

Older People's Assembly

Minutes of Public Meeting held on:

Wednesday 13th June 2016, commencing at 1.30pm,

Council Chambers, Civic Centre, Southend-on-Sea.

Agenda

No	Item	Speaker	Time
1	Welcome, Introduction, Apologies & Declaration of Interests (All members having a vested interest in items on this agenda should declare their interest if relevant)	Chair/Secretary	5 minutes
2	Minutes & Matters Arising (16 th March 2016)	Chair/Secretary	5 minutes
3	Correspondence	Chair/Secretary	
4	Ratification: 1. Appointment of Committee Member 2. Treasurer's Statement (final)	Mike Grimwade Lynda McLernon	10 minutes
5	Time Bank: Time Bank Scheme and its objective explained.	Judy Harper Time Bank Co-ordinator	20 minutes
6	Veolia: What happens to our recycling after its collected from our doorstep?	Annikka Prashad Recycling Officer Veolia	30 minutes
7	Parks & Gardens: An overview of Southend Borough Council's Parks, Gardens & Nursery services.	Ian Brown/ Denis Lloyd Southend Council Parks Management Service	20 minutes
8	Lions Club International: Find out more about the excellent work of Lions International in this and the wider community	Tony Prior Leigh on Sea Lions	15 minutes
9	Question Time: Open forum for questions. Advanced notice of subject is an advantage to enable relevant information to be obtained ahead of the meeting to inform the discussion.	An open forum for questions whether related to this agenda or not	Chair discretion on time.
10	Close of meeting	Chair	

COMMITTEE:

Mike Grimwade	Chairman	Lynda McLernon	Treasurer
Derek Iles	Vice-Chairman	Mike Dolby	Committee Member
Molly Dennis	Committee Member	Alan Grubb	Committee Member
Dave Monk	Honorary President		

Minutes of Meeting:

<u>Agenda Item 1</u>	
Welcome, Introduction Apologies & Declaration of Interests:	
1.1	Mike Grimwade opened the meeting and welcomed members/visitors and guests. Apologies received from Mike Dolby and OPA secretary Jude Raphael (voice recording to be used – no objections raised)
1.2	No declarations of interest were received from the Assembly.
<u>Agenda Item 2</u>	
Minutes & Matters Arising:	
2.1	The Assembly agreed the minutes of previous meeting held 16 th March 2016 as an accurate account of that meeting which were duly accepted & signed by MG.
2.2	There were no matters arising.
<u>Agenda Item 3</u>	
Correspondence:	
3.1	No new correspondence had been received.
<u>Agenda 4</u>	
Ratification & Ratification of Election of Committee Members:	
4.1	1) Ratification of Election of New Committee Member: MG advised that this item is withdrawn. FW had sent apologies as he had had to step down almost immediately after accepting the appointment due to family illness and regrettably was no longer able to carry out any committee duties.
4.2	2) Treasurer's Statement: LMc confirmed that at the AGM she had presented an interim finance statement which had been accepted and now following the year end closure she had prepared a final yearend financial statement and confirmed that the accounts had been audited. LMc advised that as there had been no financial activity on the OPA account since the interim report the figures remain unchanged and just the accompanying statement of fact had been updated to reflect the year end status of the report. LMc explained the figures .There were no questions from the floor. The committee had therefore determined that it was not in the interest of economy and recycling to produce copies of the final report for all. LMc advised she had a few copies with her and available and could also post if required. Members were asked to ratify that the final report as described and as presented and approved as an interim at the AGM was accepted. Following a show of hands with no dissensions the Final Account was duly accepted and signed.
<u>Agenda Item 5</u>	
Timebank:	
5.1	Judy Harper began by introducing herself as the local Co-ordinator for Timebank; and explaining how this had been a project in Southend since October 2014, in partnership across Essex with Colchester as the lead partner. They are licensed to Timebank UK and there are over 300 around the country.

5.2	JH stated that although currently out of funding in Southend; they were just expecting confirmed of an interim further six months of funding whilst also waiting to hear if their bid to the Big Lottery would be successful.
5.3	JH informed the Assembly that Timebank originated in U.S.A. Edgar S Cahn, a law professor, had suffered a heart attack in the 1980's and was subsequently unable to do many things for himself and became dependant on others in the local community who came to his aid by giving their time to help with various domestic/residential chores. He felt unable to repay those who had helped him and so conceived the concept of a community time-credit system.
5.4	Timebank is in essence a community of people who provide service/skills/support etc to others without payment and accrue 'time credits' in return which can then be used to access other volunteer skills/support etc. It is free and open to anyone over the age of 18. It is good for PR; helps the community; is social; and uses reciprocal hours as its 'currency'. Examples of services given are: tailoring/ dressmaking, i.e. a swapping of talents such as having a pair of trousers taken-in, in exchange for learning something new like a foreign language. In other words a swapping of ideas and encouraging a community spirit – 'banking' time as its commodity.
5.5	JH noted there are regular coffee mornings held at SAVs (Alexander Street) Southend for Timebank members to meet up. To become a member, you would need to have an informal chat with Judy and explain the help you need and the skill-set you can offer and the time that you can help others. e.g. you could offer transport for someone. JH can also come to the home if more convenient. JH will inform the Committee of next coffee morning to pass on to its OPA members.
5.6	DBS (was CRB) checks are not needed; instead two referees are required. Timebank is based on trust. It works across the whole of the country, and there are approximately 14 in Essex - lead by Colchester. The Colchester exchanges 10-15,000 hours a year: locally it is 4,000 hours. JH noted at present there are many more offering their time and skills than needing them.
5.7	MG asks if there is a lot of interest in gardening skills? JH noted that dog-walking is something requested most often. JH reiterated that she is the local Co-ordinator for Southend and there are also groups in Basildon and Wickford. JH provide information leaflets.

Agenda Item 6

Veolia:

6.1	Annikka Prashad introduced herself to the Assembly as one of the new Recycling Officers for Veolia (and had previously worked for their predecessor Cory). The main purpose of the presentation was to encourage the use of blue boxes which would be for cardboard and paper recycling. The idea would now be to separate all paper and card items from existing pink sacks. AP also continued to explain there are blue bags available for those who cannot manage the boxes. Veolia would soon be operating a 4-day collection week (to pre-empt past confusion over changed Monday collection dates and bank holiday 'overspill'); There would however still be bank-holiday issues Easter and Xmas. It was hoped the delivery of new blue boxes would roll out over coming weeks with pink sacks continuing to be used in the interim for those who had not yet received their new blue box.
6.2	Martin Fuller – manager for Veolia's Eastern region then introduced himself; informing the Assembly of their 14,000 employees nationwide, reiterating the details for the 4-day week they would provide and 3 new custom-made split-section vehicles. MF was encouraging everyone in the community to pledge their support to SBC by using the new receptacles. MF stressed that pink sack collections were the same except for removal of any card and paper by residents. 9 th May was stated to be the first date for rolling-out blue boxes, culminating on 17 th June. MF asked that if anyone had not received their box by this date to notify Veolia. MF

	<p>confirmed that theirs was now a 16 year contract with SBC going forward; MF noted their Eastern Avenue Waste Transfer Station was not yet complete. However the 4-day week would be fully established within the first 6 months of this contract. MF was also looking to reduce the amount of vehicles they used, and highlighted the new 10-hour shifts during the 4-day weeks – this would allow staff the same wage but with an additional 4-5 days holiday (where bank-holidays had been saved). MF noted Wednesdays were extra busy so additional rounds would be incorporated. MF finished by thanking Assembly for the opportunity to introduce Veolia, and its new systems of working.</p>
6.3	<p>MG noted the alternative of using blue bags had not been widely advertised; and that his 93 year old mother-in-law could not manage a blue box. MF advised that an assisted lift could be given if anyone needed help.</p> <p>One member asked if a choice of a bag or a box could be given in the community instead. MF explained the tender submitted to SBC had to allow for boxes as an improvement policy – whereby all low-level properties (bungalows/terraced houses) must have a box provided, as Veolia need you to recycle that way.</p> <p>MG asked that MF provide the telephone number and E-mail address for those needing blue bags. MF advised that Veolia would need to know why a person needed to change a box for blue bags because of their policy agreement with SBC and that they would visit each person to ‘assess’. LMc queried their ‘right’ to assess someone’s disability/health. Veolia then agreed that they would not be asking for personal/medical info and that the residents ‘word’ that there was a need for blue sacks would be accepted! CS wondered how shredded paper could effectively be collected once lids were removed in a windy climate – what happens in heavy winter? - CS was therefore not convinced at the level of thought having gone into the new scheme. MF reiterated that the client (in this case SBC) has a choice of what they want; MF acknowledges food waste bins could easily be blown over. The blue boxes would have their lids inserted back diagonally into their base once emptied to denote it had been cleared and also to avoid lids being blown away and should be placed behind residents wall or bushes . MF stated Veolia wants to provide a proper service, and not a substandard one – blue bags where used would introduce a plastic-content into the new service and additional costs would have to be passed to SBC, and therefore its customers! Blue-box integration would be complete by 8th July.</p>
6.4	<p>One member asked if Southend was being used as a ‘guinea pig’ for separating its paper waste. MF reassured that some areas are further expected to separate out its glass, paper and tinned goods - having to incorporate a ‘curb-sider’ vehicle in order to collect these various separate bins. MF stressed that councils instruct the kind of service they want via its tender process, which is why it differs in other areas and some areas have wheelie bins and others paper sacks for their garden waste.</p>
6.5	<p>DI noted how much easier it is to pick up bags rather than boxes. Albeit the T.E.E.P. legislation (Technically, Environmentally & Economically Practical), would suggest boxes will last longer and therefore economical. DI noted that in his road box-lids have already been broken after their first use, so it cannot be assumed they will last for longer. MF said boxes cost around £2.14 each, so you could buy 20 bags for 1 box, and the bags would also have to be segregated out as a separate ‘waste-stream’ (being plastic). DI noted Veolia would be lucky if boxes last 18 months, let alone the 8 years of their contract. Moreover, what happens when there is too much paper to place in a box? MF confirmed that an additional box could be provided.</p>
6.6	<p>LMc also noted the mixed ‘waste-stream’ with the instruction to place tetra-packs into a blue bin. Should residents be separating-out the plastic nozzles from card</p>

	base? - If not this surely would downgrade the blue box content. LMc highlighted this is not mentioned in the leaflets that were provided with boxes. AP advised that the plastic nozzle doesn't need to be removed as this would be done as part of the sorting process at the depot. LMc felt that this contradicted the intention of blue box for cleaner separated waste AND less sorting??One member noted they only have 2 newspapers a week – which would not fill a box. MF reiterated the main objective was that residents help Veolia recycle, and so fulfil their objective with SBC. Also, any large boxes can be flat-packed <i>underneath</i> the blue boxes on collection-day. The tins and glass would remain a pink-bag content. MF advised from 20 th June any blocks of flats and high-rise buildings would be getting separate consultation, and everyone would receive their leaflets. One member (DS) asked why they were charged for wheelie-bins and collection of garden waste whereas other areas have them free; MF responded the ongoing fee is not for the wheelie-bin purchase but for the collection as determined by SBC.
6.7	Cllr Assenheim was amazed that as a Cllr he had not been aware of the intention by SBC to use blue boxes until 6 months ago! MF reassured that boxes formed part of the tender as per SBC request. Cllr A. reiterated that had the 40 councillors known about the blue sack alternative then more info could have been put into the local newspapers. AF stressed that adverts had in fact been put into the Yellow Advertiser pages; however it was generally acknowledged these free papers tend to be thrown out before being read!
6.8	MG noted that the leaflets delivered inside the blue box containing vital information about the changes to service and collection days had got wet due to June weather when the boxes were delivered and so in many cases were illegible and residents therefore just threw it away not realising its importance!! Moreover there had been issues: a lot of uncollected items, damaged lids; high winds had blown empty boxes into the road. Belfairs area had been missed completely. MF confirmed that 6 roads had been missed in Shoebury, for which Veolia were very apologetic, MF advised that leaflets had also been enclosed weeks in advance into the residents Council Tax letters.
6.9	MD asked what happens if boxes are stolen (after all they are a useful storage item for some) and the contents scattered. MF reassured that Veolia would simply have to clear it up – there is a daily 'mop-up' crew available. There are also 3 vehicles that pick up garden waste. MF emphasised Veolia are eager to get it right, as they cannot keep apologising. Blue bags will only be issued to those who need them as they need to monitor numbers for SBC, this is why they are not being issued at the libraries. MG noted that SBC are good at contacting landlords, however new tenants are getting overlooked and will not know about the service. MF agreed people need to buy into the new scheme. MG asked that a contact number be given for Veolia issues: MF stated (01702) 2151006 however one member noted this is just the main switchboard number for SBC (LMc confirmed that this contact info and more was on page 7 of the current Assembly Times newsletter)
6.10	MG asks that MF update the Assembly in a few months; including letting them know where blue bags and pink sacks end up. MF reminded that 'pinks' and blue boxes are collected using bespoke 'split-vehicle' collections – these lorries costing around £160-180K. Black sacks and blue food-waste bins are collected separately.
<u>Agenda Item 7</u> <u>Parks and Gardens</u>	
7.1	Denis Lloyd introduced himself and explained that the council had recently 'taken back' most of the grounds maintenance contract and so lots more was being done by his in-house teams.
7.2	Denis was keen to showcase the diversity of the work undertaken by his teams and through a series of pictorial views presented a very informative report on the

	various aspects including describing some of the future plans
7.3	DL spoke about Belfairs Park and Nature Reserve, Chalkwell Park, Prittlewell, Priory Park, Southchurch Hall, Cliff Gardens, Southchurch Park. He explained how they plan floral design and colour and illustrated this with stunning photographs.
7.4	DL confirmed that they were currently cleaning the old Never Never Land Castle which is the last remaining section of this former children's paradise.
7.5	The work is varied and as well as the routine maintenance of the areas includes restoration of the park gates, improving drainage, growing some of the plants, acting as a subcontractor for planting some areas, providing floral displays for all the big events and in particular for the annual 'Mayor' making ceremony and again DL illustrated with stunning photographs.
7.6	Due to budget constraints they are no longer able to exhibit at Chelsea Flower Show where historically they have won many awards but do endeavour to use every opportunity to promote their skill and 'sell' Southend as a place to come to. They have recently had a display at South Bank which included 'bill boards' with vintage style posters of Southend.
7.7	DL advised that they have regular Open Days at the Nursery and all are welcome to come along to those.

Agenda Item 8

Lions International – Leigh on Sea Branch

8.1	Kay Large introduced herself and husband David and thanked the Assembly for the opportunity to tell us about who the Lions are and what they do.
8.2	Lions Clubs are country wide and international. Leigh on Sea Branch currently has 34 members and locally there are clubs in Rayleigh, Castle Point, Southend and Eastwood.
8.3	Lions provide a voluntary valuable service in 210 countries and geographic areas around the globe. Lions are friends, family and neighbours who share a core belief: community is what we make it. They help where help is needed – in our own communities and around the world. Since 1917, Lions have strengthened communities through humanitarian projects and hands-on service. Lions serve neighbours who live next door and people on the other side of the world that they may never meet.
8.4	Locally the Leigh Branch organise lots of events and the fund raising committee is always looking for new ideas. The charity shop near Thames Drive is very successful and has boosted the fund raising enabling them to help more good causes with larger donations than in the past. The shop has a display of some the good causes the branch has supported.
8.5	The branch has a charity BBQ which can be seen at various events around the town during the summer - they have even been known to BBQ in the snow at an Easter Fayre a few years ago!
8.6	Leigh on Sea Lions have been organising Leigh Regatta for the past two years and stepped in when the scouts were unable to find volunteers to support the event. The day is now styles as a Community Day with far fewer commercial aspects than previously. Leigh Lions are pleased to retain the involvement from the Scouts in the Old Town and the Scouts continue to benefit from the funds raised. This year's event is on Sunday 18 th September.
8.9	Leigh Lions Charity Duck race celebrates its 10 th year- 1400 numbered plastic ducks will float down the creek in Old Leigh on 10 th July. Tickets are sold in advance for £1.00 each and the 'owners' of the first four ducks to cross the finish line receive a cash prize. The remaining income swells the charity pot.
8.10	Holding a 'Grand Quiz' twice a year enables them to make contact with new good causes that they might not otherwise hear of – the donation of £1000.00 to the winning team can really make a difference to their cause. They also hold a Pig

	Race and Human Race nights both boost the fund raising.
8.11	Leigh Lions are proud that administration costs are covered by the members and not taken from funds raised.
8.12	They also participate in a midsummer South East Disabled Sports Day. Organise a community Strawberry Tea for older folk with transport to and from the event and this year it is to be held at Porters.
8.13	Over the past 25 years since the branch was formed Leigh on Sea Lions have donated over £330K to many different appeals locally,nationally and internationally.
8.14	They are always looking for worthy good causes to support and can be contacted via the Leigh Lions website. They are also happy to welcome prospective new members and there are plenty of social events for members to participate in. KL provided leaflets for those interested in finding out more.
8.15	MG thanked Kay and David for the informative presentation and LMc thanked them on behalf of the OPA for the generous support that they had given in previous years to the OPA's Active Ageing Community Event.
<u>Agenda Item 9</u>	
Question Time:	
As there had been a full agenda with a range of interesting speakers MG deferred any QT to the next meeting. LMc had been asked by Victoria Shopping Centre to highlight the potential impact of the proposed out of town shopping development and had forms from the centre if members wished to register their concern.	
<u>Agenda Item 10</u>	
Close of Meeting: MG thanked all for their attendance and in particular all our guest speakers. Meeting closed 15.45	
10.1	Next Public Meeting will be Wednesday, 7th September 2016.