



GREY MATTERS

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 28TH

The Wealden Senior Citizens' Partnership invites you to our first Annual General Meeting, to be held in the Weald Hall, Uckfield Civic Centre on the morning of Thursday, September 28th. Wealden MP Charles Hendry has accepted our invitation to attend as has the Mayor of Uckfield, and as before there will be opportunities for you to express your views. The meeting will begin at 10am with coffee and end with a buffet lunch. Let us know you are coming by returning the reply slip below, or by ringing June Street on 01435 867497. We are happy to arrange transport for anyone who needs it; if this applies to you please ring Sally Butler on 01825 732316. We look forward to seeing you!

WSCP WEBSITE

The Wealden Senior Citizens' Partnership has its own website. Log on to www.wealden-scp.org to read the latest news across the county for older people and to register to receive Grey Matters electronically.

COUNTY-WIDE UPDATE

New Older People's Involvement Officer in East Sussex to take forward the *Strategy for Involving Older People*

Vicky Smith has now started with East Sussex County Council as the Older People's Involvement Officer. Her role will be to work with all the departments in the Council which provide services used by older people to ensure that the Council can respond effectively to the issues that older people say are important to them. These services might include transport, leisure and libraries, adult education, trading standards and adult social care. Vicky will be working closely with all the older people's forums in East Sussex, including WSCP, as well as other partner organisations such as health and the voluntary sector, listening to the views of older people and coordinating action.



Summary report of the Open Space conference held in Eastbourne

The summary report from the "Open Space" event held in Eastbourne in December 2005 is now available. The report captures the six priorities that older people identified at the conference:

- * More opportunities for learning
- * Healthier, active lifestyles to promote good health
- * Financial health, including Council Tax issues
- * Better information about services, including translation
- * Transport
- * Older people having a more powerful voice in the county

It also explains how the information has been used to inform policy and service development since December, and other steps that will be taken to respond to these issues.

For more information and a copy of the Open Space conference summary report you can visit www.eastsussex.gov.uk/olderpeople

or contact Vicky Smith on 01273 462036 or vicky.smith@eastsussex.gov.uk

Please complete and return this slip if you would like to attend the Wealden Senior Citizens' Partnership Annual General Meeting in Uckfield on Thursday, September 28th.
Number hoping to attend AGM..... Tick here if you require transport.....

NAME..... TEL. NO.....

ADDRESS..... Email Address.....

USE THE PAVEMENT!

Is it just me who thinks the pavement is fast becoming a part of the road? Vehicles are taking over what was the domain of the pedestrian.

Just walking along the pavement can now be sometimes like an obstacle course with cars parked on the pavement leaving little or no room to get through. Is this just another "old person" complaining? No, this is a problem for all ages. Young mums with their buggies are forced onto the road because they can't get through, and disabled people struggle. This affects those with seeing impairments, and those who need to use some kind of mobility appliance. Many motorists just seem to ignore double yellow lines.

Then there is the quality of life consideration, why do we have to have commercial vehicles parked in residential areas? Many people like to sit and look out of their windows as they are not able to go outside very often: what pleasure is it for them to look out on a large van or lorry? Why do these firms do it? Should they not have a proper parking place? Most of the drivers of these vehicles have cars, which they could use to reach these commercial vehicles!

In Heathfield there are four car parks and parking on a part of the main road, and there are other parks for those going to the bank etc. but some people are just too lazy to walk the extra steps to reach their desired shop. And it is not a question of time, that is an excuse. It is matter of working out the time needed and allowing for it.

Does anyone else find this annoying? Please let us know.

Ivy Elsey - WSCP Committee Member

PUBLIC MEETING IN HAILSHAM

Our public meeting in April was attended by representatives of the Citizens' Advice Bureau, the Pensions Advisory Service and the local Police Community Support Officer, all of whom were on hand to offer help and advice and to give out literature. Around 20 members of the public took part, the majority from the Hailsham area. At one point several members of the WSCP Committee performed a short role-play, highlighting many of the issues which present older people with difficulties in daily life, such as a shortage of public transport and social activities, problems for carers and those living alone, the high level of Council Tax and the shortcomings of the NHS, and pointed out that by joining WSCP it is within the capability of older people themselves to bring influence to bear in order to improve the services available to them. The Wealden Senior Citizens' Partnership Committee hopes that this will be the first of many such public meetings at which the voice of older people in Wealden will be heard, enabling the issues they raise to be given a higher profile and the quality of their lives improved.

THE PROVISION OF ADULT SOCIAL CARE BY EAST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL

According to the latest bulletin from East Sussex County Council, 41 per cent of their budget will be spent on adult social care in 2006/7 - that's £117 million. Some of the services provided by the County Council are

- Assessing people's needs for social care.
- Support for people to remain in their own homes.
- Services for people with sight or hearing problems.
- Supporting carers.
- Support for people with learning disabilities, physical disabilities and mental health issues.
- Day and home care.
- Residential care.
- Occupational therapy and home adaptations.

They aim in 2006/7 to:

- Work with their partners in health, housing and the voluntary sector to promote independence and choice.
- Provide carers with the information, advice and support they need to continue in their caring role.
- Continue to support older people and vulnerable adults in their own homes and communities
- Improve how they plan and commission services with all their partners.
- Involve users and carers in planning and delivering services.

We at WSCP would like to hear from you whether you think our local County Council provides an adequate service in these areas. Let us know what you think.

If you would like to write to us, or receive this newsletter on a regular basis by post, please write to Linda Graham, 5 Rectory Field, Hartfield, East Sussex TN7 4JE, telephone 01892 770487, email linda_graham@ntlworld.com