

Older People's Council

Tuesday 10 July 2018, 10.15am – 1pm

Brooke Mead, Albion Street, Brighton

No	Item	Who
	<p>Present:</p> <p>Colin Vincent Chair, Older People's Council</p> <p>Mike Bojczuk Older People's Council</p> <p>Michael Whitty Older People's Council</p> <p>Francis Tonks Older People's Council</p> <p>Jack Hazelgrove Older People's Council</p> <p>John Cook Older People's Council</p> <p>Lilly Kennard Possability People</p>	<p>CV</p> <p>MB</p> <p>MW</p> <p>FT</p> <p>JH</p> <p>JC</p> <p>LK</p>
<p>416</p> <p>416.1</p> <p>416.2</p> <p>416.3</p>	<p>PROCEDURAL BUSINESS</p> <p>Apologies received from Jack Hazelgrove, OPC member, who will be arriving late to the meeting.</p> <p>The minutes from 19 June were agreed as a correct record of the last meeting.</p> <p>FT - On the 3rd page of 15 May minutes, Francis did not attend a meeting on the dumping of plastics.</p> <p>ACTION – to be removed from the previous minutes.</p>	<p>LK</p>
<p>417</p> <p>417.1</p> <p>417.2</p>	<p>MATTERS ARISING</p> <p>JC – At the bottom of the agenda sheet, it states that we can still provide minutes and information in other languages, braille and large print. Is this correct or should we remove it?</p> <p>CV – Possability People can provide large print on request at no extra cost. However, braille, audio tape and on disc and information in other languages could be expensive.</p> <p>JC – Braille is an integral part of being able to provide braille for people. We</p>	

417.3	should look into this.	
417.4	Mike – it depends on cost, but we could signpost people on to other groups and organisations that can support and keep an open dialogue with others.	
417.5	Michael – There are more ageing people, and we will have more people who have more needs. We don't have spare money, so if it does cost too much then maybe we can't afford it but it is worth looking into.	
417.6	ACTION – LK to find out from other local services if there is affordable braille printing, language interpretation and audio file options available and at what cost. To be reported back at the next meeting.	LK
417.7	ACTION – Mike to edit the bottom paragraph accordingly once it has been researched.	MB
417.8	JC – regarding 409.25 (Rachel Cashman from Age UK to share their funding list with Colin) - has this happened?	
417.9	CV – Not yet, she has been on holiday.	
417.10	ACTION – Colin to chase this up with RC and share with members.	CV
417.11	JC – regarding 403.10 – What has the Preston Barracks development got to do with the OPC?	
417.12	CV – we had an interest in this from the start, with particular in relation to section 106. The OPC have made representations to the barracks on housing for older council, so we have an ongoing interest for housing for older people. I don't remember anyone saying they had an issue with this.	
417.13	ACTION – LK to circulate the email from Sarah Chitty regarding the barracks to members along with the minutes.	LK
417.14	JC – Regarding 415.1, are we still writing to the individuals of the political parties to see if they can incorporate into their manifestos about the needs of older people?	
417.15	Mike - Jack sent me a copy of the list of candidates which can be circulated with the members.	
417.16	ACTION – LK to send out the letter from Jack to all members	LK
417.17	JC – Regarding 415.2 – Was this an action to have members focus on specific topics, and for the group to be more of an action group?	
417.18	Mike – this is not an actioned, it was a comment from one of the attendees at the public meeting.	

<p>417.14</p> <p>417.15</p>	<p>MW – Regarding 415.3 – we need to be careful about criticising the facilities that we are holding meetings in in regards to the LGBT lounge provided here at Brooke Mead.</p> <p>MB – It could cause issues, but I’m happy to ask about it with the manager. I’m not an expert on the issue, I don’t know why there is a separate LGBT lounge, but I could ask.</p> <p>It was discussed within the group whether asking management would hinder our relationship with Brooke Mead. All agreed not to ask management, but one member would research the reason for a separate LGBT lounge.</p> <p>ACTION – JC to research on the issue, no one will ask the manager until we have more information.</p>	<p>JC</p>
<p>418</p>	<p>MINUTES</p> <p>See procedural business</p>	
<p>419</p> <p>419.1</p> <p>419.2</p> <p>419.3</p> <p>419.4</p>	<p>CONSTITUTION</p> <p>FT – The declarations of interest arises from when we were affiliated with the Council. I would be happy to take this section out, as it was only useful when we were part of the council.</p> <p>JC, FT and CV agree for it to be removed from the constitution.</p> <p>MW – If someone has an interest in the OPC, such as Sarah Chitty and the Preston Barracks, and I was employed to do a risk assessment on that site, then I would declare that as a matter of interest.</p> <p>JC – If you do any work as a Fire Safety Officer that has nothing to do with the OPC, it’s your work and is a conflict of interest.</p> <p>MB – if we were to campaign against this, and MW was agreeing to work with the barracks delivering a service, which could be a conflict of interest.</p> <p>MW – let’s leave it in the constitution.</p> <p>MB – The copy of the constitution we have today was emailed around and was sent out to everyone by Giles on Tuesday 17 April at 4.30pm and I have just resent it again. The most recent version is dated 18.06.13. The appendices were also circulated by Giles to members.</p> <p>MW – Do we have a new draft from JC and MB?</p> <p>JC – That wasn’t what we proposed. There hasn’t been time to do so. I have</p>	

	<p>done some research on the constitution for the OPC, and have a question we need to clarify before we do any work on it. We have 2 options in the future:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Firstly, we try to make ourselves a membership organisation, and we give the requirement to Possability People to increase our membership - Secondly, we follow Jack's proposal, and we campaign for the new candidates who are being elected next May to reconstitute the support for democratic elections. <p>Both of which would call for very different constitutions.</p>	
419.5	<p>FT – I'm happy to leave it open to become a membership organisation. I think we should go along with the membership route. JH is an upcoming candidate for the upcoming elections, so there may be a time when he has to pull out of the OPC because of this.</p>	
419.6	<p>MB – Jack has provided us with an impartial letter. There has to be 2 different terms for a member of the OPC and Council of the OPC. In my constitution, when I rewrote this, I simply called our group the OPC Council as the 'executives of the OPC' and everyone else being members of the Older People's Council.</p>	
419.7	<p>JC – say we get 1000 members by January next year, then you're saying the members would then elect on who the board would be?</p> <p>FT – I would like the membership to be broad so that organisations can be members and affiliated with us too, as well as individual members.</p>	
419.8	<p>MW – I don't see any reasons why the constitution is not written up very quickly. You just need to remove anything associated with the Council, it should be a membership group and then there should be an elected committee. If the council do somehow support us, we can then do the ward council elections as before.</p>	
419.9	<p>MB – I redrafted the constitution to incorporate changes at the beginning of last year, basing it on the 2011 copy of the constitution. It needs to be redrafted again now, as it needs to be edited using the latest copy of the constitution dated 18.06.13.</p>	
419.10	<p>MW – the legal document within this paper is only to do with the council. It is irrelevant. We need to now decide that if there is a breach of conduct, we now deal with it within the group. If the issue is a legal matter, then you need to deal with the police and not deal with it ourselves.</p> <p>FT – we are tied to this constitution until we amend it and agree on those amendments.</p>	
419.11	<p>MW – can we now set a date for when JC and MB complete the draft of the constitution for when it will be ready to be discussed at this meeting?</p>	

419.12	JC – I won't agree with that until we agree on which direction the OPC is travelling in (as is 419.4). Secondly, I would like to issue a questionnaire to all members on how they feel it is relevant, what should be deleted etc. Thirdly, as we're heading towards being a membership organisation, we should canvas membership to find out what people think we should have in our constitution.	
419.13	MW – That is going to take too long to do. We need something tangible very soon. MW agreed to take on the role of amending the draft constitution for the next meeting.	
419.14	ACTION - MB to send the amended draft to the group before the next meeting with changes made to it with references to the council, head of law, etc. removed. MW – can we include Equal Ops in there too?	MB
419.15	ACTION – members to email MW with anything they wish to be included, to be discussed at the next meeting.	ALL
419.16	ACTION – Constitution draft from MW to be discussed at the special meeting on Monday 13 August at 10am at Brooke Mead.	MW
419.17	ACTION - Redraft to be sent out to all members by the end of July. (MB)	MW
419.18	ACTION – MB to send both the 180613 version and the new draft to members by the end of July.	MB
419.19	ACTION – It was agreed by the group that all meetings in future will begin at 10am, not 10.15am.	ALL
420	FINANCE	
420.1	MB – there is no change in finances from what was published in the last minutes. On 19 June, I gave a full history of all the monies in and out, including where we started with £600, which our previous officer had left us with. That was then moved to Natwest. In the petty cash, after deducting the 4 receipts we had from £50, we should have £12.50, but we have got a total of £34.09.	
420.2	JC – On expenditure, are we producing an annual report this year? If so, when, and how much does it cost? We have x number of libraries / community centres to share them with, and a distribution pattern. The executives can share this out.	

420.3	MB – we usually send out 500 copies in total. The printing last year was £800 and the design alone was £1000.	
420.4	Jack – I think it's more important to have an accurate report, not to have an expensive design. We should have contributions from members and an account of our plans and activity.	
420.5	ACTION – LK to look into costings of printing a newsletter.	LK
420.6	ACTION – Colin to share the OPC annual report from last year with members.	CV
420.7	JACK - 11 September at Brighthelm is the OPC AGM	
420.8	JC – why is it in September?	
420.9	MW – it's in the constitution that it happens after inauguration, so it has historically been in September.	
420.10	MW – are we producing the public report for the September meeting? Does the annual report need to be ready by then? MB – Yes. Everyone needs to compile 150 words each for the report. MB – If anyone has anything to write on any particular topic from the previous year, like developments such as Brooke Mead, as they're hosting our meetings for us, this can be added in too.	
420.11	ACTION – MW to collate the end of year report.	MW
420.12	ACTION - All members need to write 150 words for their section to be sent to MW by email, preferably by Tuesday 13 August.	ALL
421	MEMBERS' UPDATES	
	John Cook	
421.1	Have been working with the CCG in trying to formulate the new chair of the PPG network, which comes up for election on 5 August. The current chair would like to step aside and someone from the network is to take his role. I'm not interested in doing the role myself, but there is a lot of activity within the network for who will be.	
421.2	The PPG Network is a primary care network and the PPGs across the city have organised themselves into a federation. People do see their GPs on a regular basis, and it's thought the federation of voices are restricting the voices they're able to provide. GPs are private businesses, but the public see them	

	as not being so. They are a service provider to the NHS.	
	Francis Tonks	
421.3	Attended a meeting with a speaker for a campaign for press freedom, saying that journalists are hardworking people but the press is owned by huge corporations. I also attended the garden party for the Kemp Town Society	
421.4	Attended a Labour older people's forum, which I don't think conflicts with anything else we do, since I'm not a leading member. It consists of older people who want to make sure that all the manifestos and issues that come up will get their fair share.	
	Michael Whitty	
421.5	As the chairman of the Warmdene Surgery PPG, I've compiled a newsletter, which cost £150 to be produced, and has important issues on health and local issues.	
421.6	Attended a meeting with Colin and Sarah Chitty for the Preston Barracks which has fantastic developments going on, but I think we got in at the wrong time. It's a very impressive site, but we should have got in from the outset, as you can't influence anything when it's all planned and commissioned out.	
421.7	There is going to be a medical centre on the Preston Barracks site, which will be a GP for not just students but the general population too, consisting of 14 clinical professionals, but only 2 GPs. The GPs are not extra resources for Brighton, they already have 2 current practices in Brighton. It's not going to help improve the number of GPs available.	
421.8	In Warmdene surgery, they are having huge difficulties in recruiting new GPs, due to the long hours. We will be losing 2 GPs up there, and they haven't been replaced yet. This is happening across the city. I don't know what the OPC can do about that.	
421.9	CV – the first GPs to close were in Hove and Mouselcoomb. There was a campaign that we took part in, and locals campaigned vigorously about those issues and it still didn't make a difference. The position is only going to get worse. At least there will be a new centre on the barracks, with a mixture of facilities available, even though the number of GPs in the city isn't increasing as a result.	
	Mike Bojczuk	
421.10	I ran some IT drop-in sessions, and visited Tower House day centre. I met with Possability People to talk about finance, fundraising and our direction of travel. I've looked at the OPC website with what needs to be updated and have	

	resurrected our OPC Facebook page, as mentioned in the public meeting. More people are liking our page, and we're getting more known in the city.	
421.11	I was contacted by someone who has written a book by Brexit and how it came about with the campaign. He's from Brighton and would like to give a talk at the OPC if you would like to hear from him at one of our meetings? FT – I don't think the OPC is the right place to discuss this. The group agreed.	
421.12	MB - I was also contacted by someone who does research at Sussex University looking for people to volunteer for research on how eyes change in older age. She wants older people to go down and have a test, she'll track your eye movements for response times etc. to help her with her research. She's asked whether I can pass on your details to her at the university.	
	Jack Hazelgrove	
421.13	I attended a funeral at the cemetery for someone from the amnesty group, and was able to reflect on the gravestones of some of the great Brightonians of the past.	
421.14	I find that self-funders are a growing number, and we're reminded about the doctors who were completely against the NHS initially, but they were offered more money to win them around.	
	Colin Vincent	
421.15	Attended the meeting of the national pensioners convention in Maidstone. There were some quite encouraging news in other areas about successful over 50s forums which might provide some guidance in terms of membership.	
421.16	The NPC have produced their first policy on housing, it's out for consultation. They're talking about assistance for older people to downsize, stamp duty relief as for young people, adaptations like walk-in showers, and lifetime housing where adaptations are built into the new property.	
421.17	Attended Health and Overview Scrutiny Committee, defending the NHS on these clinical effective commissioning procedures. I had an email from Giles about it – I have a copy of the list of clinical procedures that may not qualify in future for NHS treatment. NICE are producing their own list of clinically affected services which will be published shortly.	
421.18	I attended a board meeting at Grey Matters to re-engage with them about the relationship with the OPC. GM are looking for funding, but I wasn't able to clarify the relationship with GM at this stage. JC – GM have been making a bit of progress, we now have 3 presenters. Our financial position is much stronger and Colin has agreed to do an interview with	

421.19	<p>Richard, so progress is being made.</p> <p>Colin also attended a meeting with PP about fundraising with Mike and there have been some very positive things back. A look at who we are as an organisation, what we want to achieve, and prioritise quick-wins of funding to ensure we remain sustainable.</p>	
<p>422</p> <p>422.1</p> <p>422.2</p> <p>422.3</p> <p>422.4</p> <p>422.5</p> <p>422.6</p> <p>422.7</p>	<p>GUEST SPEAKERS FOR NEXT MEETING</p> <p>CV – we couldn’t get a speaker for today’s meeting. Daniel Yates has given us a couple of dates to meet with us outside of the regular OPC meeting.</p> <p>MB – it would be better if he could come along to one of our full meetings.</p> <p>ACTION – LK to invite him to the September public meeting or the October meeting.</p> <p>CV - We’re not getting very far with booking speakers, we need more time to plan ahead. We need to decide the topics we want to discuss and invite the appropriate authorities and speakers.</p> <p>MW - is there any mileage in inviting one of each of the political councillors to attend and talk to the open meeting, where we link them in to the OPC and gain their support, such as in a hustings?</p> <p>MB – we did host a hustings 2/3 years ago. It wasn’t that well attended, it was during Brighton General Election week in May 2017.</p> <p>JC – the subject of political debate is difficult, we cannot successfully achieve our objectives unless we engage with the political parties.</p> <p>MW – I agree, just think we need an edge to get in there before the next election.</p> <p>CV - there is a green councillor on the H&W Board / scrutiny committee, he always speaks up for older people – about the only councillor who does – and focusses on their issues.</p> <p>FT – the idea is that we have someone from the administration to influence them and do something!</p> <p>MW – we could have one person from each party, just to answer a common question and give a little talk to us for 10 minutes each, such as how can your party help old aged people in B&H? Is this a possibility? We could use a public meeting to hear from them.</p> <p>FT – we shouldn’t be buttering up to the party politicians when they have an</p>	<p>LK</p>

	agenda that is pushing us out!	
422.8	JH – what happened to the original agreement with the OPC and Council where we were a critical friend to the council, where has that agreement gone? A friendly member from the Green Party is neither here nor there, we need the leader of the council to come to the next public meeting.	
422.9	MB – I think we should be looking for speakers to come to the group, such as speakers from Healthwatch on general health – the recent GP report they carried out for example.	
422.10	CV – the other one is Dr Supple – a lot of developments are taking place within the STP, such as the new commissioning where a list of several procedures will not be carried out for those that need it as part of cost-cutting measures. Co-operative members won't be invited to the decision-making meetings, so we need to find a way to have our voice heard.	
422.11	JH – we have already had the Council budget this May. The budgetary process will start in winter, and won't be confirmed until late next Spring. In the autumn, the heads of services will look at what savings are to be made within the main services in the city. Early next year is the opportunity to comment on these individual proposals. When we know more clearly what our future is as a sector, we should really be looking for half a dozen ideas/themes to take us through the year. Mine would be directly administered Council services.	
422.12	FT – A union speaker could be useful for a debate. JH – we should be talking about local issues. Looking at only national issues, which diverts our attention from what we should be helping improve in the local area. MB - Transport, pavements, toilets JH – Valley Gardens is another issue we should be focussing on. MB – Could we invite a speaker along to a meeting for Valley Gardens?	
422.13	MB – Local issues for Council, health, housing, social care, environment. We could have Peter Huntbach to come in and talk about housing.	
422.14	JC – Housing is a huge issue, for the OPC it would be housing for older people. If housing is a priority in the coming year, we need to slice that down to different sections to focus on – how do we do that?	
422.15	Mike – Some of the issues include older people living in schemes, older people living alone, older people living in council tower blocks with mobility issues, older people who want to downsize and can't, those who are being forced to pay for extra rent to keep their houses because of the new laws that came in. JC – What are the OPC going to do about any of this?	

422.16	MB – there is a plan now to try and build extra space for mobility scooters around the tower blocks, incorporating Wi-Fi for older people’s housing complexes, which I have been campaigning for.
422.17	CV – we need to get in on planning. 15% of the barracks will be public housing. The council has a target of 40%, I don’t know where that went for the final decision from the council committee. The 106 money has mainly gone to education for younger people, and to develop Stanmer Park – hardly any of it has gone to older people’s projects. We used to have people from the OPC that went along to the planning committee, got information and lobbied for issues. If we don’t get right in at the beginning then we’re not going to influence anyone!
422.18	MB – the only way to have a successful campaign is to have one person who can lead on that campaign who has an interest in it.
422.18	JC – in the future, are we going to run a campaign to help increase housing for older people? We need to do something that is going to show something that the OPC is working on behalf of the issues older people are facing in the city. Do you think that’s worthwhile?
422.19	MB – yes, if we did that then anything is possible. It’s usually down to one person, one leader, to take on specific issues and do the bulk of the work.
422.20	JH – we need to talk about people who are staying in their own homes also. I’m not the right person to talk about this as I’m also running for election next year so it could be a conflict of interest.
422.21	FT – I was very much involved in housing, the lead on housing is Anne Meadows, but I’m not sure what she can achieve. The OPC should make housing a priority, it’s tremendously important.
422.22	MB – it’s not just about new housing, but also about adaptations too. We could do campaigning around King’s House, as it’s now been sold to a group of entrepreneurs who will be renovating it into flats. Two big blocks of flats and no provision for parking, affordable housing provisions, etc. There are several of these issues around the city.
422.23	ACTION – someone from the Housing office to be invited such as Claire Moonan who is on the housing committee.
422.24	SUMMARY OF SPEAKER SUGGESTIONS
	JH – Someone from CityClean regarding issues of the new giant bins, how the Council will collect the old boxes.
	JH – Someone to discuss directly administered Council services and someone from Valley Gardens
	MB – Healthwatch and the recent GP report they produced

	<p>CV – Dr Supple and the cost-cutting within the STP on procedures available.</p> <p>FT – A Union speaker</p> <p>MB - Transport, pavements, toilets could be themes</p> <p>MB – Local issues for Council including health, housing, social care, and environment. We could have Peter Huntbach to come in and talk about housing.</p> <p>MB - someone from the Housing office to be invited such as Claire Moonan who is on the housing committee.</p>	
423	AOB	
423.1	MW – There is an interesting report called ‘Beyond the Barriers’, on how people are moved from home to a care home, and how all the services are not joined up properly. The CQC are going to force people to work better together.	
424	Next OPC meeting details Monday 13 August, 10am – 1pm at Brooke Mead, Albion Street, BN2 9PY	
	Meeting ended at 1pm	
	Signed (Chair) Date	