Ribble Valley Seniors Forum Meeting  
March 1st 2012  
At St. Wilfrid’s Church Hall, Longridge


Apologies: Jean Kerr, Michael Tupper, Tasma Valinakis, Jean Preston, Audrey Fox, Leo Redpath, Sarah McTigue, Clare Root, Brian Holden, Ann Wood.

Arising out of the minutes
Micro-Enterprise, an organisation has been selected but there are as yet no details available.

Secretary Report
The secretary’s sent apologies.

Treasurer Report
No news as yet but there is still a review going on regarding the SLA. Hopefully news of reduced funding in April.

Publicity Report
Patrick and Mary have produced the latest newsletter, it is sent to associate members every quarter.

Membership Report
There has been no change and membership remains 24 active and 30 associate members.

David Ingham
David described his role as the partnership manager within the RV Borough Council working with the villages concerning rural issues. RVSF has been identified as one of the voices for older people locally. This coming year there are several projects developing and
it is hoped funding will continue. Part of a recent project has been the refurbishment of some of the village halls. There are also plans for a micro project which will be a development using local resources, more information will be available later.

**East Lancs Cluster Group**

This group comprises of the chairs of East Lancs Forums who meet together to share information. David White reported discussions about the abolition of illuminated signs in Burnley bus station, there are talks going on with the bus companies to try and overturn this decision. Apparently the same situation has developed in Clitheroe and Preston, David asked for anyone experiencing problems with this situation to report their concerns to him. Mary suggested that the forum write a letter to express their concerns.

David reminded the members that on the 7th March there would be a bus at Burnley bus station open for members of the public to report problems and voice their opinions about public transport.

The cluster group planned to invite the LCC Older Peoples Champion to a meeting to discuss how the forum and the champions might work together.

The SLA with LCC was still not agreed and Sarah McTigue to chase this up. Delia explained that the SLA was an agreement between LCC and the forums regarding funding and the role of the forums. Delia explained that this funding was vital to the forum and it was being reduced by 70%.

David reported that Rossendale Forum had reformed.

**50+ Assembly**

Mary described how issues raised by the forums were brought to the 50+ Assembly at County Hall.

Mary reported that there was to be a consultation between local NHS trusts on 12th March at King Georges Hall Blackburn, the focus of the meeting was to be

- Better health outcomes for all
- Improved patients access and experience
- Empowered, engaged and included staff
- Inclusive leadership at all levels

The aim being for NHS trusts to be graded.

Mary explained that there was now a new scheme in place to deal with Blue Badges and if anyone needed this information she had handouts available.
Mary spoke about proposals to improve dementia services in Lancashire and a public consultation of which as yet there are no details. Mary asked for people to look out for this.

Warm Homes, Healthy People
Kath Mitchell reported on a scheme that was aimed at reducing the numbers of people over 75 dying of cold. The initiative by RV Council is to distribute packs to older people that include a variety of aids to keeping warm (i.e. electric blankets/fleecy blankets). The council is building up a list of people needing packs and Age UK Lancs volunteers are distributing them. There is also funding for more electric blanket testing. Mary said that some had missed the testing but was reassured there was more planned.

Safety Crossing Derby Rd., Longridge
Mary has spoken to two local councillors, Michael Carefoot and Jim White about this issue but they were unable to attend the forum meeting. Mary had been in email contact with Mark Hornby and Martin Nugent from LCC who would fund the project. However a plan for a housing project on Whittingham Rd., has been applied for which would include the provision of pedestrian refuges on Derby Rd. Therefore it was felt that the topic should be left on the agenda for 16th August when there would be more information available.

Eric Ball brought up the 20mph limit and its implications for road safety. Where there is a school in the area a 20mph limit will be introduced. A discussion ensued about issues of speeding and parking in Longridge Mary wondered who will enforce the 20mph ? David W had made enquiries about whether the police would prosecute. The police agreed that exceeding the limit would be grounds for prosecution but as the council had put up the signs it was up to the council to do the monitoring. Mary reported that in monitoring, the highest number of drivers speeding on Derby Rd. occurred at 8.45 in a morning. Eric spoke of many different views about road issues in Longridge and Mary spoke of a possible public consultation. Mary to invite highways personnel to the next Longridge RVSF Meeting.

Athene Research Study
David has been contacted by a Dr Sue Hinder who is doing some research into Assisted Living Technology. The study is looking for some volunteers to help them in their research, Dr Hitchen would like to speak at the next meeting about the project and David felt
that even though the next meeting was the AGM it would be interesting to hear her.

**Forum Website**
No further information available. The website is [www.ribblevalleyseniors.org](http://www.ribblevalleyseniors.org)

**Dates**
Everyone should have a list of dates and venues.

**AOB**
Mary told the group about an e-mail scam offering tax rebates and David reminded people not to enter into communication with someone you don’t know. Kath Mitchell told the group that staff at Age UK Lancs was willing to help with queries about scams, as are Trading Standards.
Joy reported that she had used the TOPS service to help her with tax issues and they had been most helpful, their number is 08456013321. [www.taxvol.org.uk](http://www.taxvol.org.uk)

David brought information from the local press, which indicated Nigel Evans MP had brought up the topic of The Little Green Bus? with the PM as he had promised

Next meeting 12\(^{th}\) April @ Hanson Cement