

STOIC MEETING – NOTES & INFORMATION

Age Concern Hall, Linden Road, Romsey – Friday 28th January 2011

Anne welcomed everyone to the meeting, including three new possible members. The meeting would be devoted to discussing the current issues with the idea of having them as topics for future meetings.

Library Services

Villages in *rural* communities, at least two miles from the nearest static library, will continue to receive a mobile library but the stops will be reduced to one and the frequency reduced to once every 4 weeks. Sheltered accommodation will receive the mobile service every 4 weeks. Services to small towns/large villages will continue every 2 weeks.

Mobile libraries will no longer visit sheltered accommodation within 2 miles of a static library or to care homes. It is proposed to use volunteers to deliver books to those who are housebound. It was felt that books would be too heavy to carry from one end of a village to another if the library only stops in one place instead of several. Volunteers would be difficult to find and there were too many difficulties for a group to set up a library in a pub or shop with having to produce business plans etc. Talking books, for those with poor sight, are only available from Lymington or Chandlers Ford.

Responses to the consultation are due by 14th February to 01962 826618 or library.customercomments@hants.gov.uk

Phasing out Cheque Books

Some banks are slowly withdrawing cheque books e.g. Santander; books have to be collected in the branch. The Government have said that the cheque will have to be replaced by another form of paper.

Small businesses/tradesmen need cheques as they cannot accept cash very easily and no one wants to keep large amounts of cash at home or in a wallet. Those who are housebound do not have access to cash and need cheques.

Some banks are sending out cards, without being requested, to enable people to spend up to the value of £15. Shops have to pay 5% and need expensive machines for their use.

The WI is taking up the cause. A decision will be taken by 2016 so please write to your MP to campaign against the withdrawal.

Pavements

They are the responsibility of Hampshire County Council (HCC) and any problems of loose slabs etc should be passed on to Mark Cooper the HCC representative for Romsey. There are too many levels and slopes; 7 different levels outside the Co-op.

It was agreed to start monitoring the accidents. Jan Olden 01794 368738 agreed to coordinate this (note: Romsey Advertiser article 18th Feb said to report accidents to Paul Buxton, c/o Age Concern, 01794 521398 with name, place, date, time).

Bollards are difficult for the visually impaired but they are there to stop vehicles parking on the pavement. 'A' frames are also a hazard for wheelchairs and buggies. The pavements are too sloped to allow wheelchairs and scooters easy access, so they can potentially tip up. Shopmobility refuse to come to Romsey as it is too difficult for wheelchair users.

Drains

They need regular cleaning as they get blocked in heavy rain. Constant resurfacing has meant that the roads are at higher levels now than years ago. Many **Potholes** have been filled but they need doing in dry weather because as soon as it rains they are dangerous again. They need to be filled with tar and the perimeter sealed with tar as well. If the holes have been reported to the Council it is possible to sue them for damage after an accident. **Cobbles** are particularly bad for walking aids, wheelchairs and scooters.

Deliveries to Shops

These are still being done at the busiest of times, especially outside the Co-op. The rear entrance was sold off when Woolworths closed. Older people find it difficult to cross the road as there are heavy ramps in the road and on the pavement. The traffic is being blocked and the pavements are obstructed. It was agreed to write to the Co-op and look into their conditions of deliveries and to TVBC. It was felt that there should be a restriction after 9.00 am. There are two delivery bays in Latimer Street and one in the Hundred for this purpose.

Hospitals

Managed care e.g. drips etc should be brought to Romsey rather than having to go to the general who are always overwhelmed. Next year Dr's will decide where the services go but will only commission value for money

There is a project at the General currently giving visitors information and asking them what other information would be useful. This includes some questions to ask when one is discharged and information that may be useful when back at home. It is testing the benefit of reaching carers before they realise they are carers.

There is still age discrimination in Wards. People should be with those with the same condition, not categorised by age groups.

Forests

There is a proposal to sell off the forests, Farley Mount, Ampfield Woods, parts of the New Forest. Defra have a website and online petition against this.

Dates for 2011 (Fridays at 2.05pm – fourth Friday every other month)

- 25th March
- 27th May
- 22nd July
- 23rd September
- 25th November (AGM)