

**BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL**

**OLDER PEOPLE'S COUNCIL**

**10.15am 22 JULY 2014**

**R126 KH**

**MINUTES**

**Present:** Mike Bojczuk (Chair), Colin Vincent, Jack Hazelgrove, Francis Tonks, John Eyles and Harry Steer

**Co-opted Members:** Penny Morley, Janet Wakeling and Sue Howley

**Others Present:** Councillor G Bowden; Jessica Sumner, Age UK Brighton & Hove

**PART ONE**

**8 PROCEDURAL BUSINESS**

8.1 Marion Couldery and Val Brown had given apologies.

**9 MINUTES**

9.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 17 June were agreed.

**10 DRAFT LIBRARIES PLAN**

10.1 Sally McMahon, Head of Service, gave a detailed presentation on Libraries and Information Services, including the Libraries Plan that was due to go to full Council in the Autumn. Consultation had started on the Libraries Plan and would soon be available on the consultation portal.

10.2 The popularity of the Jubilee Library continued to rise. Nationally, only Norwich library gets more visits but this was likely to change as new libraries in larger cities such as Manchester, Birmingham and Liverpool will affect the 'rankings.' As well as the important role of supporting communities, libraries' development had been shown to bring in some £17 million to the City.

10.3 Regarding equal access to services Sally McMahon gave examples: free professional advice was available to all; the libraries had free phones to access council services; volunteers were being matched up with users of the Home Delivery Service; reading groups were set up for people with disabilities; the FED had audited the libraries and improvements to access and facilities had been made; and libraries had reading aids for library users.

10.4 A new training programme was being run in the autumn that will enable staff to help people apply for benefits and access other government services, and help people to find support and advice through the network of advice services. Of the PC users in the libraries, many of whom are looking for work, as many as 34% have no internet access from home.

10.5 There was now a new focus on library services for older people, particularly in reducing social isolation.

10.6 Sally McMahon answered questions on Digital Services, Talking Books, the layout of the Jubilee Library and the lack of a good reading stand. She said Portslade Academy had a new library. All libraries have a community diary in the form of a folder; the library service was 'inundated' with requests to display information on local events, both digitally and on notice boards.

10.7 A link to the consultation portal would be circulated and further information provided on Books on Prescription.

10.8 Councillor Bowden said the objective is to keep all the community libraries open and viable, but this is a challenge.

10.9 The Chair of the OPC Mike Bojczuk thanked Sally McMahon for her work and presentation.

## **11 OPC WORK PROGRAMME**

11.1 Possible items for future meetings were suggested:

- a) Design Team from Brighton University (possibly 21 October?)
- b) Age-Friendly City update (Annie Alexander – date?)
- c) Proposals on Exchange of medical information (CCG CV to advise)
- d) Peter Huntbach survey of OP residents (possibly 23<sup>rd</sup> September?) MB to clarify
- e) Update on Ageing Better Big Lottery bid (Jessica Sumner, Age UK)
- f) Claire Wardle on OPC Election (21 October available)

## **12 SECRETARY'S UPDATE**

12.1 Penny Morley, OPC Secretary reported that Active Forever earlier in the month at King Alfred was well attended and well-received. She had circulated information on a lecture at the University of Brighton on bone density. The Age-Friendly City Forum that she attended was meeting regularly. OPC needed to decide how to input into the current consultations including the Housing Strategy. PM noted that hospital A&E departments were reporting a rise in the number of older people with alcohol-related problems. The Grey Pride campaign was calling for a dedicated Minister for Older People.

## **13 MEMBERS' UPDATE**

13.1 Jessica Sumner, Chair of Age UK Brighton & Hove noted the main points of the Age UK Big Lottery Bid that included;

- a) 'Community Navigator' – providing information on activities for older people in the local community to help reach isolated people.
- b) Gathering information from older people, and involvement in the planning and delivery of services for older people to feed issues from communities into the OPC.
- c) Setting up a media hub for the City to include Grey Matters, The Pensioner, The Pensioner on-line and potentially community TV
- d) Using libraries as community hubs
- e) Reaching older men
- f) Using creativity in the City including the use of existing Festivals to reflect the needs wants and interests of older people, fitting in with Age Friendly Cities criteria.

13.2 If the bid went to the next stage (a final group of 15 – 20) then detailed project planning and costings will be drawn up. If it does not, the intention is to seek funding from elsewhere.

13.3 JW had been to the planning committee that discussed proposals for a cinema and restaurant at the Hippodrome. Hazelholt sheltered housing scheme was to have its own permanent warden. SH had been dealing with The Pensioner; distribution of the printed magazine and launching the new website. Advertising income meant that a November issue would be published. HS reported that the bank was still in the process of resolving the problem of the OPC account.

13.4 MB said he had improved the OPC website, which now included links to core documents, The Pensioner, slides of presentations, current consultations etc. MB encouraged members to complete consultations as individuals. He reported back on the meeting with the Leadership that discussed; the need for more progress on Age-Friendly City, disappointment at OPC not having membership of the Health and Wellbeing Board, and concern around uncertainty over the budget for OPC elections, (registration of electors, attracting candidates, and providing information)

13.5 CV had been to the Sheltered Housing Action Group – 5 new managers were being recruited so that schemes did not now have to share. JH had attended the tender assessment for Older People's Day and was going to a meeting on palliative care in Crawley. JH had been to Patient Participation Group and Clinical Commissioning Group meetings. He was interested in the launch of the alliance of the benefits of medical cannabis.

13.6 FT is a member of The Level Communities Forum. He said The Level was now very well patronised by all sections of the community. JE had been to Environment Transport and Sustainability Committee meeting. JE was interested in the City Plan and the Hove Station neighbourhood plan.

## **14 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

14.1 Members discussed possible changes to the OPC constitution.

14.2 At 4c) revised wording was agreed 'The OPC shall consist of 9 elected members, one for each of the electoral zones within Brighton & Hove as set out in Appendix 1, plus 2 co-opted members. Should the need arise vacancies to OPC arising during the first two years after elections would be filled by election; and vacancies after 2 year would be filled by co-option.'

14.3 At 7 c) vii) it was clarified that the word 'During' should read 'After'

14.4 At 7c) iii) it was suggested that nominations be reduced from 10 to 2. After discussion and a vote this suggestion was not upheld.

14.5 At 8a) iii) the removal of bullet-point 2 was suggested. On a vote, a majority voted to keep or amend it.

14.6 The scrutiny officer would ask for clarification from the Head of Law on the matters raised.

The meeting concluded at 1.15pm

Signed

Chair

Dated this

day of