

BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL

OLDER PEOPLE'S COUNCIL

10.15am 21 JULY 2015

MINUTES

Present: Mike Bojczuk (Chair), Colin Vincent (Vice Chair), Francis Tonks, Lynne Shields, Penny Morley, John Eyles.

Co-opted Members:

Others Present:

PART ONE

104 WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS AND ELECTION RESULT

Mike Bojczuk welcomed the members to the meeting and in particular Lynne Shields, a new OPC member. He also congratulated John Eyles on his election results and thanked Electoral Services for their support.

He was disappointed that there weren't more candidates in the OPC election, and hoped that as the committee became more active and more community based this might improve. Lynne Shields commented that it might have been because people had thought that the OPC was going to be disbanded.

105 PROCEDURAL BUSINESS

Francis Tonks said that he had not signed a declaration of interest – support officers agreed to look into this further.

Action: Karen Amsden to contact Francis about this issue.

106 MINUTES

The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed as an accurate record.

107 ELECTION OF OFFICERS UNTIL AGM

The OPC heard that Mike Bojczuk, Colin Vincent and Penny Morley had met to talk about the officers that would be in place until the AGM, they agreed that they would continue with the existing officer roles until the AGM.

108 CITY PLAN PRESENTATION BY LIZ HOBDEN

Ms Hobden gave members some context about the problems that Brighton & Hove had in terms of developing, due to the sea on the south and the South Downs National Park to the north. Within these restrictions, the council has to meet national policy targets.

Brighton & Hove City Council has aimed to focus development in eight key zones in the city, the majority of which are along main roads. The exception to this is Toads Hole Valley which is a greenfield site but has been earmarked for 700 homes, a school and employment space.

Ms Hobden confirmed that new housing developments of more than 11 properties would have to provide a percentage of 'affordable housing', which is costed at 80% of the market rent. The City Plan has 17 strategic housing allocation sites all of which should provide on average 40% affordable housing, but if there are other social benefits, the affordable housing quota may be reduced.

Members asked how older people were considered when planning for housing need? Ms Hobden said it was in the housing mix policy, which included different types of housing for different household types. The Government has introduced optional access standards which BHCC wants to apply for lifetime homes and for wheelchair accessible properties. The council is aiming for 100% lifetime homes, and 5-10% of homes with wheelchair access.

Ms Hobden said that housing is the biggest challenge, as demand across the city keeps increasing. There had been a target to build 20,000 new homes, this has now been revised to 30,000 based on revised census data. The council are planning for 650 new homes per year; this is below the Government target of 1500 properties but there is not the physical space to deliver more properties.

There are some controversial conversations to be had about urban fringe developments. 39 sites have been identified as possible spaces for housing development, but they will not all be built on, further investigation on ecology etc. needs to take place for each site.

Ms Hobden suggested that the OPC might want to talk to the Housing Strategy team about how housing is developed across the city; it is not something that the council can deliver by itself but will look to private developers. Within the council, there is an Estates Regeneration Team who can build new properties on council-owned land. There is an aim to build 500 new council-owned properties over the next five years.

There is also the opportunity to share the accommodation demand with neighbouring authorities such as Horsham who have the space to build more properties than their targets require through the 'Duty to Cooperate'. However, these are still in very low figures so it will not meet the outstanding demands and Horsham will have to share any excess properties between Brighton and Hove, and Crawley.

The next stage is for the Planning Inspector to determine the council's proposals. There is still a consultation phase at present, where consultees are being asked about the soundness (a technical test) of the proposals to ensure consistency with national policy. The OPC could add their comments as a group.

There was discussion about student accommodation in the city; there is a proposal to build 1300 units of student accommodation on Preston Barracks. Members said that they felt that student accommodation should be built on the periphery of the city, with central spaces being left for older people who may have more problems accessing centrally located services.

Planning will also want to consult with the OPC in May/ June 2016 on Part 2 of the City Plan. This will include detail on the agreed numbers of housing units.

The committee thanked Ms Hobden for the presentation and looked forward to speaking to Planning about the City Plan in due course.

109 OPC MEMBER INTRODUCTIONS

OPC Members have updated the contact template so that this could be shared with the new committee members.

Lynne Shields gave some of her background; she has been involved with Grey Matters and the Age Friendly city forum. She asked a formal question at the recent Neighbourhoods and Equalities Committee and said that she would circulate the question and the response to members via Penny Morley. Lynne Shields also said that she had signed up for a two day workshop on working with communities – she has funded this herself.

110 WIDENING OPC MEMBERSHIP AND MEETING ATTENDANCE

Mike Bojczuk said that there were two zones with no OPC representation, Patcham and Hangleton so there needed to be co-optees to cover these areas. There is also space for two additional co-optees. There was discussion to have official associate groups such as the Hangleton and Knoll over 50s group who may not have resources to formally commit but might want to have links to the OPC.

Colin Vincent said that the BMECP needed to be invited as an associate group.

Lynne Shields suggested that it might be better for existing members to think what the OPC's aims were for the next few years and then consider what type of co-optee might be most useful. After discussion it was agreed to invite Sue Howley and Val Brown to be co-opted due to their work with older people. It was agreed that we would need to look at the work programme with the new committee at a future meeting.

111 WAYS OF WORKING

Mike Bojczuk said that the OPC was the voice of older people in the city and the scrutiny voice into the council. Alongside this there needed to be additional work that was more publicised – perhaps there should be one big issue to focus on each year, such as health or transport, and meetings could be centred on these topics.

Colin Vincent agreed and said that there could be separate sub groups which were outcome focussed; Penny said that there should be an input into the Fairness Commission too.

Lynne Shields suggested a working party to look at the future of the OPC, how to contribute to succession planning. It would be wonderful to have a situation in four years where people were competing for seats on the OPC. She is going to contact all 50+ groups on her patch to talk about the OPC and how she can help her residents.

Frances Tonks reported that he had met with Bea Gahagan Age UK & Lizzie Ward Brighton University who were interested in a joint event with the OPC on social care for the Older People's Day on the 1st October. The Secretary would contact them.

Colin Vincent reported that he and John Eyles had attended a consultation on taxi access and was following up seeking further feedback from older people to a questionnaire circulated.

112 SECRETARIAL REPORT

- **OPC link Councillor.** We have been notified that this will be Councillor Karen Barford lead Councillor for Adult Social Care. A letter was sent to Councillor Geoffrey Bowden thanking him for his work with the OPC over the last 4 years.

- **Council Leader** - a letter was sent to Councillor Warren Morgan, Leader of the Council. He copied in our letter to Councillor Emma Daniel who chairs a new Committee, Neighbourhoods, Communities & Equalities. This committee will cover older people generally and will ensure that the OPC is fully consulted with regard to the Fairness Commission on tackling pensioner poverty. He is happy to meet with full OPC in the future. A reply from Councillor Mitchell was circulated and no decisions have been taken at present about public toilets. Both letters circulated

- **GP Closure/s** Goodwood Court - a letter was sent to CCG, NHS England, Healthwatch & Head of ASC expressing our concerns about this and the other GP closure in the City & the impact on older people. The reply from Geraldine Hoban has been circulated & offers a meeting.

- **Caroline Lucas MP** - her office has been contacted to thank them for her offer of assistance in the work of the OPC on any issues of concern to us.
- **NHS Research Design Service** - Colin has contacted to join the group
- **AFC Forum** - minutes of the last meeting circulated. Next meeting on Monday 27th July at Age UK on Food and Older People with Food Partnership speaker. Note from Annie Alexander re OPC Election results.
- **Active Forever Event** - for older people on 30th June at King Alfred. Secretary attended and it was well attended by older people with a range of stalls and activities on offer.
- **Brighton & Hove Buses** - late notification of an event re accessibility. But they have an accessibility officer who can be contacted as victoria.garcia@buses.co.uk 01273-886200.
- **Consultation on Taxi accessibility** - Colin & John attended a meeting & will update.
- **Housing for Older People** - Habitat Viellissement - OPC met with research team undertaking European project last year. Final report circulated with section on Brighton - unfortunately in French but looks impressive & they were grateful for our input.
- **City Plan** - links circulated by Chair to members re consultation
- **City Wide Connect** - Lynne circulated draft Referral guidelines. The programme aims to prevent older people from being isolated. The work goes through Locality Hubs West/ Central & North/ East. The next meeting of North/ Central is 23rd September, East is on 9th September and West is 30th September. We can send two members to each area.
- **Ageing without children** - Information from this organisation. There will be 2 million people over 65 without children by 2030. Information from a survey they have undertaken at www.awoc.org
- **Centre for Ageing Better** - appointed a Chief Executive Anna Dixon. They are addressing four areas better health, finances, social life & places by developing evidence base. They have a £50 million fund.
- **Fed Focus Group** - attended a group meeting to input into their web site currently Business & Services noticeboard which they wish to change to provide information to older people about services they may need on 1st July.
- **Older People's Day** - 1st October - consideration of activity by OPC on Older Peoples Day - discussion/event?

Invitations to a range of events –including **Hove Methodist Church** - Seaside summer event - 11th July; **Open Day at The Dene Rottingdean** - Thursday 23rd July OPC invited; **Somerset Day Centre** - Celebration of 60 years OPC invited for lunch on 23rd July; **Brighton National Pensioners Convention** - next meeting on Tuesday 28th July at Brighthelm Centre; **Silver Stories Exhibition** - Monday 10th August at 3pm **Trust for Developing Communities Training** - Working with Communities 2 day course on 30th July & 28th September

Newsletters/ Bulletins - • Better Care Bulletin – BHCC; Healthwatch; Age Action Alliance; Fabrica - Arts Events; EWatch Police Newsletter Portslade; Later Life

113. ANNUAL REPORT 2015/16 FOR AGM

Mike Bojczuk said that the copy for the Annual report needed to be with the Design Team by 15 August so that it could be printed in time for the September AGM. Could each member sent 150-200 words to Mike Bojczuk by 14 August?

114 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Action: Karen Amsden to book meetings for the year ahead, the last one they have is December 15)

Phone rota- August – Mike Bojczuk; September – Colin Vincent ; October- Francis Tonks; November- Lynne Shields.

Signed

Chair

Dated this

day of