



# ENFIELD BOROUGH OVER 50s FORUM

[www.enfieldover50sforum.org.uk](http://www.enfieldover50sforum.org.uk)

## **Minutes of the Meeting Held on Tuesday May 29th 2007**

**Present:** 70 members

**Apologies:** S.Robb, B.Thear, T.Watts

### **1.0** Chair report:

- 1.1 MM welcomed members and as the guest speaker is running a little late we went straight into Forum business.
- 1.2 The great response to the AGM raffle enabled us to send a cheque for £70 to the Macmillan nurses support group.
- 1.3 June 19<sup>th</sup> is the first of our Council Watch meetings at 10am at Skinners Court-a chance to tell us what you think the Council ought to be doing and our chance to update on our campaign for more public toilets and upgrading of the facilities at Whitewebbs Park.
- 1.4 Macro have only allocated us 12 places for a discount card but as 45 people asked for a card we will probably have to pull names out of a hat.
- 1.5 Still trying to get the council interested in the shop4 a neighbour scheme in which 124 people volunteered to help.
- 1.6 Next London older people's assembly in Monday July 9<sup>th</sup> at the City Hall. Theme is climate change-tel 0207 983 4636 to register.
- 1.7 We are trying to obtain a venue for the meeting with Prof George Alberti, the national director for emergency access. It is likely to be in September and we will let you know at the next meeting.

### **2.0** Development office report:

- 2.1 OG spoke of the successful Edmonton forum trip to Capel manor last Friday. Plans are to visit the House of Commons on the July 27<sup>th</sup> meeting.
- 2.2 2 places are available on the Edinburgh Tattoo trip-a twin room
- 2.3 6 places still left on the mystery trip on Sunday August 26<sup>th</sup>
- 2.4 Membership stands at 1406 with 320 members yet to renew.
- 2.5 OG asked for volunteers to help with registration and ushering at the Healthy Heart day on June 20<sup>th</sup> at Southbury Leisure centre.
- 2.6 Coping with change workshop has several places left. This is at Salisbury House on Saturday June 23<sup>rd</sup>.

### **3.0** Roy Barrows report:

- 3.1 Roy told members about the freedom pass trips planned for the Royal Chelsea hospital and a night trip to the Tower to see the ceremony of the keys, arriving back late. He also asked for ideas for future trips. A possibility is a trip to Derbyshire to visit the arboretum dedicated to veterans from the services.

### **4.0** Social secretary report:

- 4.1 Roddy said that there are a handful of places left on the Southwold trip and members should see him today if they want a place.

### **5.0** **A.O.B**

- 5.1 PP said that the reason patients are asked their age-or more correctly their date of birth over the telephone is to help ensure that the correct records are obtained as so many people may have the same surname. It is not age discrimination.
- 5.2 MJ said that on Tuesday June 5<sup>th</sup> from 7am-3pm there is a picket at Chase Farm against the building plans and proposed closures. Members were asked to be there for a couple of hours if they could.

## **6.0 Guest speaker:**

Dr Suzanne Wait, the research director at the International Longevity Centre on ageing and health in Europe was welcomed and MM explained how her work enables us to argue that the decision makers and policy makers at both national and international level, have to take notice of the results of this research in order to meet the challenges of an ageing population.

Her organisation is a think tank, conducting research and looking at policy but they don't provide services like Age Concern. They look at society as a whole and the effect of the ageing process. Her particular interest is in health issues. The UK does well compared to other EU countries but the EU is a mixture of many social and political systems. EU average life expectancy is 74/western Europe 79/UK is 78.4. Scandinavians and the Netherlands do best-higher taxes in addition. The older population used to be lumped together but there is now a wide range within the over 50s. Kensington and Chelsea life expectancy is 82 for males whereas in Glasgow city it is 69.9 which is a huge gap of 12.3 years. Parallels can be found in the borough of Enfield as we know. The UK does not score so well on the quality of older people's lives. Genetics only accounts for 25% of our longevity, happiness, perceptions of wealth, and friends are all very significant factors.

Suggestions were that political leads need to change our opinions of older people and there should be more civic engagement, valuing the contribution of older people to society. People need help to navigate the complex systems of health, social care and other services to avoid repeating the same information time and time again-integration of services.

6m people provided informal care in 2006.60%-80% of older people are cared for by relatives. £40b worth of volunteering is done by the over 60s. The government need to recognise this.

Significant changes in disease were explained, including the rise in women's heart disease. GP's often don't know that the symptoms for women are different to those of men-no women clutching their chest in films. This rise in heart disease makes it more common than all female cancers put together including breast cancer.

A variety of questions and comments ended the discussion on a positive note.

The date of the next Forum meeting in the Council Chamber is on **Monday June 25th at 1pm-PLEASE NOTE THE DAY AND TIME!!**

## **AGM Agenda**

- 1.** Apologies
- 2.** Guest speakers-Del Goddard and Cllr John Jackson-The Olympics-what will Enfield gain?
- 3.** Minutes of the May 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



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