



AGEWELL SANDWELL MINUTES OF MEETING

Minutes of Agewell Sandwell meeting held, 21st January 2009 at Cradley Heath Community Centre, Reddal Hill Road, Cradley Heath.

Present

John Allen (Chair)	Mike Babb
Nora Marshall	Ralph Perkins
Ivy Hodgkinson	Eveline Pearson
Dot Gospel	Peter Gospel
Doris Strange	Pauline Hodgetts
Sandra Tyrrell	Jaswant Singh Bansal
Tony Mallam	Joan Smith
Alan Jones	Jinder Singh Ubhi

In attendance:

Deborah Davies - Agewell Manager
Geraldine Child – Community Development Worker
Jannet Allen – Minute Taker

Agenda Item

1. Welcome, introduction and apologies

- 1.1 The chair wished everyone a happy new year.
- 1.2 Tony Salter brought his OBE for members to look at.
- 1.3 Apologies received from Edna Barker, John Cope, Dorothy Nemedi, Margaret Everson and Ken Hickman.

2. To confirm the minutes from last meeting, Wednesday 19th November 2008

These were approved.

3. Matters and actions arising from the last meeting

3.1 Page 1 item 3.1 – Sons of Rest venues. The Agewell Manager reported that Andy Kilmurray has not yet replied to her email. The Agewell Manager asked members to keep any articles in the local press that relate to any issues raised or discussed at Agewell meetings. Both Pauline and Tony will keep members

informed of any progress.

3.2 Page 3 item 9.4 – Bail Hostels. Concern was raised by members that Councillors and Police Officers do not know about bail hostels opening in their areas. Website Justice Seen, Justice Done will inform you of any crimes in your postcode area and your local neighbourhood policing team **ACTION** – Agewell to write a letter to Councillor Rowley and Jon Spellar. Tony Salter to take this issue to BGOP.

4. Smoking Cessation – David Jones

4.1 David handed out copies of a presentation about raising awareness of smoking and times and venues of Sandwell Stop Smoking Service meetings. 30% of adults in Sandwell smoke. The service has a target set by the government to help 2118 people stop smoking in 2008/2009, the PCT has stretched this target by a further 1000 people meaning that the service has to help 3118 people stop smoking in 2008/2009. Targets are rolled over into the next year this means that potentially in 2009/2010 the service will need to help nearly 8000 people stop smoking.

4.2 There are clinics widely available in each of the six towns, however these are not drop in sessions and people will need to ring first to make an appointment. This is due to the service being tailor made to each individual – what assistance may help one person will not help another.

4.3 David asked members to help sign post people to the service if they wish to stop. The Agewell Manager asked members for ideas on how Agewell could take this information forward and how Agewell can work with the Stop Smoking Service to get the message out there. If you would like to be part of a working group to see how we can get the message out there in a non-judgemental way – please give your name to the Agewell Office.

5. Better Government for Older People (BGOP) Review of Older People's Engagement with Government Elbourne Report – Tony Salter.

5.1 Copies of the report were circulated with the minutes and papers. Tony informed the group that the report was compiled by John Elbourne anon – executive director on the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) Pensions Client Board. DWP commissioned this report. Concerns have been raised about the report as in meetings with John Elbourne no notes were taken.

5.2 BGOP will cease to exist on the 30th April 2009. Members of BGOP have decided to set themselves up as an independent organisation, co-op, friendly society. Members of the organisation will be paying £1 to be part of it and any individual can be a member. The new organisation will be a consultative group like Agewell – a voice of older people.

5.3 The organisation will be employing a professional fundraiser to ensure that there will be sufficient funds to run the organisation. Tony invited members to join the organisation by paying the £1 membership.

5.4 The DWP require all equipment used by BGOP to be returned when funding ceases and also want the rights to all papers produced by BGOP until the 30th April 2009. DWP also want to know how much is in each of the regions bank accounts and want all remaining monies back.

5.5 Tony brought along a 'hot off the press' copy of the BGOP response to the Elbourne report copies of which will be posted out to members.

ACTION - Agewell to write a letter from all members to BGOP stating that they support BGOP and will continue to do so in the future.

5.6 A round of applause from attendees was given to Tony to thank him for all his hard work.

6. Agewell Marketing

6.1 The Agewell Manager asked for volunteers for an Agewell Marketing working group. Any ideas raised by the group will be brought back to the next Agewell Sandwell meeting.

7. Agewell Town Forum Reports.

7.1 Sandwell Council have compiled a Tradewell Register.

8. Agewell Sandwell Members Reports.

9.1 Report received from Jinder Singh Ubhi.

9.2 Dot Gospel told the group that the Sandwell Strategic Housing for Disabled meetings is now on hold until someone can take over. Dot will keep pushing for these meetings.

9. Agewell Staff Reports.

No comments.

10. AOB

10.1 A member raised concern over the closure of the Fire Station in Smethwick especially in light of the new acute hospital being built nearby.

10.2 The chair informed attendees that he will standing down from Agewell Sandwell, but will stay on as a member of the Wednesbury Forum. He thanked Sandwell PCT for supporting Agewell, and said that we had a duty to continue to

try and get new members to join. John received a round of applause and thanks from members.

10.3 Short listing will commence on Monday for a replacement Community Development Worker now that Lisa Jacob has moved into her full time role with PPI. Ralph Perkins will represent Agewell Sandwell members on the panel.

10.4 The Agewell AGM to be held on the 1st April 2009. **PLEASE NOTE THIS DATE HAS SINCE CHANGED TO THE 9TH APRIL 2009.**

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY 18th March 2009 at THE WESLEY CENTRE, SPRINGHEAD, WEDNESBURY. PLEASE DO YOUR BEST TO ATTEND IF YOU REQUIRE TRANSPORT PLEASE LET THE AGEWELL OFFICE KNOW BY NO LATER THAN MONDAY 16th MARCH 2009.