

Brighton & Hove
Older People's Council



Annual Report 2011-12



Supported by



**Brighton & Hove
City Council**

Introduction

Welcome to the Older People's Council annual report for 2011/12, our first full year for members since the July 2011 election. Already we are showing signs of making a big contribution to the wellbeing of the older residents of Brighton & Hove. During the year we co-opted three women to address the rather one-sided membership that the elections had left us with.

There were highs, such as the council agreeing to apply for World Health Organisation Age-Friendly City status, and lows when we learned of the sad passing of one of our fellow members. In between, a lot of work and time has been devoted to unsung work behind the scenes working on behalf of older people, attending council meetings, speaking to councillors and letter writing.

2012 is the European Year for Active Ageing, along with the London Olympics, so it was fitting to campaign for more activities for the elderly. The groundwork has now been set for the coming years when we will be working much closer than before with the other older people groups to fulfil the age-friendly work we have started.

Our Mission and Vision

We are elected to serve older people. We work to ensure that all older people in Brighton & Hove are treated with respect and dignity and have access to services, support and the opportunity to lead a fulfilling life.

We are working to create a city where:

- The contribution of all older people is acknowledged and valued
- The needs of older people are recognised and met
- Older people are involved in making decisions that affect their daily lives and the communities in which they live.



Chair's Foreword

It has been a privilege to serve for a further year of Chair of your city's Older People's Council – elected by voters aged 60 plus and strengthened by co-opting additional members. We act as a critical friend of the city council, seeking to present the older person's perspective on issues.



Each of our members takes a special interest in specific policy areas, whether that be health, housing, transport and so on.

We hold quarterly public meetings in the Jubilee Library usually themed around key issue facing the city's older people. The last year has seen us focus on "Older People Keeping Safe" with input from the East Sussex Fire & Rescue service and the Council Commissioner for Community Safety.

We are increasingly looking to work collaboratively with Pensioner Action and AgeUK, presenting a united 'older person' front. We've worked together on the research project "Older People and Wellbeing" with the University of Brighton and AgeUK.

We signed up as a participant in the King's College London and Sussex Community NHS Trust project to optimise palliative care for older people in community settings and we look forward to the outcomes of this project soon.

2012 has also seen the start of our biggest project to date – an application to the World Health Organisation's

'Age-friendly City' programme. It is our hope that this will bring forward significant benefits over the next few years to the city's older people population. This is an exciting project and I'd encourage everyone to keep an eye on developments.

We are extremely sad to announce the death in office of our treasurer Colin Carden (02/12/1940 – 09/07/2012). Colin was going strong in his second term as champion of Woodingdean when he was struck down by cancer.

A number of us attended a packed South Chapel at Woodvale for a touching service – all in accordance with his wishes.

Once again may I give my heartfelt thanks to all who have contributed to our activities during the last year and particularly to all those who work on behalf of the older people in the city in this time of austerity and funding cuts.

Jack Hazelgrove
Chair (Stanmer & Hollingdean and Moulsecoomb & Bevendean)

The Older People's Council...

Jack Hazelgrove (Chair)

Stanmer & Hollingdean
and Moulsecoomb &
Bevendean



Over the coming year I will continue to concentrate my attention to health matters in old age. I will continue my Co-opted membership of the Council's Health & Overview Scrutiny Committee which meets with major players from the NHS Trusts.

I will maintain my involvement in the LINK especially through the Mental Health Action group. I will work with Age Concern (soon to be Age UK) and Brighton University on research findings about wellbeing and older people.

At grass roots level I attend the patients group of my local surgery (Park Crescent) in its splendidly converted former pub building. Like the rest of us I will try to make some sense out of the Government's attempt at a major restructuring of the NHS – though I have to say with a measure of scepticism about their plans.

Finally, I will make full use of the free bus pass. Long may it continue!

Francis Tonks (Vice-Chair)

Hanover & Elm Grove,
Preston Park and
St Peter's & North Laine



Census figures show Brighton & Hove has 47,000 people over 60 and our role as the Older People's Council is to give voice to them, to protect our benefits and to develop services for the whole of

our community, but especially the older members of our society. As you can imagine, therefore it has been a busy year again. I have tried to ensure the various older people's groups work more closely together and I believe we have achieved that. I have become a trustee of AgeUK, and attend the Community Safety Forum where we are consulted and get regular reports from the Fire & Rescue Service and Police. Work with the LINK on mental health issues and inspecting care homes has once-again been much of my focus. As well as that I belong to an association to preserve and enhance the green spaces of Brighton & Hove and am a governor of a local primary school.

Mike Bojczuk (Secretary)

Central Hove and Westbourne



My first full year as Secretary has been a busy one, especially as my full-time job has also placed more demands on my time than before. Some of my aims in joining the OPC, however, are starting to be achieved. I've tried to get a higher public profile through letters and an article in the local press, have further expanded and kept our web site up to date, and created an OPC Facebook page for photos of our events. Working as the lead lay person with Kings College Hospital Research on Palliative Care, speaking as a panel member on the Question Time event during People's Day, and starting the campaign for an age-friendly city has also helped to widen and raise our profile within the council and other representative city groups, and I look forward to working closer with them all in our common aim of a better city for all. I have also extended the OPC visibility by contact with other groups as part of the 2012 European Year for

Active Ageing where myself and Colin represented the OPC at the inaugural UK event, and will continue to pick up ideas from Europe whenever relevant.

Peter Terry
(acting Treasurer)

Woodingdean



I feel very strongly that accessible public transport is vital for older people, especially for those who would otherwise be isolated. I was pleased to see that many of the cuts to bus services proposed were able to be mitigated and the OPC can claim some credit for its stance on this issue. Closer to home I've helped with the Kemp Town Carnival planning and defended public toilet provision with the city. Highlights this year have been the speaking to people at both the Driver Safety Day and People's Day.

Harry Steer MBE

North Portslade, South Portslade and Wish



This year I have continued my work with organisations such as PASA (Practitioners Alliance for Safeguarding Adults) where it relates to older peoples' abuse, and I now represent the OPC at board meetings of AGEUK. I am a member of the Brighton & Hove Police Independent Advisory Group where I can be consulted about the feelings and reactions of older people relating to crime and policing. I am also the secretary of Grey Matters Productions CIC, a broadcasting company owned by the OPC and AgeUK which makes programmes for older people in the city area. I am the longstanding chair of the Bluebird Society for the Disabled, a Hove

based charity for older people who lack mobility, and I continue to address groups about the work of the OPC where I voice my concerns about the vulnerability and problems of my age group.

Val Brown

(Hangleton & Knoll, and Hove Park)



The OPC has continued to highlight the concerns of older people in Brighton & Hove about the sad decline in public toilets, the continuing encroachment of tables and chairs onto the pavement and the lack of some buses in the late evenings. I lead on cultural issues for the OPC. As a new project I fully support the current building of the modern and extensive new records office and historical Resource Centre near Falmer known as "The Keep" to house the vast historical Archives of Brighton & Hove, as well as the many world class works of art currently owned by the people of this city. I believe that an adequate bus service to The Keep should be provided, and will make this a priority for my interest.

John Eyles

(Brunswick & Adelaide, Goldsmid and Regency)



My main interests are in Environment, Safety and Planning, and I attend many council and strategy meetings representing the views of older people. Some of these are: Waste Advisory Group, Elderly Persons Dignity Group, Road Safety Group, Elderly and Alcohol Group (with NHS), Pavement obstruction group and Community Safety Group. I've also attended BHCC People's Day and a delegation for WHO Age friendly city.

Colin Vincent

(Patcham and Withdean)

I participated in a task group formed to help the council to draft a new Care Homes contract for April 2013. I also became involved in an on-going research project by Kings College London and the Sussex Community NHS Trust in the development of a better end of life palliative care for terminally ill older patients. Other activities in relation to social care have included taking part in a council consultation process "local account" of how well they provide services. Additionally I have attended a range of meetings, presentations and seminars including refresher training for nursing home nurses, and research into the health benefits older people can gain from participating in effective Wellbeing programmes. I also attended an event in London sponsored by the European Union to promote 2012 as the Year of Active Ageing.



planning issues, care home funding and availability. I have also provided input to a number of Brighton & Hove City Council consultations which include the local Waste Strategy and Corporate Plan. With other members of the committee. I participated on our stall on People's Day in July, meeting with members of the public. I believe that Older People's needs should be reflected in all areas of the council's activities. The need to be vocal and vigilant is particularly important at the current time when there is so much pressure on all areas of services.

Janet Wakeling

(Co-opted member)

As a member of the OPC I'm focusing on planning issues and ensuring that developments complement our wonderful city and enhance the urban environment. My interests are the environment and conservation, both urban and around our city's fringe. We have over a hundred grade one listed buildings in the city, something of which we should be proud and conserve.



Penny Morley

(Co-opted member)

I was co-opted to the Older People's Council (OPC) in January 2012 and was pleased to be able to increase the representation of older women on the committee. I was born in Brighton and have lived in the Roundhill area for over 30 years. I have a background in trade union research and retired a few years ago. I have participated in all of the OPC's activities and public meetings since joining the committee. These include raising concerns about local transport &



WHO Age-Friendly City and Active Ageing

Age Friendly City and Active Ageing

2012 is the European Year for Active Ageing and Solidarity between Generations, and meeting with other UK and European participants inspired the OPC campaign for Brighton & Hove to sign up to the WHO Age-Friendly City network. This quickly gained momentum and the city council are now in the process of applying to join other cities such as New York, Barcelona, Dublin and Manchester. The WHO define an age friendly city as "an inclusive and accessible urban environment that promotes active ageing", and this is what we should all be working towards.

The plan is to firstly perform an assessment using the WHO age friendly criteria, then to suggest improvements and finally over the following three years to implement them. The criteria cover outdoor spaces, transport, housing, social participation, inclusion, and community support. It is a wide ranging and very ambitious project and is why the OPC is working with other voluntary groups in the city and in partnership with the city council. We will be working to assess needs and implement cost-effective and sustainable improvements to benefit the lives of older people and make the city a more active and inclusive place to live for all.

People of all ages should be made aware that the more active a life you lead, the longer you will have use of your faculties and so have a longer



independent life. In promoting active ageing the goal is to create more opportunities for older people to stay longer in work, to contribute to society as volunteers and carers and to remain independent for as long as possible. This requires all of us to work together to improve conditions in areas as diverse as employment, health care, social services, adult learning, volunteering, housing, IT services and transport. It is why it is so important we join the age-friendly city network where we will benefit from the experience of others, have advice on best practice and explore the possibility of funding to help us on our way.

OPC Commitments

Commitment One:

We will listen to older people in the City and work closely with other local older people's groups and organisations

Commitment Two:

We will publicise our work through meetings, and the local press and media.

Commitment Three:

We will monitor the City Council, local health trusts and other providers of goods and services by making sure that we are represented on the appropriate committees and forums.

Commitment Four:

We will challenge disadvantage experienced by older people by being

watchful to ensure that all older people, regardless of race, creed, sexuality or ability, are given the same access to opportunity as every other member of society and are not discriminated against.

Commitment Five:

We will highlight goods, services and opportunities that promote dignity and support older people to live independent lives where they want to.

Commitment Six:

We will promote the Human and Civil Rights of Older People by encouraging the provision and maintenance of a physical and social environment that enables older people to live productive and fulfilling lives.

Get Involved –

Quarterly public meetings at the Jubilee Library – see website for topics

Tuesday 22 January 2013

10am – 1pm

Tuesday 19 March 2013

10am – 1pm

Tuesday 18 June 2013

10am – 1pm

Tuesday 17 September 2013

AGM 10am – 1pm

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