

## Later Years Partnership

### *Progress report on the Later Years Forum*

Meeting 17<sup>th</sup> January 2005

1. This report updates progress on the Later Years Forum.
2. The forum has now met twice. At its initial meeting, it heard presentations from John Beer and Dave Martin of Better Government for Older People, and considered how it might progress. At its second meeting it heard a presentation from the Leader of the council about the vision for the City Centre, and questioned him on that and a number of other matters.
3. The attendance at the two meetings was not as high as expected. For its next meeting there will be greater publicity and the mailing list has been slowly expanding. Representatives of a range of older persons groups have been invited, and also the Neighbourhood Partnerships.
4. At the second meeting a small steering group was nominated to consider a constitution and other practicalities and to develop some momentum.
5. The steering group has agreed a *draft* founding statement (overleaf).
6. The steering group has also agreed that, subject to the approval of the full forum, the body should be called the **Southampton Seniors Council**, and that it represents the interests of those who are **Senior Citizens**.
7. A number of issues have been raised by the steering committee:-
  - a) That there should be a higher profile for older peoples' interests within the council at a political level;
  - b) They would like to meet with the Older persons Champions within the local NHS to establish what they have been doing to champion the needs of older people;
  - c) The media has a major role to play in portraying older people, and that we should seek to involve it in promoting positive images and providing information;
  - d) City View, the council newsletter, should have a regular feature page that provides useful information for senior citizens, given that it is delivered to every house. (The Editor has agreed editorially, provided there is space, and the matter will now be taken up with the relevant politician for a decision in principle)
8. The steering committee has also written to the Leaders of each political party in respect of the council's budget and its effect on older people, and sought a deputation to the next council meeting.
9. Representatives of the steering group will be attending the Partnership meeting on the 17<sup>th</sup> January.

**Charlie Hislop**