



Stoic News

The Voice of older people in Southern Test Valley

Publisher STOIC

Volume No. 2

Issue No. 6

Date November 2010

JOIN US FOR 2010 AGM MEETING

**LAST FORUM MEETING FRIDAY 10th
SEPTEMBER 2010**

Our main topic this time involved a consultation session on Concessionary Fares, relating to the Government's decision to transfer responsibility for the national scheme from District Councils to County Councils. Anne covered some items of general interest including 'Blue Badges', '2011 Government-initiated consultation on the NHS - Liberating the NHS' and 2011 STOIC dates before introducing Mark Miller, Passenger Transport Project Manager, Hampshire County Council who was to lead the session.

The running of the Concessionary Fare Scheme is scheduled to be transferred away from Test Valley Borough Council in April 2011 to Hampshire County Council. From our perspective we would want the discretionary elements of the scheme, currently funded by TVBC to be continued when HCC takes over next year. These 'extra' services (local benefits) which are currently provided, include all-day travel (e.g. before 9.30 am), companion passes, travel vouchers and use on dial-a-ride, which may be under threat after the handover.

There are really two options to consider, HCC to provide National Concessionary Scheme only which is statutory or to provide a level of extra discretionary enhancements. Mark asked how we would prefer to have our passes issue. Our group recommended giving alternative ways of accessing the fare scheme i.e. on-line, via local libraries as well as the current hardcopy postal method to be renewed every two years.

Smart card technology that accurately records each passenger journey is gradually being rolled out across Hampshire. All new buses are smart card enabled and existing buses are being converted as funding permits.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

STOIC Forum meetings are held every two months at Age Concern 24 Linden Rd, Romsey. The next meeting is on: Friday 12th November 2010.

Derick Smithers of 'Independent Equality Forum' will be speaking on 'Barriers to gaining access to Services'.

**Membership of £5 began in
November 2009**

Non-members £1 per meeting

The forums give an opportunity for over 50'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

ageconcernofficer@btconnect.com

Or to view the Minutes of previous meetings or visit the Website

www.romseynet.org.uk/STOIC.htm

**Dates for 2011 forum meetings
28th January, 25th March, 27th May,
22nd July, 23rd September, and
25th November (AGM)**

VISION FOR THE FUTURE: Liberating the NHS – An Information Revolution

Greater Choice and Control

The choice consultation document, ‘Liberating the NHS: Greater Choice and Control,’ sets out some more information about how we intend to make the vision in the White Paper a reality how we aim to give people greater choice and control over their healthcare.

Crucially, it seeks views from NHS professionals and staff, patients and the wider public on key questions about the proposals and how to implement them. The publication of the consultation document starts the process. The responses to the consultation document will help to shape more detailed proposals.

The White Paper and the consultation document set out a number of specific commitments to extend choice by increasing the a presumption of choice of any willing provider, current offer of choice of provider significantly, named Consultant lead team, maternity services, treatment and provision in some mental health services, diagnostic services, following a diagnosis, in care for long-term conditions, end of life care, GP practice and treatment.

Underpinning these commitments is the basic presumption that patients will have choice over treatment and care, and choice over any willing provider wherever relevant, provided that those choices are safe, appropriate for the individual and financially affordable for the NHS, which the consultation document considers in detail.

‘Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS’ includes a number of other commitments that are relevant to patient choice, which are explored in more detail in the consultation document. The Equality Impact Assessment process is intended to improve the quality of local services by ensuring public bodies systematically consider the actual or potential impacts of their policies and practices on certain communities or population groups and also by considering the potential impact of the proposals on patients and service users human rights.

In formulating these commitments, we have held and attended a number of engagement events, which has helped us to take into account the views and needs of a wide range of stakeholders. This pre-consultation engagement has informed policy development. We intend to participate in further engagement with a wide range of stakeholders and partners following the publication of the consultation document. Responses to ‘Vision of the Future: Liberating the NHS’ need to be received by the 12th January 2011

RESPONSES TO ‘VISION FOR THE FUTURE’

In view of the Government White Paper which proposes to make the NHS more responsive, transparent and better able to withstand the funding pressures of the future, a questionnaire was circulated and responses to this have been received. Areas covered were Health and Social Care, Citizens say in what happens, Doctor, Patient and Senior Staff relationships and Patient Involvement at all Levels.

Of the ten statements that were posed		
Of those supporting the	highest	75%
“	lowest	40%
Of those not supporting	highest	10.3%
“	lowest	0.2%

It can therefore be seen that responses to the White Paper in Hampshire were very favourable. Detailed copies of responses to the survey are available from Paul Buxton or the Editor (Veronica Lakey).

EDITOR'S SLOT

I have been involved this year in the '**Romsey Town Access Plan**'. After the workshop earlier in the year a 45 page consultation document was prepared. A copy is available from me or from Paul Buxton in Age Concern office.

The areas covered are:

- Measures to reduce impact of additional traffic
- Traffic Speeds
- Junction Operation and Capacity
- Traffic Congestion
- Improving Signing and Road Markings
- Street Parking
- Car Park Provision
- Improve Access to Railway Station
- Improve Pedestrian Access to Town Centre
- Improve Main Routes to Schools
- Pedestrian and Cyclists in Residential Area
- Develop Cycle Network
- Improve Leisure Routes
- Improve Bus Station and Services

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Trip to London to honour Lilian Brimelow as the oldest Fitness Instructor for 'This Morning BBC1'

At last the day dawned after much negotiating and many phone calls. Three sprightly ladies from Romsey's 'Extend' exercise class for over '60's were on their way to London with their mentor Lilian who was in charge of 'Expedition Extend'.

We had been invited to appear with Eamonn Holmes and his wife Ruth on the T.V. programme 'This Morning'. We taxied to Southampton to catch the 3.30 pm train to London. Lilian was in charge with mobile in hand, finding us places to sit and wait. The train was on time but there weren't many seats. One kind gentleman offered me a seat as he was getting off at the next stop. We had a smooth ride to Waterloo and after the difficult ticket gates had been negotiated we were instructed to wait for a taxi in front of Costa Coffee. The taxi was late and Lilian used her mobile and soon the taxi arrived. The driver helped us into the taxi and after a long ride through the rush hour traffic pointing out landmarks on the way; we arrived at our destination, Grange Strathmore. The hotel was very oldy worldy. Most of the busy staff were foreign. On the wall were the portraits of Lord and Lady Strathmore the Edwardian owners of the hotel who were relatives of the Queen Mother.

We went to our rooms; we each had a double room with en suite and all other mod cons. After a lovely dinner, for which the BBC had allowed us to spend up to £25, we were off to bed.

We had an alarm call in the morning for 6.45 am followed by a continental breakfast of everything you could think of. At 8.00 am a taxi took us to the 'This morning' studio. We were shown into the Green Room where plenty of people shook our hands and introduced themselves. (Ann Widdicombe was next door being interviewed.) We were taken to a studio for a rehearsal with Aemonn and Ruth who lead us through an exercise for the timing. Next was make up and then it was back to the green room where we met Rosemary Schaler, the cook in the Alan Titmarsh show and it really made my day when Jane McDonald from 'Loose Women' came and sat next to me and chatted for about quarter of an hour; she comes from my home town. She also gave me her autograph.

Later while the cameras were on us they really feted Lilian as being the oldest fitness instructor. Aemonn spoke to each of us and Ruth asked us what we got out of our classes. After our performance we were allowed to stay and watch to the end of the show. We watched Rosemary cook cabbage in butter in a frying pan which nearly set the studio alight and then Jane sang 'You're my World'. Then it was taxi to Waterloo, train to Southampton and taxi to Romsey. Thank you BBC for two lovely days.

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS

The Stoic committee needs volunteers to fill vacancies in the committee, namely a Vice-Chairman or Treasurer and a fundraiser.

Also distributors for the following areas

All the Churches except the Abbey and St Swithins

North Baddesley – Village Hall, Churches, Surgeries and Shop

All villages except Lockerley and Nursling

Retirement homes except Linden Court and Wakeford Court

Volunteers will each be responsible for pinning a newsletter to the notice boards at their chosen location around the town and surrounding areas and leave a small pile for people to take away.

This is definitely not a door-to-door delivery. Please get in touch with Veronica oakbank21@talktalk.net

Member's attendance at the 'Test Valley's Transport Forum'

A volunteer is needed to attend 'Transport Forum' meetings which meet variably and alternate between Romsey and Andover. See Anne Meader for details.

Meeting dates 2011 – Tuesday 16th March and Monday 20th September (both starting at 10.am.)

The first meeting will be looking at Transport to Hospital/Health Transport.

=====

JDL FLOORING SERVICES

=====

Commercial and Domestic Flooring

CARPET VINYL WOOD & LAMINATE

Phone Jerry 07790530812

21, Tadfield Crescent, Romsey SO51 5AN
Sponsor of STOIC November Newsletter