

## **Elderly Citizens Liaison Forum**

A meeting of the Elderly Citizens Liaison Forum was held on Tuesday, 24<sup>th</sup> January 2006.

**Present:** Councillor Frankland (Chairman); Councillors Mrs Beaumont, Mrs Cains, Faulks, Leonard, Salt, Mrs Chapman (St Johns Living World); Mrs Fairhurst (Stockton Residents and Community Group); S Neal (Teesside Pensioners); Mrs Parker and D Parker (Retired Members Association).

**Officers:** Mrs T Harrison (LD); R Kench (CESC).

**Also in attendance:** K Parker (Director of ARC), Councillor Mrs Cains and Mrs Sadler.

**Apologies for absence** were submitted on behalf of Councillor Dewison, Noble, Mrs Cooper (University of the Third Age); R Put (Stockton International Family Centre); Mrs Rose (Age Concern); L Stanley (Royal Navy Associates) and Alderman Wood (Age Concern).

### **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2005 were agreed as a correct record.

### **Dates of Monthly Elderly Citizens Liaison Forum Meeting for 2006**

Members considered the proposed dates for the Elderly Citizens Liaison Forum meetings in 2006.

CONCLUDED that Members agree the dates proposed which were as follows:-

28<sup>th</sup> February, 28<sup>th</sup> March, 25<sup>th</sup> April, 30<sup>th</sup> May, 27<sup>th</sup> June, 25<sup>th</sup> July, 29<sup>th</sup> August, 26<sup>th</sup> September, 31<sup>st</sup> October, 28<sup>th</sup> November, 19<sup>th</sup> December 2006.

### **Culture and Education for Older People**

Members were provided with a presentation from K Parker (Director of ARC) in which he advised that performances were only part of the wider activities undertaken at ARC. Members were advised that a number of classes were also available to young and older people, such as arts, cookery, folk, acting, dancing, singing and health and leisure classes.

Members were advised that ARC was run by an independent charity, which was supported by Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council and other organisations.

If ARC had not re-opened the area surrounding ARC would not have attracted the investment, which had now been obtained.

A member of the Forum queried whether there would be professional, live theatre such as the Royal Shakespeare Company performing at ARC. It was noted that the Royal Shakespeare Company were too expensive however three professional performances had already taken place but they would be doing more and intended to utilise outside sources.

A member queried the possibility of bringing in experienced people with contacts and was advised that they were currently running drama and acting classes from which it was hoped that the graduates would then become teachers at ARC.

Members observed that provisions for the disabled within ARC were great, however the area outside ARC was not suitable for disabled persons.

Members were advised that ARC were working alongside Stockton Borough Council to improve parking for the disabled and safety for all. Stockton Borough Council had begun parking discussions however there appeared to be a general problem which Stockton Council were attempting to address regarding the perception of the area, as many members of the public did not feel safe, however this was being dealt with as they wished to bring life and people into the area, which would be encouraged when people felt safe.

Members advised that many of the elderly did not like to go out at night and therefore requested that shows and activities took place in the afternoon such as afternoon tea whilst listening to somebody reading a story which would encourage and enable the elderly to attend.

Mr Parker advised that it was their intention to introduce a script reading session that would enable people to enjoy afternoon tea whilst hearing various scripts and it was their intention to introduce a forum/group which could address the needs of the elderly.

Mr Parker was thanked for his presentation.

CONCLUDED that the presentation be noted.