Bristol Older People’s Forum
The voice of over 55s,
Improving quality of life for over 55s
Financially Supported by Bristol City Council

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Bristol Older People’s Forum
The voice of over 55s, improving quality of life for over 55s

About the Forum

Vision: All over 55s living in Bristol are happy with their quality of life, have the goods and services they require, are treated equally, listened to by decision makers, no longer feel isolated and have the opportunity to participate in the community.

Mission: To give a voice to all over 55s, facilitate their representation into citywide decision making processes and promote the equality and inclusion of all people over 55 in Bristol.

Aim: Every person over 55 is an equal, valued, and participating member of the community who can influence the decisions which affect their lives. We will:

- Engage: give a voice to over 55s of all ethnicities, genders, sexual orientations, religions and abilities, empowering them to eliminate discrimination and influence the decisions which affect their lives.

- Influence: co-ordinate opportunities for all over 55s to engage with service providers in order to provide fairer services which better meet their needs.

- Educate: the public and engage with isolated over 55s by conducting or participating in research and events to raise awareness of issues affecting over 55s so older people are better valued and understood by the community.

Our values lie at the heart of everything we do:

Respect, Trust, Commit, Make a difference

- We act Respectfully: we behave respectfully to each other and the rest of the community. When we talk about respect we mean compassion, open mindedness, empathy and self respect.

- We can be Trusted: our organisation is run by over 55s for over 55s so our members can trust that we will always work in their interests.

- We are Committed: we are committed to our vision and to those who work with us to achieve it. By this we mean volunteering, partnership, understanding and friendliness.

- We do Make A Difference: by engaging with, empowering and giving a voice to all over 55s.
Chair’s Annual Report

“I blinked twice and another year has gone! And what a year it’s been. We lost George and gained Rosie, and with her help on our Strategic Planning Day we set new goals, new strategy and new ways of moving forward. Yolanda came to work with finances to help us cope with a diminished budget in an ever more expensive world. (Thank you to everyone who responded to the annual appeal and helped to keep us afloat, and who sent back the answers to our survey.)

Membership at meetings has steadily increased. We worried that having to move to Broadmead might lose us members, but it just hasn’t happened. We’re seeing new members all the time. As well as 16 meetings for members (and even more for management) we did outreach work in Fishponds, Lawrence Weston, Broadwalk and Henbury and had two meetings in St Pauls and Easton for local people.

We had a great Christmas party thanks to Age Uk and we stretched that grant as far as it could go! Weren’t those pies good!

We marched in partnership with Disability Equality Forum members against benefit changes. We demonstrated with the Women’s Forum, now Bristol Women’s Voice. Locally, under Val Jenkins leadership, we’ve kept the issue of public toilets going, gathering evidence from across the neighbourhoods; we’ve lobbied the Council about care of the elderly, particularly people with Dementia and people who need a good mental health service; we’ve fought to keep information available for people without computers. We’ve worked in partnership with Link to visit people in hospital to monitor how the elderly are fed, and to visit Residential Homes.

We’ve worked in partnership with Bristol City Council on work to increase understanding between the generations; to set up a better Older Peoples Partnership Board so that issues facing older people can be raised directly with council Officers and to deliver a fantastic festival of Age.

Angela Auset, who sits on the management committee, and I have formed links with other forums in the South West and we continue to work on national campaigns with Age UK and the NPC.

I have represented BOPF on the Health and Social Care Scrutiny Committee which has included taking part in visits to NHS sites, discussing how the local NHS provision has met it’s annual targets, examining Mental Health and Ambulance reports, speaking up for people with health issues and much much, more. I am grateful to Cllr. Lesley Alexander and Cllr. Jon Rogers for giving me the chance to fully contribute and put our point of view across.

BOPF is increasingly being used as a resource by Universities for research purposes. We have taken part in a number of exercises over the past years and will be taking part in research in the next few months on chronic pain, intergenerational care and how older people are portrayed in the media, all of which will hopefully benefit older people now and in the future and educate the public on older people’s issues.

I was invited to attend National conferences including one to meet the Health Minister, Andrew Lansley, last autumn. No, I didn’t get him to drop his NHS Bill, but maybe some of my comments helped him to make some of the changes!

As we enter Olympic Year, I can honesty say last year was a Marathon. And this year will bring many more changes, but whatever it brings BOPF will be there, putting forward your point of view, raising the issues you tell us to, keeping you informed, working for a better life for all of us.”

Judith Brown, Chair of Bristol Older People’s Forum
The Past Year: Community Influence

At the beginning of the year, our new Management Committee was elected. Management Members and Campaign Volunteers have been hard at work representing and giving a voice to over 55’s across Bristol, raising forum members’ concerns at influential meetings in the city and throughout the South West.

Over the year our members have attended regular meetings with the South West Forum on Ageing, the Older People’s Partnership Board, Avon Fire and Rescue Service, Health and Social Care Scrutiny Commission along with Community Cohesion and Quality of Life Scrutiny Commissions, Healthwatch The Vassalls Network, ITV Diversity Board, Age UK, Voscur’s Health and Social Care Network and their Assembly Steering Group, the Safeguarding Board, Neighbourhood Partnerships, Transport Scrutiny meetings and Link Direct Payments Working Group.

By attending these meetings we have raised important issues on behalf of members around elder abuse, transport, care, hospital discharge and hospital nutrition, cyclists on pavements, public toilets, digital exclusion, independent living, cuts to services, access to information and age discrimination.

We achieved our target of providing 10 representatives to the Older Peoples Partnership Board as well as providing representatives to regularly attend 3 Scrutiny Commissions.

Because older people were actively involved in the decision making processes we have been able to ensure authorities can deliver services which effectively meet the needs of over 55s. Some results we have achieved by attending these meetings:

- North Bristol NHS have implemented new picture menus and culturally specific foods for Asian and Afro Caribbean communities
- ‘Our City’ will still be available in hard copy to those who request it and from BOPF meetings
- No Public Toilets in Bristol will be closed despite cuts to the service
- We became partners in a scheme offering free computer training and discount computers
- Safer Bristol discussed whether to consider Elder Abuse as a Hate Crime on our recommendation
- The Prevention of Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy Group are aiming to introduce elder abuse as part of their work programme
- We contributed to The Dementia Strategy for the NHS in Bristol, emphasising the need for investment in end of life care as well as prevention and requested GP Training in recognising early symptoms. The new services designed address both these points.

A voice all year round…

We want to ensure older people have the opportunity to actively participate in improving their own circumstances.

So we held 6 Open Forums across the year with talks from: Senior Managers in Health and Social Care about changes to care, independent living and dementia services. As well as talks on Community Care, downsizing your home, changes to the NHS in Bristol and services available from Age UK Bristol.

We gave the opportunity for members to learn more about services but also to ask questions and give feedback on where they could improve. We exceeded our target of holding 6 open forums with an average attendance of 50.
We were able to raise awareness of the forum across the community by taking part in the St Pauls Carnival Parade and we achieved our target of working in partnership with the Council, to help organise a fantastic Day of Celebration of Older Age at Colston Hall on September 3rd.

The day gave us the opportunity to educate the public about over 55s and to show the valuable contribution older people can make to the community.

Throughout autumn we disseminated information on how to keep warm and gave out free thermometers and warming cookery books provided by Age UK. Our campaign group sprung into action coordinating and advertising participation in consultations with the Outreach Library Service and Bristol Care and Repair. Talks from Rowena Hayward of the GMB and Bristol Law Centre gave campaigners ideas on how to tackle age discrimination in employment and public services and new campaign targets and action plans were drawn up giving more focus. We also held our first campaign meeting in St Pauls, welcoming new members, and had an excellent presentation from Bristol Black Carers.

After all that hard work we needed to celebrate and were grateful to receive a grant from Age UK to hold a Christmas Pie Party for isolated members. We teamed up with Bristol’s Pieminister to offer pie mash and gravy for all, with sing along carols and Christmas pies for pudding! Over the year we exceeded our target of providing 10 campaign meetings with an average attendance of 20 giving the opportunity for active members to improve circumstances and services for themselves and their peers.
With the New Year upon us, the campaign group invited Marius Jennings from Get IT together to talk to the group about their campaign target on digital exclusion. Marius told us about free computer courses he was running and BOPF agreed to become partners in the scheme. Together we started arrangements for a free taster course for some of our members. And what great timing this was, as our website had been fully launched www.bopf.btck.co.uk another target achieved!

Volunteers poured into the office in February to help us pack our final newsletter of the year; with 70% of members without access to the internet our newsletter informs older people about welfare, benefits and other related financial issues so they are aware of their entitlements. It also informs people of the social and political issues affecting their lives, empowering people with the knowledge needed to influence decision makers and service providers. Thanks to volunteers, we achieved our target and all 3 newsletters went out on time to our 2600+ members.

We also had a visit in February from PHD student Victoria who has developed a fantastic music installation based on our Wardens survey. The piece is titled: ‘The Warden’s Survey (2012) A Sound Installation about social isolation and the impact of financial cuts on older people’. It will be hugely beneficial in helping the public to understand issues affecting over 55’s.

Our final meeting of the year was held in Easton; we had a record number of attendants for a campaign meeting. A member of our Management Committee from the African Caribbean community said he was delighted to see what he believed to be the most diverse meeting he had seen at BOPF. Unfortunately though, we did not meet our target this year of increasing membership of those from Black and Minority Ethnic backgrounds to 5%. We want to ensure our forum is a voice for all over 55’s, particularly those facing other forms of discrimination, so this is a top priority for the year ahead. This means focussing our activities, visiting other groups and communities and extending our campaign stalls, which are hugely successful in raising awareness of important issues and increase our membership.

Overall it’s been a fantastic year; we’ve exceeded many of our targets and set very ambitious new ones for the year ahead. We will be focussing on engaging more members, especially those facing additional forms of discrimination; influencing more decision makers to provide fair, quality services for over 55s; and continuing to educate the public about older age across our city. These targets continue to bring us a step closer to achieving our aim that ‘every person over 55 should be an equal, valued, and participating member of the community who can influence the decisions which affect their lives’. If you share this belief, why not get involved; call Rosie on 01179279222 for more details.
Your comments and feedback

For the first time this year we asked members at meetings for their feedback…

“The meeting was conducted by ordinary people talking the language you can understand and they are people you can talk to if you choose”

“A place to air your views, you get listened to and the needs of older people are listened to and taken forward”

“It’s a very friendly atmosphere where you’re able to speak about what you want”

“I get lots of information not easily accessible elsewhere”

“This was my first meeting, I was impressed the way everyone was so passionate in looking out for older people”

“It helps me to understand what is happening around Bristol and what is available for older people”

“Well focussed, well run, friendly, welcoming, relaxed”

“The meetings give me a chance to find out about changes that affect us and fight back if they are detrimental”

“Being able to discuss freely and being listened to, everyone’s opinions are voiced”

“Very friendly”
## Campaign Issues

Over the past year members have raised concerns which we have compiled into 12 themes, below is a list of the issues you raised and what we did to tackle them:

### 1. Health:
- Members frequently expressed concerns about the NHS Bill last year. BOPF Chair, Judith Brown attended a conference where she met Andrew Lansley and voiced members’ views, she also spoke on Radio Bristol and the BBC. We took action by writing to all our MPs in Bristol and were pleased to see changes introduced before the Bill became law this year.
- 2 members from our Management Committee have been working with the North Bristol NHS Trust to ensure older people who can’t read English can choose what they eat by using picture menus. They also campaigned for culturally specific food to be available so older people in hospitals are not malnourished. Picture menus and diverse foods are now available in North Bristol hospitals.
- We have continued to work with Healthwatch on ensuring a smooth procedure for discharge from hospital for elderly patients. A questionnaire has been produced asking those leaving hospitals if their needs were met when being discharged.

### 2. Happiness/Wellbeing:
- It’s not all doom and gloom! Members asked us how they could stay happy, so we held our first Christmas Party this year to spread some Christmas cheer and promoted cycling, knitting, music and other fun projects to get people out and about.

### 3. Violence against the Elderly:
- The shocking levels of abuse revealed over the past year have been a wide concern for members. We took their concerns to the Health and Social Care Scrutiny Commission and asked Safer Bristol to consider categorising Elder Abuse as a hate crime. This was refused because it is an issue that needs to be addressed nationally first, but committed volunteer, Elaine Hutton, raised it at the Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy Group and they are aiming to add this to their work plan.
- Our Chair is joining the Safeguarding Board which deals with the prevention and protection of adults from abuse this year.

### 4. Care:
- We continue to work with Healthwatch on inspecting care homes. 4 of our members have been on Enter and View training which enables them to take part in the inspection of nursing and residential homes, supplementing the work of the Care Quality Commission.
- Members were able to raise their concerns about the new plans for Dementia Services at a forum meeting this year. Our comments were fed back into a report which will be used to develop the new service. Members also influenced dementia care services at the Health and Social Care Scrutiny Commission; we believe our views on end of life care and GP support were heard as a new GP liaison service has been incorporated into the Mental Health Strategy along with investment into later care.
- Members have taken part in 2 consultations on Residential and Day Care with Bristol City Council and kept isolated members informed with a double page spread detailing changes to local care in our newsletter and information on how members could have their say on the plans.

### 5. Independent living:
- Most of our members say they want to stay in their own homes if they can and if it’s safe for them to do so. Fortunately technology is becoming available to make this happen. We invited speakers from Living DLC and Gillian Bailey of Bristol City Council to talk about the assistive technology and telecare available to older people. For council tenants, we had advice on how to downsize if your house or garden is becoming overwhelming; members expressed great support for this and fed back to the project leader their wish for the service to be available to private home owners too.

### 6. Pensions:
- Pensions regularly come up as an issue members would like us to be discussing. Thank you to Geoff Birch who keeps us informed on campaigns run by the National Pensioners Convention. This year we also took part in Age UK’s national campaign against The Pensions Bill which proposed to equalise men's and women's state pension age at 65 in November 2018, and then raise it to 66 by April 2020. This was 6 years earlier than planned and didn’t leave those affected with enough time to plan for their financial futures. The Government amended this Bill and it is now law.
7. Public transport
- Members expressed serious concern about the removal of the Fishponds bus service earlier last year. We wrote to the council on this matter. First Bus re-instated the service later in the year.
- New volunteer, Doug Burge, agreed to attend the Transport Scrutiny Commission on BOPF’s behalf and we found our safety concerns about late night bus services being replaced by taxis were echoed by university students. The council said they did their best to match people in taxis appropriately, students called for CCTV in all late night taxis
- After a great response to our newsletter article explaining comments by Think Tanks and MPs about means testing bus passes, our Chair started an online paper petition to ensure any ideas to means test and isolate older people were nipped in the bud. We collected over 4000 signatures for our petition which has been presented to a local MP who will be taking these to the House of Commons in May. Thanks to Val Lloyd who asked us to write the article and collected over 2000 signatures!

8. Digital Exclusion:
- Members have told us they receive less and less information about what’s happening in Bristol because they do not have access to the internet; as a result they become more isolated from the community. In our 2010 survey approximately 70% of members said they did not have access to the internet. At every external meeting our forum representatives attend, they re-enforce the importance of making information accessible in paper form and informing people without the internet.
- We raised the importance of paper consultations on care and dementia being widely accessible to older people, many of whom can not take part in consultations and forum discussions online.
- We have also become partners with Get IT Together, helping those who want to use the internet to get online affordably. We will be running a course with them in June 2012.

9. Libraries: When we told members the Outreach Library may be at risk they were keen to find out more. We invited the Library Service to tell us about their proposals and gave feedback on their ideas. We went on to arrange for 5 members to take part in their consultation to represent the views of BOPF members. Following this we responded to the national consultation on libraries from the Government.

10. Age discrimination: Members said they believe they are sometimes treated unfairly because of their age, but weren’t sure what counted as discrimination. We invited Avon and Bristol Law Centre, not once, but twice to give us talks on discrimination and how we may be able to tackle it as individuals and as a forum. This prompted discussions on differentiating between age discrimination and discrimination on the grounds of disability. We believe the issue of access to information may tie into this.

11. Public Toilets:
- Val Jenkins has campaigned tirelessly on this issue over the past few years with BOPF and the Women’s Forum; it has continued to remain a priority for our members. Although cuts are being introduced to the service this year, we have been assured by the council that no toilets will be closing; we believe our campaigning has contributed to this decision.
- The council published a book in partnership with the women’s forum listing all the facilities open to the public, including some businesses such as Tesco and Wetherspoons. Unfortunately this book is now out of circulation and the only way the public will know if these facilities are accessible to the public is if businesses choose to display a sticker provided by the council. We have coordinated volunteers to check the toilets in their neighbourhoods and have collated evidence to persuade the council to make it mandatory for participating businesses to display the sticker.

Campaigns 2012 -2013
Over the past 6 months we have asked members what issues they would like us to be campaigning on:
- Utility bills and heating
- Health
- Happiness/Wellbeing
- Safety/violence against elderly
- Care
- Independent living
- Pensions
- Public Transport
- Digital exclusion
- Libraries
- Council Tax
- Age discrimination

We will be using this information to ask members at our AGM what their top 3 priorities are from this list and what campaigning we can do in 2012 -2013 to improve on these issues locally.
Membership

We believe in giving a voice to all over 55s, especially those facing other forms of discrimination or who may have additional needs. We want to represent all ethnicities, genders, sexual orientations, religions and abilities and empower them to eliminate discrimination and influence the decisions which affect their lives. We conducted a survey in February this year to find out if we are reaching all older people. 890 people responded to our survey which is 33% of all members; the following information shows what types of people make up our membership and where we need to focus our attention over the next year.

Gender

The survey found 65% of our members are women and 35% are men; this has changed slightly since our last survey, with the number of women increasing by 2%.

Ethnicity

95% of our members are white British and 3% are from other white backgrounds. 3.4% of our members are from non-white or mixed ethnic backgrounds. This figure is lower than the 3.7% figure recorded in 2010. We have taken steps to reach out to more diverse communities over the past year by holding 2 meetings in neighbourhoods with greater Black and Minority Ethnic residents. We believe that this has led to greater diversity in our meetings. However this is not reflected in our wider membership and it is a priority for the forum to ensure we are reaching and representing all over 55s. We will therefore be implementing new strategies over the next year to reach out to other communities, such as going out to visit other BME older peoples groups across the city and holding campaign stalls in more diverse areas.

Age

25% of our members are aged 55 – 69 which remains the same as our 2010 survey. 40% are aged 70 – 79 and 35% are aged 80 or over. These figures are similar to 2010 survey figures with 75% of members being aged 70 or over, however the number of members over the age of 80 has increased by 4%.

Sexual Orientation and Transgender

This was the first time we asked our members this question. Understandably some people felt this was an invasion of privacy and not necessary on a survey. We chose to ask this question because we want to be sure we are representing people of different sexualities and those who are transgender who may have different needs or struggle to be heard as they grow older. We found that 0.4% of our members are Transgender and 0.6% preferred not to day. 1.8% of our membership told us they were Lesbian, Gay or Bisexual, with 94% being heterosexual and 3.3% preferring not to say. We can not compare this question to any earlier BOPF surveys but we know that, according to a Stonewall Survey, 6% of the population is Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual or Transgender. Over the next year we intend to work more closely with the council and LGBT Forum to increase membership as well as holding a stall at the ‘We are Proud Festival’ in Bristol.
Disability

60% of our members told us they have a disability. Approximately 20% of those said they had a major disability. Both figures are lower than our 2010 survey where 67% had disabilities and 21% had a major disability. With over half our membership having some form of disability or illness we want to ensure our meetings are accessible and that we have other ways of engaging with people either through the newsletter or online with our website.

Religion

The survey found that 80% of our members are Christian and 15% were not religious. 1.3% of members are Muslim, Hindu, Buddhist, Jewish or Sikh. 2.7% were from other religions and 0.7% preferred not to say.

How do members find out about BOPF?

This was another question we asked for the first time this year. It is important as we want to know how we can reach out to new members. 54% of members find out about BOPF through family and friends; thank you to everyone who has told friends and family about our work! 8% of members were recruited after being visited in their neighbourhood and 4% were recruited through street stalls. 13.5% of members hear about us through Radio Bristol or Bristol Evening Post and 20% found out about us through ‘other’ means. When asked what these means were, the most common answers were through Celebration of Age, via other older people’s groups or through their local library. We intend to make greater use of the media to reach our members this year.

How will we use the data?

We have used this data to inform our strategies and plans for the next year, it has helped us focus our work and prioritise our activities. As a result of this information we will be directing more attention to engaging with older people of different ethnicities and religions as well as trying to increase the number of LGBT members. We will also be paying attention to the different ways we engage with older people and consider increasing our engagement with the community via the media, street stalls, our website and by working more closely with neighbourhood partnerships. As ever we need to ensure our meetings are accessible to people of all abilities, we will continue to pay expenses for those who require it and try and use accessible venues.
## Bristol Older People's Forum

### Income and Expenditure Account 2011 - 2012

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| **Expenditure**          |            |            |
| Salaries                 | 14,976.88  | 17,416.90  |
| Training                 | 39.43      | 0.00       |
| Age UK (rent, heat, light etc) | 4,083.04 | 4,083.04 |
| Telephone                | 278.24     | 192.18     |
| Postage - Newsletter     | 5,252.24   | 4,748.63   |
|                       | Surveys 0.00 | 490.00     |
|                       | Other 380.00 | 1,069.84   |
| Printing and Stationery - Newsletter | 2,624.64 | 3,206.80 |
|                       | Surveys 102.17 | 1,080.44  |
|                       | Recruitment 0.00 | 575.00    |
|                       | Other 737.30 | 1,244.69   |
| Office Equipment        | 205.00     | 0.00       |
| Publications and Subscriptions | 115.00 | 120.00 |
| Insurance               | 341.75     | 315.03     |
| Advertising and Promotion | 60.00     | 30.00      |
| Professional Fees       | 108.00     | 233.75     |
| Meetings Expenses       | 2,167.41   | 2,179.26   |
| Xmas party              | 383.97     | 0.00       |
| Depreciation            | 0.00       | 0.00       |
| **Total Expenditure**   | £31,855.07 | £36,985.56 |
| **Surplus (or Deficit)**| £4,887.73  | £609.57    |

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<td>0.00</td>
<td>102.17</td>
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<td>850.00</td>
<td>500.00</td>
<td>737.30</td>
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<td>500.00</td>
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<td>50.00</td>
<td>100.00</td>
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<td>200.00</td>
<td>108.00</td>
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<td>Meetings Expenses</td>
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<td>383.97</td>
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<tr>
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<td>0.00</td>
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<tr>
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<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>1,000.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expenditure</strong></td>
<td>36,985.56</td>
<td>34,000.00</td>
<td>32,500.00</td>
<td>31,855.07</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Surplus (or Deficit)**

|               |  609.57 | 0.00 | 1,500.00 | £4,887.73 |
## The Year Ahead

We have worked closely with members and partners to set ambitious objectives for the year ahead:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Specific Aims</th>
<th>Objectives</th>
<th>Outcomes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Engage</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Give a voice to over 55s of all ethnicities, genders, sexual orientations, religions and abilities, empowering them to eliminate discrimination and influence the decisions which affect their lives | • Revitalise the Umbrella nature of BOPF, representing independent older people’s groups  
• Raise overall number of Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) members and address barriers to engagement  
• Raise overall numbers of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) members and address barriers to engagement  
• Engage widely with isolated individuals over 55s through the media, events, website, newsletter and neighbourhood partnerships  
• Give people a say and disseminate information at open meetings | Over 55s have increased influence on public services |
| **Influence** |            |          |
| Co-ordinate opportunities for all over 55s to engage with service providers in order to provide fairer services which better meet their needs | • Campaign for improved access to goods and services and co-ordinate volunteers to implement those campaigns.  
• To independently influence planning and delivery of services to ensure fairer access for older people in Bristol  
• Work in partnership with BCC to develop and implement a strategic approach to improving services for over 55s in Bristol  
• Work with Health and Social Care (HSC) Officers to develop a strategic approach to improve HSC and related services for over 55s in Bristol | Over 55s have increasingly fair access to goods and services |
| **Educate**   |            |          |
| Educate the public and engage with isolated over 55s by conducting or participating in research and events to raise awareness of issues affecting over 55s so older people are better valued and understood by the community | • Support and develop the annual Celebrating Age Festival in partnership with BCC  
• To raise the profile of age amongst other equalities communities  
• Raise older peoples issues across neighbourhoods via Neighbourhood Partnerships  
• Raise profile of older peoples issues by taking part in academic research  
• Raise awareness online via BOPF website | Increased public understanding of issues facing over 55s |
Forum Annual General Meeting
On Thursday 17th May
At Broadmead Baptist Church
From 10:30am – 12:30pm

AGENDA

1. Chairs Welcome
2. Presidents Remarks
3. Dot Gibson of the National Pensioners Convention
4. Minutes of the Last Annual Meeting 26th May 2011
5. Annual Reports
   a) Chair’s Report 2012
   b) Development Officer’s Report
      i) Progress against Targets for 2011-2012 and Draft Targets for 2012-13
6. Election of Forum Officers: there is a list of valid nominations received on page 18 and 19. There is also an attendance record for those who have held these posts during the past twelve members and a short description of members standing for the first time this year.
   a) Chair
   b) Treasurer
   c) Management Committee (12 places)

We will conduct a secret ballot as the meeting and appoint at least two tellers who must be members who are not standing for election. The votes will be counted during the meeting while we hold a short break.

Members are reminded that to provide a fair and equal service to over 55s across Bristol we must involve members from different ethnicities, abilities, genders and sexual orientations in our management committee.

d) Appointment of Auditor: it is recommended that Mr S J Bangham of 11 Yewcroft Close, Whitchurch, be reappointed as the Forum’s auditor for a further year.

7. Setting 3 campaign objectives for the year

(Expenses and membership forms will be available at the meeting).
Meeting of the Forum Annual General Meeting held at the Council House on Thursday 26th May 2011

Present: Judith Brown (Chair), Phyllis Watkins, Angela Auset, Ruth Bailey, Iris Burton, Keith Evans, Val Jenkins, Gloria Morris, Brian Richards, Pat Roberts, Albert Stewart, Pete Taplin, with George Micklewright (Development Officer) and Rosemary Bintcliffe (Minutes Secretary), 24 other Forum members and seven guests (total 45).

1. Chair’s Welcome - The Chair welcomed the members and the Lord Mayor.

2. The Lord Mayor - made a short speech as President of BOPF in which he affirmed how valuable the Forum is in its role of championing the cause of older people and advising the council on the relevant issues.

Presentation of Mobiserve - Dr Praminder Caleb-Solly and colleagues from UWE gave a demonstration of the robot which they are developing. The aim of the robot is to facilitate independent living. It is only a prototype at present and is like to be 10 -20 years in the development. However, Dr Praminder is keen to consult anyone who may become a user or who has a relative who might be a potential user of this service to ensure that their views are taken into account in its development.


4. Minutes of last AGM – accepted as a correct record.

5. Matters Arising – Minute 6b: Brian asked whether the Deputy Lord Mayor had acted on the issue of co-opted representatives on council scrutiny commissions. The Development Officer said he could not recall a formal reply, but the matter had been largely resolved. Judith confirmed that the Forum had received a letter of thanks from her scrutiny commission who had welcomed the Forum’s involvement.

6. Annual Reports

a) Chair’s Report – Judith reported that it had been a busy year and that she had represented the Forum in a great many meetings as had colleagues on the management committee. She thanked Angela, Keith, Gloria, Ruth and Geoff for their support in campaigning which had been very successful. The survey which the Forum carried out was one of the largest ever and the Council was already using its results. The Annual Celebration of Age was again in development.

The Forum had supported the work of Sheila Hetreed in its aim to increase BME elder engagement and this had culminated in a wonderful concert called “Worldly Wise”. Sheila presented her report at the most recent Older People’s Partnership Board. The Forum would need to continue to reach out to different ethnic groups to better represent the older people in Bristol. Zia Haque offered to help with recruiting additional members from the Asian community.

The cut in the council grant for the current year would mean fewer newsletters. She urged all those attending to bring a friend to the next meeting they attended. The Chair also reported that George Micklewright would be retiring shortly and thanked him for his excellent work in supporting the Forum. There would be two posts advertised in the next few weeks and enthusiastic volunteers from the Forum would be welcomed to help.

b) Development Officer’s Report – George explained that all the targets required by the council (1to 7) had been made with the exception of the BME target. However, there were significant difficulties with the measurement of this target. The Forum would need to continue to try to improve it’s representation of BME elders. New draft targets for the next year were similar to those for the year just completed. These targets formed a set of objectives for the staff recruited to support the Forum. They would be approved by the management committee at its next meeting in a fortnight. The council had approved the new
targets and draft budget and had released the first tranche of funding for the new financial year. The unaudited accounts were formally accepted.

7. Election of Forum Officers:
   a) Chair: There was only one nomination. Judith Brown was declared elected.

   b) Treasurer: There was only one nomination. Phyllis Watkins was declared elected.

   c) Management Committee – There were thirteen nominations for the twelve positions. After a ballot, the following were declared elected: Iris Burton, Ruth Bailey, Pete Taplin, Gloria Morris, Pat Roberts. Albert Stewart, Princess Campbell, Brian Richards, Keith Evans, Val Jenkins, Angela Auset and Geoff Birch.

   d) Auditor- it was agreed that Steve Bangham be reappointed as the Forum’s auditor.

8. Reports from Forum Representatives
   a) Keith – reported attending a VOSCUR meeting where they are making arrangements to set up an assembly and steering group. He reported that although the council has asked VOSCUR to take on a role in overseeing the budgets for the voluntary sector it is not clear whether this assembly will be a body which is recognised as having a voice for the sector. Keith also reported that there were fewer LINK meetings as a result of funding being reduced. The Anti-Cuts Alliance Sub-Group are also running a Conference on 15th June and would welcome a female speaker to talk about the impact of the cuts in relation to older people and social services and benefits.

   b) Angela had attended a meeting where there was an excellent presentation on “Falls Awareness”. There will be a similar presentation at the Celebration of Age.

10. Open Forum
   a) Judith reported that one of the main results of Sheila Hetreed’s report on BME representation was the planned development of a new Radio programme for older people on Ujima Radio (98FM) between 13.00 and 14.00 on Sundays. Although the programme will mainly be in English the aim is to reach out to other language groups too.

   b) Geoff reported that the BBC has again avoided responding to the NPC challenge about representing older people on Question Time.

The national report into the mistreatment of older people in hospital had been published and Forum members were encouraged to attend their local LINK groups. Through the LINK they could visit their local hospitals to check on what was happening and report back. One such report had already been completed by Judith and one or two other Forum members.
Management Committee Elections

Below and on the following page is a list of nominations for the Management Committee of BOPF for 2012 -2013. We want to ensure we represent all older people of all genders, ethnicities, sexual orientations and abilities and hope you will keep this in mind when you vote.

We have listed below how many forum meetings existing Management Committee members have attended over the past year. (Please be aware when voting that some members were unable to attend due to external circumstances, such as representing BOPF at other meetings or due to medical reasons.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Existing Members</th>
<th>Management Committee</th>
<th>Number of meetings attended out of 26</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Judith Brown (Chair)</td>
<td>24</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Gloria Morris</td>
<td>23</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Brian Richards</td>
<td>22</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Ruth Bailey</td>
<td>21</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Keith Evans</td>
<td>21</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Val Jenkins</td>
<td>20</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Angela Auset</td>
<td>19</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Phyllis Watkins (Treasurer)</td>
<td>17</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Albert Stewart</td>
<td>15</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Pete Taplin</td>
<td>13</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. Princess Campbell</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
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</table>

Please see the next page for information on new members who have been nominated this year.

On the day of the AGM we will ask members to vote by ballot. Our constitution rules prescribe that this must be a secret ballot. We will appoint at least two tellers, who must be members who are not standing for election. It is proposed that the votes be counted during a break in the meeting. Interested members can watch the count.
New Nominees

4 new members have been nominated to join the Management Committee this year. We have included some information on each of them so you can make an informed decision when you vote:

Elaine Hutton  I joined BOPF because my perception has always been that older people are ignored/patronised/not taken seriously in terms of government policies, and we need a strong united voice. In the early 1980s I worked for a voluntary organisation in London called Pensioners’ Link (when I was 36 not 66). One pensioner got to her feet and said in an outraged voice to the Brent councillor addressing a public meeting - ‘You've ignored me so far. Just because I have grey hair and am a bit frail it doesn't mean I'm stupid and don't have something to contribute!’ I believe I could be useful on the management committee. I have been involved in campaigns, both as a feminist and trade unionist, for 34 years. In Bristol, I was a member of the Women’s Forum. With others, I campaigned for, and achieved the funding for, Bristol Rape Crisis Centre, then became the worker who set up the organisation. Subsequently I was the chair of the management committee for the following year. I am currently on a multi-agency group, 'Prevention of violence to women and girls.' I am also involved in wider networks, e.g. fighting cuts in legal aid to vulnerable groups, and have been active in the campaigns to save the NHS and to prevent cuts to local government. If I am elected, I will implement BOPF policies to the best of my ability.

Zia Haque  I am 64 years old and married with 3 children. I would like to join the BOPF committee to fight for the rights of older people, including better pensions, and to increase the membership of BOPF. I have been a member for a number of years and attend forum meetings. I also participate in business club meetings and voluntary sector meetings including, St George Neighbourhood Partnership and the African & Caribbean Chamber of Commerce. I have been a trustee for CEED Charity, Vice Chairman of Easton Traders Association, Director of Bristol East Side Traders, Sponsorship Officer for Avon County Badminton and many more in a voluntary capacity. I have also been Chairman for Bristol Badminton Marathon since 2005, raising money for Diabetes, Sickle cell & Thalassemia and Children’s Hospice South West. I have served in the Army, held management posts in the motor trade and have run my own business for 20 years. I still work from home. I have participated in courses on How to be a good Trustee and Charity Governance and more recently, Equality & Diversity, Coaching & Mentoring and Finance. I feel my vast experience in the business and voluntary sector will make me a valuable asset to BOPF.

John Taylor  I was asked to stand for the BOPF committee after helping a member with a personal issue raised at a forum meeting last year and because of the volunteering I have taken part in with the forum. I joined BOPF because I felt I had entered a different stage in my life and wanted to broaden my outlook on the world. I thought I could help in some way as I have always campaigned to improve people’s lives. I volunteered for St Johns Ambulance for 14 years; I also attend the Shirehampton Neighbourhood Forum and Unite Union meetings. I was a School Governor at Shirehampton Infants School and Portway All Boys School. Football is my passion and I still spend a lot of time at Ashton Gate supporting my team there. I would like to be on the Management Committee to offer my commitment to BOPF and to learn more about the management of BOPF.

Judith Barnhurst  I moved to Bristol with my family in 1976. I am interested in the service BOPF offers regarding the dissemination of information. I belong to the Women’s Institute, U3A, my local Neighbourhood Partnership and Whitchurch History Group. I have been connected with WI for over 30 years, most of that time on the local Institute Committee. I have also been connected with the AFWI Environment & Public Affairs Committee for about 2 years. I am now Secretary for Brunel Group of WI and have been for the past 3 years. I have been connected with U3A for about 4 years, speaking on the Life of Tutankhamen for the Art Appreciation Group and also organising 3 walks for their Strollers Group. At the Hengrove and Stockwood Neighbourhood Partnership, I have been connected since it’s inception; I attend their meetings and the Environment Sub Group. I have also attended Whitchurch History Group meetings and have input information for the History of the Village. I believe this experience will prove valuable to the BOPF Management Committee.
Meeting Dates 2012-2013

Management Meetings
(Management Committee only)

- 12 April 2012 at 10:30am – 12:30pm
  Avon Fire and Rescue
- 14 June 2012 at 10:30am – 12:30pm
  Induction
  Avon Fire and Rescue
- 12 July 2012 at 10:30am – 12:30pm
  Avon Fire and Rescue
- 11 October 2012 at 10:30am – 12:30pm
  Avon Fire and Rescue
- 7 Feb 2013 at 10:30am – 12:30pm
  Avon Fire and Rescue
- 7 March 2013 at 10:30am – 12:30pm
  Avon Fire and Rescue

Volunteer Discussion Group
(To guide and support volunteers)

- 21 June 2012 at 10:30am – 12:30pm
  Broadmead Baptist Church
- 14 Feb 2013 at 10:30am – 12:30pm
  Broadmead Baptist Church

Campaign Meetings – All Welcome!

- 26 April 2012 at 10:30am – 12:30pm
  Broadmead Baptist Church
- 31 May 2012 at 10:30am – 12:30pm
  Broadmead Baptist Church
- 19 July 2012 at 10:30am – 12:30pm
  Broadmead Baptist Church
- 20 September 2012 at 10:30am – 12:30pm
  Broadmead Baptist Church
- 22 November 2012 at 10:30am – 12:30pm
  Broadmead Baptist Church
- 24 January 2013 at 10:30am – 12:30pm
  Broadmead Baptist Church

Forum Meetings – All Welcome!

- 17 May 2012 at 10:30am – 12:30pm
  Broadmead Baptist Church
- 5 July 2012 at 10:30am – 12:30pm
  Broadmead Baptist Church
- 6 September 2012 at 10:30am – 12:30pm
  Malcolm X Community Centre
- 8 November 2012 at 10:30am – 12:30pm
  Broadmead Baptist Church
- 10 Jan 2013 at 10:30am – 12:30pm
  Broadmead Baptist Church
- 7 March 2013 at 10:30am – 12:30pm
  Easton Community Centre
How to contact us or get involved!

Contact details

Chair: Judith Brown
Forum Manager: Rosie Cripps
Finance and Administration Assistant: Yolanda Pot

You can contact us by telephone on Tuesday to Thursday 10am - 6pm or

Telephone: 0117 927 9222
Email: bopf@ageukbristol.org.uk
Website: www.bopf.btck.org.uk
Address: C/O Age UK Bristol,
        Canningford House,
        38 Victoria Street,
        Bristol,
        BS1 6BY

How you can get involved

If you are 55 or over and live in Bristol, you can become a member for free;

• You will receive our newsletter 3 times a year.

• You can attend any of our Open Forum meetings where we disseminate information, invite informative speakers to talk on issues relevant to over 55’s, co-ordinate participation in consultations, give you the opportunity to have a say on decisions which affect you and influence decision makers in Bristol.

• If you’re a campaigner at heart, you like getting involved in the action or enjoy volunteering; you can also attend our campaign meetings. This is where we plan and co-ordinate action on our campaigns, and consider what we can do to tackle the issues raised at forum meetings. We may ask you to do some research, to attend a meeting on behalf of the forum, give us some ideas on what we can do to bring about change in the community, take part in street stalls or simply rally friends and neighbours round to take part in petitions - you can be involved as much or as little as you like.

• If you want to volunteer, but campaigning isn’t for you, we have plenty of other opportunities from packing envelopes to designing our newsletter, taking photographs or updating our website!

If you share our belief that every person over 55 should be an equal, valued, and participating member of the community who can influence the decisions which affect their lives, why not become a member or get in touch! Simply contact us using the details above with your name telephone and address and we’ll call back to share some ideas with you.