



AGEWELL SANDWELL MINUTES OF MEETING

Minutes of Agewell Sandwell meeting held Wednesday 18 July 2007 at Wesley Centre, High Bullen, Wednesbury.

Present

John Allen MBE (chairing)	Mike Babb
Edna Barker	Ann Chawner
John Cope	Margaret Everson
Peter Gospel	Dot Gospel
Graham Haines	Councillor Hughes
Jean Jenks	Alan Jones
Tony Mallam	Eveline Pearson
Ralph Perkins	Joan Read
Joan Smith	Doris Strange
Sandra Tyrrell	Jinder Ubhi

In attendance:

Pauline Everitt – Agewell Manager
Stuart Munger – Community Development Worker/Midlife Co-ordinator
Geraldine Child – Community Development Worker
Maggie Turner – Older People's Champion Greets Green (OPCGG)
Jannet Allen – Minute Taker
Jayne Salter-Scott – PPI Manager

1. Welcome, introduction and apologies

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologised that meeting papers were not received by attendees in time due to the postal strike.

Apologies received from Bob Tidmarsh, Tony Salter, Victoria Adebiyi, Angela Maguire, Bob Patel, Pauline Wattis, John Nicklin, Councillor Sidhu and Mavis Jones

2. To confirm the minutes from last meeting, Wednesday 21 March 2007.

Item 10 – AOB John Clayton and Simon Parry were from the Investment Division not the Housing Department. Minutes were then approved.

3. Matters and actions arising from the last meeting

3.1 One of the Vice Chairs, made a draw for the Judge of the Shining Stars Award. It was a Rowley Regis member.

3.2 The Terms of Reference (TOR) group met and will bring their recommendations to a future meeting.

3.3 Older People's Strategic Planning Group (OPSPG) will be meeting on the 16 August. The Agewell Manager reiterated to OPSPG members that it is vital for them to attend the meeting as discussions that will take place at the meeting will shape the future of the OPSPG.

3.4 The Chair informed the group that unfortunately 2 members have had to resign from Agewell Sandwell due to other commitments; however they will still attend their local forums.

4. Question re Information from the Forums

Due to meeting papers not being received in time, this item will be deferred until the next Agewell Sandwell meeting in September.

5. Speaker – Liz Mabley, Sandwell Partnership

5.1 Liz gave a short introduction to Sandwell Partnership and the Sandwell Plan, (which Agewell local forums have been working on previously). Liz asked how Agewell and Sandwell Partnership can build a long term relationship and how services could be improved.

6. Questions

6.1 Liz introduced representatives from the Development Planning Section, who informed the group that for the first time local planning authorities are getting together to decide the future

housing planning system, which is a government initiative not local council. They need to have a clear vision of what to do and how to achieve it, and will be looking at key issues for Sandwell. They need to establish whether they are getting to the right people and if they are offering the right housing options. Issues brought up by members included:

- Affordable Housing is still not affordable enough. They raised the issue of cost of buying a home and concern that too many properties are being bought as buy to let

Reply – There will be a range of different options and types of affordable housing.

- Houses and flats are crowded in. There are no open spaces and no where for children to play.

Reply – Through the new plan there will be range of different types of housing. The Urban Design Policy states that there needs to be sufficient open space.

- Green areas on plans are constantly being moved out to allow more housing.
- Bus networks – not a joined up approach from the Planning Department or Centro.
- Concern that Sandwell will become a place of commuters and there will be no community cohesion.

6.2 The Agewell Manager asked the representatives if they would come along to the Agewell Local Forums so that each area could raise their concerns.

7. Round Table Discussions

7.1 Housing for Everybody. Tables discussed the following statement; “To create a balance of good quality affordable homes where people have the choice to live in safe, friendly neighbourhoods close to a range of community facilities, schools and jobs.” Comments about the statement were:

- It is not necessary to live by facilities if there is good public transport links.
- Affordability
- Are the homes durable– is it cheap building?
- Private housing and rented sector - there is a class issue.

- Lack of joined up approach between services: education, school places, GPs etc.
- Safety concerns ie front doors opening straight onto busy roads.
- Not enough car parking.
- Space generally, in the homes, gardens and green spaces.
- Affordable mix, allow people to move up the property ladder.
- Access to health facilities.

7.2 Members then discussed the future of Sandwell consultation. This consists of 11 themes, members were asked to pick their top three of the themes. Members felt that the themes were very much interlinked and depended on each other. Post cards were passed round for members to put their postcode on in order for Sandwell Partnership to show what areas they have consulted.

7.3 Tables then discussed:

- How Agewell could and should engage with external bodies?
- What members wanted from Agewell Sandwell and how they saw Agewell Sandwell developing?
- How members would like to be communicated with?

7.4 Feedback

The Agewell Manager will feed back the most important areas from discussions into the next Agewell Sandwell meeting.

8. Older People's Champions (OPC's)

The advert for 4 new Older People's Champions (OPC's) has gone out, unfortunately it will not be advertised in the local press, however SPIN will be circulating a flyer to older peoples' groups in Sandwell and it will be on the NHS jobs website.

9. Sandwell Show

A planning meeting for the Sandwell Show will be held at Agewell on the 2nd August at 2pm, if you would like to be involved please contact the office.

10. Older People's Strategic Planning Group (OPSPG)

There will be a workshop on Thursday 16 August which will look at

the Later Life Partnership. This meeting is only open to existing OPSPG members.

11. Agewell Panels

A list of Agewell Panels was sent out to members previously on a green form. The Agewell Manager explained that these panels were optional and members were under no obligation to attend these extra meetings.

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY 19
SEPTEMBER FROM 10.30AM UNTIL 12.30PM AT SPRINGFIELD
WORKING MENS CLUB, 198 DUDLEY ROAD, ROWLEY REGIS