 MM also welcomed Charles Scott, the finance director of Help the Aged, who have certainly helped this Forum with financial help and with campaigns and ideas. Our appreciation for this help was highlighted.
- 1.2 MM asked for a quick show of hands to give him an idea of how many people have seen the consultation questionnaire on the future of hospitals and health service in the area and also how many of those have replied to the questionnaire. Only 1/3 of members present had received the questionnaires about hospitals-they are available on the back table of this meeting.
- 1.3 The September Forum meeting will be at the new Edmonton Leisure Centre on September 25th. This is the meeting with Professor George Alberti, the NHS director of emergency care on the future health care plans for the area. The Edmonton venue will give people a chance to see the new facilities and the Edmonton Green shopping development.
- 1.4 MM has nine survey forms sent from Age Concern to get information on people's experience of age discrimination. MM has kept one for himself but asked members to take the others after the meeting and feedback to A/C as to how discrimination is affecting people's lives.
- 1.5 We are also supporting a Help the Aged postcard campaign to prevent falls by alerting the Council to places with broken and uneven pavements/paving stones and streets. This should be sent freepost to HtA and another reporting the black spots to the Council. This is an important preventative action.
- 1.6 MM and TW visited Warburtons last week and whilst they are prepared to continue to provide bread at our various functions, they will not finance future editions of the newsletter. However, they have given us two pairs of tickets to the Emirates stadium for the Arsenal match scheduled for October 23/24th. These will be raffled off to raise much needed funds for the Forum.
- 1.7 This meeting with Colin Barrett is very timely because it comes within a week of the Government announcing plans for a network of youth centres across the country. The police tell us that Enfield is the lowest or second lowest spender on youth services in the country. We need to rebuild the relationship between adults and young people which does seem to have broken down in many cases. Good things are taking place such as the 6th form at Kingsmead School helping older people with IT skills.
- 2.0 Colin Barrett is the LBE youth and communities' manager and he spoke to members about Enfield's 25,000 teenagers and how they relate to the 80,000 over 50s in the Borough. CB said how pleased he was to be addressing the Forum. He gave us his background as a youth worker and he has currently worked for nine local authorities. The council knows there is a lot to do by increasing service and provision for young people. There is a 4-5% increase of funds into the service each year. There are currently 6 youth centres- 1 at Enfield Lock but most are in the east of the borough with very little or no provision in the middle corridor of N13, N21 AND EN1. Of the 25,000 teenagers, only about 6,000 use the council services. There is a need to increase the range of activities to involve teenagers much more. The need to get them out of the home and engaging in positive community activities is paramount in the planning process. Volunteering and mentorship figures highly in the plans. CB spoke of the vision- using money in a productive, planned and community based way. He also spoke of taking the youth strategy forward and using the wider community as mentors for young people, especially those lacking role models at home. There are

complex situations to overcome such as fractured families, single parents and living in care. 580 young people were involved last year in volunteering activities, such as the Duke of Edinburgh Award and the Princes Trust. Intergenerational activities such as gardening, visiting the elderly in their homes, age concern shops, Samaritans and happening but they are open to new ideas as well.

They are looking for the Council to engage young people in the establishment such as on reception and to develop skills that show the value of their contribution.

Anti social behaviour on estates is an issue and the best way forward is a joined up approach with older people.

Discussion followed with comments covering the following topics:

What age is youth?-11-19 or 24 if disabled.

EH said the computing classes at Albany School were fantastic

Conservationists need help-Christina Lee at the parks department

SC said that schools closed in the holidays can be a problem for working single parents or those that would like to work.

TW said that Enfield can bid for money for intergenerational projects. There is £1.5m available if we bid for it.

PP said that schools need evening clubs

RB said why aren't we encouraging cycling in the parks, as the kids are all in the shops.

BM said that the odd "cuff" should be acceptable

MS wants to see the Transage idea extended

SB suggested more inter school competitions

Enfield is one of the leading areas in truancy improvement and has already exceeded the 2010 target for young people in education and training.

Chase School will be developing a youth centre on the site and there will be extended schools agenda, with schools open from 8am -6pm by 2008.

We were shown 2 A4 pages of the activities that are on offer this summer holiday to young people. Many of these are not just time filling activities but are to encourage young people to look at themselves.

MM thanked Colin for his informative talk

3.0 Development Officer Report:

3.1 Forum memberships is currently at 1, 305 with 268 members still to renew their subscriptions.

3.2 Edmonton Forum had a successful taster day at the Indoor Bowls Centre at Picketts Lock. 20 members enjoyed a fun afternoon with excellent coaching from the club officials. The September meeting is a trip to the House Of Commons and a tour of the Jewel Tower. This will be limited to 20 places and open only to Forum members with an N9/N18 or EN3 post code.

3.3 The Edinburgh trip is almost finalised and this will be the largest Forum trip to date with 90 people crossing the border in just over a week's time.

4.0 Vice Chair report:

4.1 RB spoke of the successful trip to Suffolk and announced that the raffle on the coach raised funds for the Sense charity for the blind/deaf. This amounts to over £200.00 already sent by the Forum in recent months.

4.2 RB updated members on the Arboretum trip in October and the Freedom Pass trips planned to date.

5.0 MM made a special statement on the NHS consultation:

The Forum has been asked to make a written submission by August 30th to the Barnet, Enfield and Haringey clinical strategy joint scrutiny committee. This is made up of 11 councillors from the three aforementioned boroughs plus Hertfordshire County Council. The scrutiny committee is holding a meeting on September 14th from 9.30-4.30 in this conference room, partly to obtain the views of the voluntary and community sector and we are invite to present our views.

MM expressed the difficulty in speaking on behalf of so many people, where there are clearly divisions of thought. The Forum committee unanimously decided that it would not be in the interests of older people to boycott the consultation process and instead we agreed to urge people to read the material that has been issued and vote for one of the two options-and we left it at that. It was thought unhelpful and undemocratic to advocate contracting out of the debate by voting for something that was unobtainable and unworkable. MM highlighted that each Forum member is of course free to make up their



ENFIELD BOROUGH OVER 50s FORUM

www.enfieldover50sforum.org.uk

own mind after reading the material that has been issued by the NHS. He finished this statement with the belief that we should give evidence to the joint scrutiny panels on matters that we all agree on-greater access to primary care and GP surgeries, better transport facilities to Chase Farm hospital and no changes to the present structure until new amenities are available in the form of polyclinics etc

MJ commented that it is just financial and does not have the interest of the community at the heart of these plans

TW said he visited Forest Road clinic and the Edgware hospital on June 27th as a guest. He thought it an excellent model of good practice which we could adopt here. He will try and arrange a visit.

SC said that doctors are getting a 25% increase in pay for working 8 hours less per year.

PP said that he believes the decision was made 5 years ago anyway

EH spoke of the report on infection control and said we are losing friends over this matter.

MM added that we are fighting for GP's to be open 5 days a week and for them to do blood tests and ultra sound.

VG who is on the scrutiny panel and a Forum member thanked the committee for making what she considered to be the right decision.

The date of the next Forum meeting in the Conference Room is on **Tuesday August 28th at 10am.**

AGM Agenda

- 1. Apologies**
- 2. Guest speaker**
- 3. Minutes of the July meeting-and matters arising from the minutes**
- 4. Chair report**
- 5. Secretary report**
- 6. Treasurer report**
- 7. Development Officer report**
- 8. Social secretary report**
- 9. AOB**
- 10 Raffle**