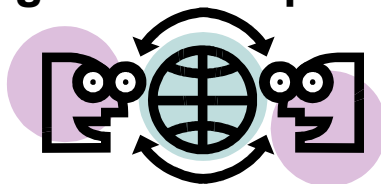


# Tendring Older People's Forum



Minutes of Meeting  
Held on  
Friday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2011  
at Weeley Council Offices

## **1. Welcome and Introduction**

### Present:

Jean Allen (Chair)	Home Instead
Robert Taylor	Gt Bentley Good Neighbours
Marion Fowler	Age Concern Clacton
Barbara Atkins	Age Concern Clacton
Dave McLeod	Harwich Town Council
Sharon Alexander	CVS Tendring
Brian Thomasson	CVS Tendring
Gordon Beare	TENPAG
Frank Robinson	TENPAG
Anne Brown	Essex County Council
Ken Edwards	Lawford Parish Council
Lisa Smith	Age Concern Essex
Peggy Muddiman	Harwich Pensioners Association
Coral Born	Citizens Advice Bureau
Joy Broderick	Tendring District Council
Cathie Lockhart	Essex County Council
Brenda Ellis	CVS Tendring

## **2. Apologies**

Ann Wiggins, Jayne Albone, Vivien Chapman, Gill Burden, Valerie Reiser, Tracy Harris, Gerald Wallington-Hayes, Pauline Mann

## **3. Minutes of the previous Meeting**

Agreed and signed by Jean Allen

## **4. Matters arising**

**George Gibbs** had asked what housing development was under discussion at the previous meeting. Joy Broderick was today able to give the following information:

The Eastern Regional Assembly has informed Tendring that they will have to build 6,500 new affordable homes. It was decided by TDC that 4,100 should go in Clacton and Holland-on-Sea, 800 for Frinton and

Walton, 900 in Harwich, 150 in Brightlingsea, 150 Lawford and Manningtree. Local people are understandably very concerned about the situation as they were under the impression that the new government's idea of localism is supposed to allow them to decide on any future development, if any. Government has informed councils that for every affordable house they build they will double the council tax on those properties for six years.

A suggestion was made by members that a lobby be made concerning road access to the Tendring coast if all this building took place. Anne Brown said that she had been hoping for a long time for this road funding which was available but has since been withdrawn by Europe. The A120 Braintree road is also desperate. **Dave McLeod** agreed to draft a letter on behalf of the Forum which he will pass to Anne Lax who will in turn forward to Anne Brown (ECC).

Part of the infrastructure needed is a new hospital for the Tendring area. Anne Brown who is a Governor of the Colchester Hospital said that the hospital in Clacton is a very valuable asset. It is used for intermediate care to recuperate. This is its purpose at the moment. You need 500,000 people around an acute hospital. Anne suggested that you identify the needs of older people in Clacton and as the PCT are running down over the next 18 months you need to list all the services people need in the area and let the PCT have the information. We were expecting a visit at this Forum by Louise Notley but unfortunately this didn't happen.

**Item on this to appear on the Agenda for the May Meeting.**

#### **5. Chairman's report**

Jean had met with Sharon Alexander and Gill Burden to discuss the Forum and the web site. There is also an information and news table at each meeting to enable the sharing of information

#### **Treasurer**

We have no expenses for the hire of this room, our expenses are for secretarial support. We received a one-off grant, the remainder is £2175.

#### **Secretary**

Anne relayed an email she had received from Jayne Albone, information to be given in her absence.

The Home Improvement Agency services were potentially going to end on 31<sup>st</sup> March. ECC have confirmed that the services provided by the Agency will continue to be funded for a further 2 months. The service for all Essex Home Improvement Agencies is currently out to tender and the new provider will be announced towards the end of April, there will be a 2 year contract being signed with the new provider and new contracts will commence on the 1<sup>st</sup> June 2011.

#### **6. Management of web site**

**Sharon and Jean** met and there is an offer to man the site and keep it up to date. Page on the CVST web site – Sharon had brought a mock

page – there will be a link on the CVST web site. This site has around 19000 hits a month.

Sharon will monitor any news/items that go on the Forum web site.

It was agreed by members that a contribution of £50 be made available for the set up cost. Robert presented a cheque for this to Sharon.

7. **Gill Close** attended from the Pension Service and informed that Burnley, Lancashire is where pension benefits are dealt with. Age Concern, CAB and Local Council would be able to contact the local services on people's behalf. Home visits can be arranged. The benefit is that staff can verify documents in the person's home, fill in the necessary document and send to Burnley on their behalf. Gill left details of useful telephone numbers. **Anne Lax** to forward to Sharon Alexander for the web site.

8. Louise Notley did not attend.

9. **Reports from Members**

**Marion Fowler – Age Concern** reported that the Luncheon Club is manned solely by volunteers – they are looking for 2 Cooks to cater for the 48 lunches they currently serve. They no longer receive a grant and it is still only £3 for two courses. Salvation Army also provide a lunch club.

**Sharon Alexander – CVS Tendring** reported that all are welcome to attend the Silver Surfers Club at a fee of £2. It is semi-formal and there are qualified volunteers. It is mainly for over 50s. Last week they were learning how to up load photos and next week they will be using Facebook.

A Community Exhibition is being held on 16<sup>th</sup> May 11am-6pm which will give the opportunity to network and recruit at the Town Hall.

**Lisa Smith – Age Concern** – the Befriending Service has received a grant to enable the service to continue.

**Joy Broderick re Holland-on-Sea Surgery** - reported that TDC (as land owners of the site) could have got a court judgement to override the village green application. If a landowner is able to establish by a court declaration that the land could never validly become a village green, which has been used in a few cases across the country, then that would also being the matter to a premature halt.

It appears that an application to TDC by the PCT to provide a surgery for approximately 7000 patients (who have waited 8 years for one) is not considered urgent enough or worth spending the money on. This case is also very clear, the site was a TDC pay and display car park until early 2009 and was, therefore, never available to be used by the public 'as of right'.

**Cathie Lockhart** attended the Forum for the first time, she is a Housing and Strategy Officer at ECC dealing with extra care housing for Older People.

**Gordon Beare** expressed concern about people caring for partners at home and the fact that visits by District Nurses are being cut back. Carers also need support. Jean had recently attended a workshop on facilities in Essex to support carers.

**Sharon to contact Essex Carers Support**

**Jean to contact District Nurses and Community Matrons**

Hopefully a representative will be able to attend a future Forum.

**Robert Taylor** reported that Gt Bentley Good Neighbours provide a transport scheme as well as a medical aid service, wheelchairs and commodes, plus Neighbourhood Watch. A book goes to every home in the village listing all the services available, Secretaries of groups etc.

**Ken Edwards** reported that unfortunately the lunch club held at Foundry Court is still under threat of closure. He also announced that he would no longer be attending as the rep for Lawford Parish Council as he will not be standing at the next elections. He has attended the Forum since its formation back in the 90s and will be missed by those of us who also go back that far. He was once part of a formidable trio from the Lawford/Manningtree area.

Discussion took place about the possibility of holding an open meeting. A speaker to talk on something topical would be an incentive.

Unfortunately no further news on whether Mike Gogarty would be willing/able to attend a future meeting. **Anne Brown** had offered to contact him (January meeting).

**Date of next Meeting:**

**Friday 27<sup>th</sup> May 2011 - 10am  
Weeley Council Offices**