



AGEWELL SANDWELL MINUTES OF MEETING

Minutes of Agewell Sandwell meeting held, 19th November 2008 at Brook Street Community Centre, Brook Street, Tipton.

Present

Edna Barker (Chair)	Ralph Perkins
Mike Babb	John Cope
Dot Gospel	Peter Gospel
Doris Strange	John Cope
Sandra Tyrrell	Jaswant Singh Bansal
Tony Mallam	Joan Smith
Dorothy Nemedi	Jinder Singh Ubhi
Alan Jones	Pauline Hodgetts
Eveline Pearson	Ann Chawner
Ivy Hodkinson	Nora Marshall

In attendance:

Deborah Davies (DD) - Agewell Manager
Geraldine Child (GC) - Community Development Worker
Stuart Munger (SM) - Community Development Worker
Maggie Turner (MT) – Older People’s Champion
Jannet Allen (JA) – Minute Taker

Agenda Item

1. Welcome, introduction and apologies

Apologies received from Margaret Everson, John Allen, Bob Cohen, Mavis Hughes, Tony Salter, Edna Barker **and Andy Kilmurray from Sandwell MBC.**

2. To confirm the minutes from last meeting, Wednesday 17th September 2008

These were approved.

3. Matters and actions arising from the last meeting

3.1 Page 4 item 11.1 – Councillors have reversed the decision on the Sons of Rest, however members will not be taking their eye off the ball. Members were hoping to discuss this matter with Andy Kilmurray. The Agewell Manager will contact Andy Kilmurray to try and reconvene.

3.2 Page 4 item 11.2 Variety Show at the Tanhouse Community Centre was a great success with over 50 people attending. This has been booked in advance for next year.

4. Review of Facilities for Retired People – Andy Kilmurray

4.1 Members voiced their disappointment over Andy giving his apologies for this meeting. **ACTION** - THE AGEWELL MANAGER to invite Andy to the next Agewell Sandwell meeting in January. Some members requested that a letter of complaint be sent to Andy voicing their concerns.

5. Vote for Representative to Sandwell Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust.

5.1 Following on from the letter that was sent out to all Agewell Sandwell members asking for members to nominate themselves for a vote at this meeting. No nominees were received from members. After discussion members agreed and elected Pauline Hodgetts to become the Agewell Sandwell representative on the Stakeholder Governor board. **ACTION** The Agewell Sandwell Terms of Reference need to be amended to include the election etc of the representative at the Agewell AGM. The term of office for the representative will be 3 years.

6. Agewell Conference 2008

6.1 Copies an evaluation report from the day were circulated to attendees. The Agewell Manager informed attendees that planning for the next conference will commence after the Agewell AGM in April. Point raised by members included;

- Need to book entertainment very early as they will get booked up.
- West Bromwich forum raised concern at their meeting that they did not receive paperwork.
- West Bromwich feedback highlighted that the morning session was too long.
- Rowley Regis forum felt that the morning session was fine but that some exercise should be included in the day.
- Tipton forum had good feedback about the day.
- We had the highest representation from Rowley Regis and Tipton areas ever.
- A very informative and enjoyable day.
- The food was very good.
- How much the Agewell Conference has developed over the years.
- Need to look at how we can retain the people who leave at lunchtime.
- Thank staff for their behaviour and reactions on the day.

The Agewell Manager thanked all volunteers for their hard work leading up to the conference and on the day. **ACTION** – A planning meeting will be convened after the Agewell AGM.

7. Agewell Town Forum Reports.

7.1 A member attended a meeting with Ariel Lowe about what happens in a crisis situation where members of the public have to be evacuated. The member raised concern about how vulnerable members of the public were identified. Another member informed the group that you can't pre-plan for individuals and that an assessment is made on the ground on the day by Police and then the Fire Service. GC told members that Social Services are part of the planning process.

8. Agewell Sandwell Members Reports.

9.1 No written reports had been received. Members were reminded to fill in reports on a the template form. **ACTION** - A template will be posted out with the Agewell Sandwell papers. The Agewell Manager reminded members how important the reports are they are a record of what you as Agewell Sandwell members have done.

9.2 Dot Gospel told the group that the Sandwell Strategic Housing for Disabled has been cancelled for the last 2 meetings due to the number of apologies.

9.3 Edna Barker along with other Agewell Sandwell members attended a Sandwell Strategic Housing Forum annual conference on the 5th November. Edna felt that conference was very interesting and very well attended. Edna attended a workshop at the conference called 'Supporting Vulnerable People', the opening statement at which was 'Vulnerable People are not just Older People'. The aim of supporting vulnerable people is to allow them to live independently and as normal a life as possible. **ACTION** – Invite Sandwell Strategic Housing to a future Agewell Sandwell meeting.

9.4 Concern was raised by some members about a bail hostel in Smethwick. Householders in the area have been asked for money and food, sheds and garages have been broken into and one was asked by a girl if she could come and live in their house. GC told members that the National Offender Management Scheme contract out the houses to private properties and that smaller sized properties do not need to make a planning application. SM referred members back to the doorstep challenge work that was carried out at the Agewell Town Forums with the Cultural Sisters. Funding has now been secured with Sandwell MBC to take forward the work done and produce the materials recommended as part of the Cultural Sisters consultation. Another member informed the group that a similar situation occurred in an area of Dudley, where they had to really fight to get the property closed.

9. Agewell Staff Reports.

9.1 Edna Barker apologised, she did submit a report however when the document was opened there was nothing there.

9.2 The Business Support Officer for the Older People's Champions will start

work on the 16th December.

9.3 Members raised concern that there are too many abbreviations in staff reports. **ACTION** – Staff should avoid using abbreviations.

10. AOB

11.1 A member requested feedback regarding the closure of four residential Care Homes. What has happened so far? How many people have gone into Extra Care Housing? How many deaths have occurred since the move? Has it saved money? What results have been recorded? Concern was also raised that the Care homes were closed before the conversion of existing sheltered housing was completed. **ACTION** – invite Tony Zaman or Christ Guest to a future Agewell Sandwell meeting for an update.

11.2 The Agewell Sandwell Housing Panel met yesterday (18th November) to discuss Sandwell MBC's Site Allocations and Delivery Planning Document which will identify and allocate sites for various uses and may include policies relating to the delivery of specific allocated sites. The identification of these sites will be based on detailed assessments of suitable, accessible and available sites within Sandwell.plans for allocating land for use such as housing, retail and employment across Sandwell. The panel felt that it was imperative that Agewell as a group put a response in to proposals; however comments must be received by the 31st January 2009. After discussion it was decided that the January Agewell Town Forums would be brought forward to allow their comments to be included. **ACTION-** January Agewell Town Forums to be brought forward.

11.3 The Agewell Manager informed members that at the next Living Well in Later Life Board meeting the Agewell Business Plan will be on the agenda. The Agewell Business Plan now needs to go out to all the Agewell Town Forums for their information and input.

11.4 Agewell Transport panel meeting will be convened by GC to discuss the Travelwise document. Deadline for responses to document has been extended to the end of January 2009. **ACTION** – GC to contact Agewell Transport Panel members regarding meeting.

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY 21st January 2009 at Cradley Heath Community Centre. PLEASE DO YOUR BEST TO ATTEND IF YOU REQUIRE TRANSPORT PLEASE LET THE AGEWELL OFFICE KNOW BY NO LATER THAN MONDAY 19th January 2009.