



**AGEWELL SANDWELL
MINUTES OF MEETING
DRAFT**

Minutes of Agewell Sandwell meeting held Wednesday 19 September at Springfield Working Men's Club 198 Dudley Road, Rowley Regis

Present

John Allen MBE (chairing)	Ralph Perkins
Edna Barker	Jean Jenks
John Cope	Margaret Everson
Peter Gospel	Freda Jones
Bob Cohen	Bob Patel
Adassa Clarke	Victoria Adebisi
Pauline Wattis	Eveline Pearson
Jinder Ubhi	Joan Read
Doris Strange	

In attendance:

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

1. Welcome, introduction and apologies

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies received from Bob Tidmarsh, Tony Salter, Angela Maguire, Mavis Jones, Sandra Tyrrell, Pauline Holloway, Joan Smith, Pauline Moore, Jean Counley, Graham Haines, Dot Gospel, Tony Mallam, Mike Babb and Betty Marshall.

2. To confirm the minutes from last meeting, Wednesday 18 July 2007

2.1 AMMENDMENT Item 6 – A lay member asked for an explanation regarding the Urban Design Policy in respect of space and affordable houses and the opportunities for construction firms to buy out by section 106 and clause 9B monies. We also need to know in the last 5 years what monies have been received by Sandwell MBC in this respect and where it was spent. A response was promised.

ACTION – Agewell to contact Liz Mabley for a response.

2.2 AMMENDMENT – Bob Cohen’s apologies were not recorded.

2.3 Minutes were then approved.

3. Matters and actions arising from the last meeting

3.1 None were raised.

4. Report from the Older People’s Strategic Planning Group (OPSPG)

4.1 Attendees asked for all papers to be included as part of the agenda and for the papers to be itemised or coloured on the agenda to avoid confusion.

4.2 The PPI Manager explained that the OPSPG was evolving into the Later Life Partnership Board. The Board will be Co-chaired by the Chief Executive of Sandwell PCT, Rob Bacon and an Agewell Sandwell member. The PPI Manager asked members to take time to digest the accountability framework for the Later Life Partnership which had been previously circulated and if anyone had any questions please do not hesitate to ask.

4.3 An Agewell Sandwell representative on the OPSPG felt that things look good for the future, but that it will be an on-going process. The same representative also felt that comments from Agewell members were listened to and taken on board.

5. Ballot for Co-chair of Later Life Partnership Board.

5.1 As a number of apologies had been received it was felt more

appropriate to conduct a postal vote. It was agreed that votes could be counted by Agewell staff and a letter send out to Agewell Sandwell members informing them of the results.

ACTION – Agewell staff to send out ballot papers to non-attendees.

5.2 Three vacancies exist for representation on Agewell Sandwell for members from the Oldbury, Tipton and Rowley Regis areas. These representatives will need to be elected at the local forums and will remain representatives until the Agewell Sandwell AGM 2008. A member reiterated that the representatives need to be able to dedicate the time to attend the meetings and also to read all paperwork.

ACTION – Full membership of the Later Life Partnership Board to be circulated to Agewell Sandwell members.

ACTION – Agewell Manager's report to now include feedback and discussions from the Later Life Partnership Board meetings.

6. Feedback on Table Top Discussion at July meeting.

6.1 Attendees felt that getting a number of key officers together to discuss one theme was useful, however concern was raised about feedback.

6.2 One of the key points raised was that of communication, an idea suggested was an Agewell newsletter. One of the Agewell Sandwell Vice-Chairs has been asked to be the editor of the newsletter, he made a request for one volunteer from each of the other 5 Agewell Town Forums (as he was happy to represent West Bromwich) to sit on an Agewell newsletter editorial team.

ACTION – Agewell Town Forums to elect a representative to sit on the editorial team with the exception of West Bromwich.

6.3 In addition to this item a Community Development Worker circulated copies of the report that had been pulled together following consultations with Agewell. Agewell has received an email from Liz Mabley (Sandwell Partnership) and Alan Dean (Joint Policy Unit) thanking Agewell its contribution to the Sandwell Plan Refresher. The PPI Manager thanked all involved in the

review.

7. Questions about Staff reports.

7.1 A request was made for volunteers to help with the Greets Green housing survey.

ACTION – Volunteers to contact the Agewell Office.

7.2 Transport meeting to be held on Wednesday 3rd October from 6pm at Coneygre Community Arts Centre, Tipton. Transport to the meeting will be provided.

ACTION – Please contact Agewell Office if you require transport.

8. Questions about Agewell Sandwell members reports.

8.1 The PPI Manager said that it was good to see members beginning to send in reports. These reports help Agewell members hold their peers accountable and endorse the level activity undertaken by Agewell.

8.2 A member raised concern that the Single Equality Scheme for Religion and Belief is not something that Agewell should be involved with. The PPI Manager explained that this is a piece of work being undertaken at a Primary Care Trust level to ensure that the PCT is meeting its statutory obligations and is not in anyway meant to divide communities.

9. Questions about Town Forum reports.

9.1 All attendees raised concern over the lack of time allocated to the Town Forums on the agenda.

ACTION – More time to be allocated to Town Forums on future Agewell Sandwell agendas.

9.2 Tipton representatives discussed ways in which they could attract new members to the Town Forum. Barriers/obstacles that need to be overcome include small communities that do not integrate, residents feeling affiliated to other towns ie Dudley not Sandwell, other forums and people willing to listen but not 'take part'.

9.3 Wednesbury representatives felt that their forum was well

represented due to the Town teams involvement and promotion, however they too come across the same obstacles as Tipton.

9.4 West Bromwich has invited a speaker from Sandwell MBC Environmental Health to discuss asbestos; they will feed comments back into Agewell Sandwell. Disability Car Parking in West Bromwich may be charged to reduce abuse of the Blue Badges.

9.5 A member raised concern that a number of schemes aimed at people with disabilities are only for people who live in rented accommodation. Other members informed attendees that there are a number of schemes for private sector housing at the moment, please contact the Home Improvement Service on 0121 569 5232.

9.6 Oldbury representatives felt that the Langley Green Summer Fête was not a good use of their time as the fête did not attract older people.

9.7 Smethwick representatives feel that the forum is going from strength to strength. Mark Blades from the Environmental Service attended their last meeting; one of the issues they raised with him was if benches could be put on Bearwood Road for people to sit down. Mark informed the group that Smethwick Town Team had purchased a number of benches 2 years ago, which have been stored in garage. Mark Blades will take this forward.

9.8 The PPI Manager asked each Agewell Local Forum to find 1 newsworthy item, to send out to the local press to publicise the work of the forums and Agewell. The PPI Manager will ask the PCT Communication Team to help with raising the awareness. Items are to be forwarded to the Agewell Office before the next Agewell Sandwell meeting.

9.9 Rowley Regis representatives informed attendees that the August forum meeting will be held jointly with the Springfield Young at Heart group, which will hopefully encourage new membership.

ACTION – Communications strategy to be produced to include publicity campaign. PPI Manager to liaise with Agewell Manager to move this forward.

10. Table Top Discussion on Environmental Issues.

10.1 A Community Development Worker asked attendees to break off into small groups to discuss what their top 3 environmental issues would be. Environmental issues had been addressed at a number of Agewell Local Forums and had been brought back to Agewell Sandwell to find out the top 3 priorities and decide how to take the issues forward.

11. Feedback from Table Top Discussion

11.1 The Development Worker read out some of the priorities which included dog fouling, wheelie bin collection and grass cuttings.

ACTION – It was decided that the Assisted Wheelie Bin Collection Scheme would be a priority. The Community Development Worker will contact Gary Smith from Domestic Refuse Department of Sandwell MBC to promote the scheme more in partnership with Agewell.

12. Corporate Update

12.1 The PPI Manager extended an invitation to attend Sandwell PCT's AGM to be held on Thursday 27 September from 2.00pm at The Conference Suite, Thomas Street, West Bromwich. No need to book.

13. AOB

13.1 Agewell has received an invitation to visit and tour the Mayor's Parlour. A maximum of 24 can attend.

ACTION – 4 volunteers from each of the Town Forums to attend, volunteers to be identified through Town Forums.

13.2 Agewell has been asked to take part in the consultation around the Modernisation of Adult Services.

ACTION – Members wish to be involved but will require further detail and feedback. Agewell Manager to pursue

13.3 Wednesbury 2000 Community Conference celebrating the International Day of the Older Person, will be held on Monday 1st

October 2007 from 10am at Sant Nirankari Centre, Great Western Street, Wednesbury. If you would like to attend please confirm your place with Wednesbury Town Team on 0121 556 5265.

13.4 BGOP will be holding an event at Edgbaston cricket Ground. The BGOP representatives will come back to Agewell Sandwell with more information in the near future.

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY 21 NOVEMBER FROM 10.30AM UNTIL 12.30PM AT BROOK STREET COMMUNITY CENTRE, BROOK STREET, TIPTON. PLEASE DO YOUR BEST TO ATTEND.