



Stoic News

The Voice of older people in Southern Test Valley

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Watch this space for news and updates on forthcoming Autumn Fayre 'see page 4'

FORUM MEETING - 14th May 2010

The overall theme of this meeting was 'Older People's Well-being'. We were fortunate to have a couple of representatives from Hampshire County Council (HCC), Alex Burn (Head of Older People's Well-Being Team) and her colleague, Caroline England. They asked for our help in respect to comments/input on their proposed draft consultation document before general release into the public domain later this year. The prime purpose of the consultation being an update, the 'Older People's Well-Being Strategy for Hampshire,' for the 3 year period from April 2012 when the current strategy period expires.

Alex and Caroline are visiting a number of older people's forums between May and August to get as much feedback as possible. Alex started off by explaining the things that have been happening during the last 3 years and actions taken in order to help improve the overall well-being of older people across our county. Many public and partner organisations, voluntary and local groups are involved in this process to help shape the strategy and decide what the main priorities should be as we move forward. This time it's envisaged that these priorities fall within two clear distinct themes – 'addressing isolation and loneliness' and providing that 'bit of help at the right time'.

They presented a draft questionnaire which included a list of some 15 priorities, asking people to mark their top 5, as well as providing the opportunity for people to make comments on presentation. Once the final version of the questionnaire has been agreed, it will be sent out to the public for completion and return c/o 'Carers Together' for collation and initial analysis on behalf of HCC. This

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

STOIC Forum meetings are held every two months at Age Concern 24 Linden Rd, Romsey. The meeting on Friday 9th July 2010 included Representatives from the three Emergency Services who talked about security and safety in the home.

**Membership of £5 began in November 2009
Non-members £1 per meeting**

The forums give an opportunity for over 55's to get together and discuss local issues important to them; to have a say in what matters to them in the areas of community, health, leisure, education, safety, housing, transport, benefits and age discrimination etc.

If you need transport you can ask Paul Buxton at Age Concern 24, Linden Rd Romsey on 01794 521398 or email ageconcernofficer@btconnect.com for a sight of the minutes of previous meetings or visit the Website www.romseynet.org.uk/STOIC.

**Next Meeting - 10th September 2010
Speaker from Hampshire County Council
- Concessionary Fares Consultation -
move of responsibility from District
Councils to County Councils**

valuable input will then help HCC form the basis for preparing the new strategy (2012-2015). HCC are hoping to finalise the questionnaire format by July.

The draft questionnaire, as presented in its current form, generated lots of debate, comments and suggested improvements from our audience, ranging from advice on colour and font size, through to suggested word changes and fine-tuning of the proposed priorities themselves.

Our second speakers of the day were Sheelagh Kreft and Jenni Moore, a support worker, from the 'Community Renovations Team', Romsey. At the moment there are 16 teams across Hampshire, all set up within the past couple of years. The Romsey team has been set up in association with Hampshire County Council Adult Services, Test Valley Community Services and Hampshire Primary Care Trusts. They are here to help with all aspects of older people's well-being, by helping to maintain people's independence through support, advice, guidance and practical assistance.

The team currently comprises a Social Worker, Occupational Therapist, Nurse, Support Worker and a Development Worker whose job it is to link all the skills together, and is based at the 'Adult Services' offices in Romsey (Former Magistrates Court in Church Street). They actively encourage referrals from people who could really do with some help. This could be a self referral or from family, friends or neighbours, directly to the team by phoning 01794 526028. The individual's needs will be assessed and a home visit arranged if required. However, the initial referral should only be made with the permission of the person concerned, if being made on their behalf. If fully eligible for this service they must be in receipt of the 'Adult Services Funded Support Pack'.

The Community Innovations Team Spring Newsletter was handed out at the meeting. Please contact Paul Buxton on 01794 521398 if you would like a copy.

The Meeting A.O.B. followed

Scam Warning! - One of our members recently received a phone call from someone claiming to be from the 'Health Service' (they may use acronyms to try to confuse) asking all sorts of health related questions and then, as a result of the answers they receive, would try to sell them health products. Should you experience any similar calls, hang up immediately and report the incident to Trading Standards on 08454 04 05 06.

STOIC Newsletter - May edition was handed out at the meeting. As always we actively welcome your comments and any input and articles for future newsletters. Please contact Veronica Lakey, Editor at oakbank21@talktalk.net or Paul Buxton on 01794 521398.

STOIC Autumn Fayre 1st October 2010 (Crosfield Hall) – Note the new name for our event to celebrate UK Older People's Day and the contribution older people make to our society. Plans are in place and work is ongoing and we will update you at the next STOIC meeting. The next STOIC meeting took place on Friday 9th July 2010 at the Age Concern Hall, Romsey from 2.05 to 4.00pm. The theme of the meeting was safety and security at home.

Remainder of dates for 2010 Forums (Fridays at 2.05pm) are 10th September and the AGM on the 12th November.

EDITOR'S SLOT – ROMSEY Town Access Plan

Andree North and I attended the workshop to discuss the draft copy of 'Romsey Town Access Plan'. The participants were divided into 3 groups each lead by a member of the TCVC team organising the project. The discussions were very lively and to the point. We were all kept on our toes as we had much to discuss. Topics included Improvements to the Railway Station, Overcoming of barriers to traffic running smoothly in such places as Winchester Road, Alma Road, Southampton Road, and Barge Canal footpaths, ease congestion at particular junctions e.g. Winchester Road & Alma Road and enhance the Pedestrian Environment in the Town Centre. We also looked into cycle lanes and the improvement of bus routes. In all we had a very busy two hours. Any one interested in seeing the draft plan can telephone me on 01794 514609 or email oakbank21@talktalk.net. The draft plan came with some lovely photos of the town taken by participants in last year's street audit which was conducted to produce the 'Draft Access Plan'.

Veronica Lakey

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Hants Older Peoples Forum - Andree and I attended this meeting on Friday. In AOB a lady from Eastleigh said we all needed a specialist person who is able to read documents, she indicated a pile of papers 18" high that she had to read. It seemed to me, that in order for our group to move forward and to fulfill a useful purpose, we need such a person also.

I suggest we advertise, possibly through the letters page of the Romsey Advertiser, for an academic person newly retired with a background in local government, university or statistics who would be able and willing to read consultations documents such as green papers and who can translate them into questionnaires that elicit the views of Romsey's older people, including the Ninety year olds. These questionnaires could be added to the newsletter. Margaret Nisbett

Better Balance for Life - 'Better Balance for life' brochures promote 9 simple exercises that you can do at home to help prevent falls. They can be obtained from Tracey Jones, Hampshire County Council on 01962 846605.

'Hampshire Now' Special Edition for Older People –These free newsletters from HCC contains lots of information specifically aimed at older residents across Hampshire. Phone 0845 603 5638, if you want to be added to the mailing list and don't have access to it.

Blue Badge Scheme – As a result of Government cuts, the Blue Badge Scheme for disabled parking across Hampshire is being reviewed; suggestions and comments required by 2nd July when the Consultation Document is to be presented. The County Council could not ask for comments earlier because it might affect election results. It might be worth making any comments to HCC although late, they might reach the right ears.

Anyone with any comments or concerns, good or bad, about matters raised at the current, past forums or have suggestions for future meeting topics are invited to write to the editor by post or e-mail for inclusion in 'Stoic News' (Mrs Veronica Lakey, 21, Tadfield Cres., Romsey, phone 01794 514609 ['oakbank21@talktalk.net'](mailto:oakbank21@talktalk.net))



**Southern
Test
Older
Independent
Campaigners**

You are invited to our

Autumn Fayre

Friday 1st October, 10.00am - 3.00pm
Crosfield Hall, Broadwater Rd, Romsey

- ◆ Music ◆ Crafts ◆ Books
- ◆ Displays ◆ Advice ◆ Social groups
- ◆ Try different therapies e.g. massage
- ◆ Gentle exercise tasters e.g. Tai Chi
- ◆ Well being and health checks ... **Raffle, and much more...**

**Retire
from work,
not from
life**

Free Entry. Refreshments available all day: drinks under £1.00, food under £2.00



It would help us to know who is attending for catering purposes.

Please return this tear-off slip to **Bernie Newitt, 9 Love Lane, Romsey, SO51 8DE** – by the 13th of September.

I would like to attend the Autumn Fayre on the 1st of October

Name(s) _____ Number attending _____

Address _____

Tel _____ Email _____

Do you need transport to the event? _____