

BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL

OLDER PEOPLE'S COUNCIL

10.00am 18 SEPTEMBER 2012

JUBILEE LIBRARY JUBILEE STREET BRIGHTON BN1 1GE. TEL: 01273 - 290800

MINUTES

Present: Hazelgrove (Chair)

Also in attendance: Tonks, Bojczuk, Eyles, Morley, Steer, Terry, Vincent, Wakeling

Other Members present: Pearce (Age UK, Brighton & Hove), Robertson (Pensioner's Association)

PART ONE

73. PROCEDURAL BUSINESS

- 73.1 Apologies were received from Marion Couldery and Val Brown and Sue Howley – Pensioner Action.
- 73.2 Following the meeting, it was confirmed that a collection of £75 was made to the Marlett's Hospice on behalf of Colin Carden.
- 73.3 The Chair changed the order of the agenda to :
Items 73, 74, 76, 75, 78, 79, 80 and 77.

74. MINUTES

- 74.1 The minutes of the 21 August, 2012 were approved.

75. COUNCILLOR BILL RANDALL - MAYOR OF BRIGHTON & HOVE

- 75.1 Councillor Bill Randall – Mayor of Brighton & Hove was presenting information in his other capacity as a journalist. The information on housing schemes for older people included:
- The city was fortunate to have a committed and dedicated Head of Housing & Social Inclusion.
 - The Sheltered Housing Action Group (SHAG) is one of the tenant participation groups that can put ideas forward to help shape future services.
 - There were various European housing schemes which cared for older people, by having both younger and older people living together. The tenants were selected carefully to look after and support older people who were their neighbours.

- Other examples were places where older people lived according to their dependencies whether they were able bodied, physically frail or had dementia, lived on one site but separately according to their needs.
- Another example was where an older people housing scheme was located with a school, café and library, so that these amenities were shared by all age groups.
- A scheme in Redditch, managed to free up family homes and also capital spending by providing bungalows for older people.
- The city needed to work more creatively to support older people
- There were negotiations with 6 or 7 housing cooperatives for the Preston Barracks site, if this was to be a success it would be the largest co-op in the UK.
- Small schemes within existing areas would be better for older people, as they already knew the area and would be able to keep the same GP and other community groups they may be part of.
- A scheme in Buckingham renovated a block of flats to house older people, and turned one of the floors into the community centre. Buses were also routed to the location.
- It was noted that the city had a large number of private rented houses and some of these were in need of renovation and people were living in unhealthy conditions.
- The entry age for housing schemes for older people needed reviewing. It was currently set at 50 years of age and was deemed too low as people were living longer. This could also cause “house blocking”.
- There was a need to work more creatively and in partnership with the voluntary and private sector to improve future housing needs.

75.2 The Chair thanked Councillor Randall for his time and research information on older people’s housing schemes.

76. NICK NIBBERD - HEAD OF HOUSING & SOCIAL INCLUSION

76.1 Nick Hibberd – Head of Housing & Social Inclusion presented the following presentation on Housing for the Future. The presentation included understanding the housing needs of older people, why the type of housing on offer needed to change and the common themes and trends that were emerging. There would be a 35% increase in people aged over 85+ by 2030. Extra Care housing offered significant opportunities. Extra Care would form part of a pathway of support that is less intensive than the support provided by residential care homes and nursing homes. Predictions were that there was a need for alternative long term provision for approximately 700 additional people by 2030. Where possible to plan ahead and avoid decisions made in a crisis or because of a lack of good alternatives.

The OPC were invited to sit on the Strategic Housing Partnership.

76.2 Issues raised and questions asked included:

1. Further clarification was asked about the 3591 people in the current tenure, as it was felt that it was a small figure. The Head of Housing & Social Inclusion confirmed his understanding that this figure related to the number of older people in receipt of care packages.

2. It was commented that that there needed to be further work done with housing associations, the private sector and voluntary sector as part of a joined up and cross-tenure approach to addressing older people's housing needs.
3. It was confirmed that the newest extra care schemes were in Brighton (Patching Lodge in Kempton and New Larchwood in Coldean), but that commissioning work would look at the need and opportunity for provision across the city, including Hove and Portslade.
4. It was agreed that it was important to build communities with both young and older people living together, with the younger people supporting their older neighbours.
5. Some residents, particularly those living in the private sector housing, were not always as well connected to communities, residents associations and were living alone, in poor housing conditions, with financial difficulty causing fuel poverty. A Public Health report had confirmed that there were links with poor housing and bad health.
6. A question was asked about the priority given within the allocations policy to households who are working or making a 'positive contribution' and whether this limited access to sheltered housing and accessible housing. It was explained that the working households policy does not apply to the allocation of sheltered housing and that accessible properties are advertised using mobility criteria and only let to applicants with appropriate accessibility needs.
7. Housing pathways would be looked at to see how older people could move from type of supported housing to another as part of a pathway of housing and care for older people.
8. What plans were there for sheltered provision for the next 5 years? Members noted that there were more plans for Extra Care housing. Commissioning work was being carried out which included looking at investment opportunities for building new housing on Housing Revenue Account land. There were good opportunities to create a mix of housing which would include consideration of the needs of older people.
9. There was discussion about the reduction of capital grant funding available from government and the need to develop new revenue-based funding models to develop new housing. It was important to use all our resources creatively, by working with all sectors.

76.3 The Chair thanked the Head of Housing & Social Inclusion for his informative presentation and answering of questions.

77. ELECTION OF OPC MEMBERS

77.1 This item was heard after Item 80.

77.2 The current positions of Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary and Treasurer were not opposed and would remain the same until the next AGM.

77.3 Treasurer's Report :

The accounts of the Older People's Council receipts and payments account were shown and approved by the Council. The balance was £606.30 on the 18 September 2012.

78. UPDATE FROM AGE UK BRIGHTON & HOVE, PENSIONER ACTION & PENSIONER FORUM ASSOCIATION

78.1 Kat Pearce confirmed that she was job sharing the position of Interim Chief Executive at Age UK.

79. OPC WORK PROGRAMME AND UPDATE

79.1 The work programme was agreed by members.

79.2 Clarification was sought on the new proposed council tax discount scheme that would commence next year. It was confirmed that pensioners were protected and would receive the same amount of discount as they did under the current Council Tax Benefit.

79.3 Healthwatch would be taking over the Local Involvement Network (LINK),

79.4 Councillor. Randall suggested that the OPC could put forward a proposal for an outside gym for older people, including disabled people as part of the development of the Level project, under the umbrella of Age Friendly City. OPC members agreed with the idea. MB would e-mail the proposal to the Council.

79.5 OPC members agreed that future public meetings would start at 10.30am and there would be 4 open meetings a year. All the minutes are available on the OPC website.

79.6 It was uncertain as to why Planning officers would not allow Councillors to speak with other attendees.

79.7 The Older People's Olympic Day was well attended at the King Alfred it would be useful to find out what feedback was received and also see whether there is any scope for activities that the OPC could get involved with.

80. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

80.1 A member of the public spoke about a private residential care home that her mother was living in.

It was commented that there was a limited number of council run care homes and her mother was unable to get into one of these.

A complaint about the care home was being progressed with the Care Quality Commission about violent and negligent incidences that her mother had experienced at the care home. The owner of the care home also owned other care homes in the city. The social workers who were dealing with the case went off sick and a less experienced social worker continued to progress the case. The case resulted with the mother being moved to another private care home.

It was asked whether the OPC could pursue the issue that some privately run care homes had inadequate procedures and staff training? The Chair confirmed that the OPC could not pursue individual cases and that the issue would be looked at by the Care Quality Commission.

The Chair thanked the member of the public for bringing this to the OPC's attention.

The meeting concluded at 1.00pm

Signed

Chair

Dated this

day of