27 March 2015

PROMOTING INDEPENDENT LIVING TASK GROUP – 9 APRIL 2015

A meeting of the Promoting Independent Living Task Group will be held at 3pm on Thursday 9 April 2015 in Committee Room 1 at the Town Hall, Rugby.

Councillor Ms Edwards
Chairman

AGENDA

PART 1 – PUBLIC BUSINESS

1. Minutes – to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 12 March 2015.
2. Apologies – to receive apologies for absence from the meeting.
3. Declarations of Interest –

   To receive declarations of:

   (a) non-pecuniary interests as defined by the Council’s Code of Conduct for Councillors;

   (b) pecuniary interests as defined by the Council’s Code of Conduct for Councillors; and

   (c) notice under Section 106 Local Government Finance Act 1992 – non-payment of Community Charge or Council Tax.

Note: Members are reminded that they should declare the existence and nature of their interests at the commencement of the meeting (or as soon as the interest becomes apparent). If that interest is a pecuniary interest the Member must withdraw from the room unless one of the exceptions applies.

Membership of Warwickshire County Council or any Parish Council is classed as a non-pecuniary interest under the Code of Conduct. A Member does not need to declare this interest unless the Member chooses to speak on a matter relating to their membership. If the Member does not wish to speak on the matter, the Member may still vote on the matter without making a declaration.
4. How the council does and could contribute to promoting independent living in the borough: leisure services and planning services

5. Additional background data

6. Date of next meeting and programme of work – please bring your diaries to the meeting

PART 2 – EXEMPT INFORMATION

There is no business involving exempt information.

Membership of the Task Group:

Councillors H Avis, Ms Edwards, Mrs Garcia, Mrs New and Mrs Roodhouse

If you have any general queries with regard to this agenda please contact Veronika Beckova, Democratic and Scrutiny Services Officer (01788 533523 or e-mail veronika.beckova@rugby.gov.uk). Any specific queries concerning reports should be directed to the listed contact officer. If you wish to attend the meeting and have any special requirements for access please contact the Democratic and Scrutiny Services Officer named above.
Promoting Independent Living Task Group Review
9 April 2015
Briefing Paper

1. Introduction

It was agreed at the first meeting of the task group that the review would focus specifically on older people, defined around their need for support to live independently in their own home, without having to move into residential care. The one page strategy is included with the agenda papers for reference.

The review is commencing with meetings with relevant officers to establish what the council does already, plans to do, or has the potential to do, to support the objective of promoting independent living, and develop an understanding of the council’s contribution within the wider context. The last meeting considered the work of the housing and corporate property service and this meeting will learn about leisure services and planning.

2. Purpose of the meeting

The task group agreed previously that this meeting would include:

- discussion with the community sports and recreation manager about leisure services’ contribution to promoting independent living;
- evidence from planning services regarding long term housing provision and future planning; and
- consideration of additional data on housing tenure and household profiles.

The community sports and recreation manager is working with GLL, the leisure centre contractors, to present details of the facilities, services and activities currently offered to older people in the borough, including what is available at the leisure centre and any actions taken to make physical activity here more accessible for older people and to overcome some of the barriers that may exist. She has also been asked to explain some of the choices and opportunities to access grant funding that may be available to the council and areas where services could be developed further if this became more of a priority.

An officer from planning will also attend the meeting to explain in more detail how the local plan can be used to influence the provision of housing to reflect the future needs of an ageing population. This will include potential to influence the mix of housing (e.g., building of bungalows), and the ability to influence housing design to enable people to live in their own homes for longer.

The available data on housing tenure and household profiles is presented below.
3. **Additional background data**

In discussion at the last meeting it was suggested that reduced home ownership levels will lead to older people having less ability to fund their care needs. There was also speculation that there may be a greater number of people living alone, without a partner to provide care. Officers were asked to research whether there was any evidence available on likely trends in housing tenure and household profiles.

Advice was sought from the Warwickshire Observatory on these points. Overall in Warwickshire and Rugby, home ownership declined slightly between the Census in 2001 and 2011. This followed a national trend and was largely seen as the result of the current economic climate with tighter lending requirement and in turn, fewer homes owned with a mortgage. The reduction in mortgaged properties accounts for the reduction overall because the number of homes owned outright actually increased. With an ageing population an increasing number of people have paid off their mortgage and so own their home outright.

Alongside the reduction in mortgaged properties, the county and Rugby saw increases in the number of homes privately rented. In Rugby the number of homes privately rented more than doubled from 5.7% of homes to 12.6% in 2011.

**Housing trends in Warwickshire:**

![Diagram showing changes in housing tenure from 2001 to 2011.](image)

Changes in housing tenure from 2001 to 2011 were detailed in the 2011 Census profile for Rugby:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Housing tenure</th>
<th>2011 No.</th>
<th>2011 %</th>
<th>2001 No.</th>
<th>2001 %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Owned</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Owned outright</td>
<td>13,772</td>
<td>32.9%</td>
<td>11,622</td>
<td>31.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Owned with mortgage</td>
<td>15,814</td>
<td>36.8%</td>
<td>16,077</td>
<td>44.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shared ownership</td>
<td>403</td>
<td>1.0%</td>
<td>225</td>
<td>0.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Rented</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local Authority</td>
<td>3,860</td>
<td>9.2%</td>
<td>3,820</td>
<td>10.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other social rented</td>
<td>2,133</td>
<td>5.1%</td>
<td>1,474</td>
<td>4.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private landlord/agency</td>
<td>5,281</td>
<td>12.6%</td>
<td>2,090</td>
<td>5.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other private</td>
<td>922</td>
<td>1.5%</td>
<td>420</td>
<td>1.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Living rent free</td>
<td>490</td>
<td>1.2%</td>
<td>755</td>
<td>2.1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
As reported at the previous meeting, the population of Rugby, and of the county is predicted to be a growing and ageing one, with higher numbers of older people generally into the future.

However, nationally, in 2011 just under a third (31 per cent) of those aged 65 and over were living alone; this was in fact a decrease from 34 per cent in 2001. 2011 Census analysis from the Office for National Statistics suggests that “the increase in older people living as a couple and decrease in those living alone may be due to increased life expectancy, resulting in less people becoming widowed. Another factor may be the decrease in the large number of widows created by the Second World War who are now reaching the end of their lives”.

Rates of home ownership are highest amongst the older population. Census 2011 data showed that eighty three per cent of homes in Warwickshire where all occupants (more than one) were aged 65 or older, were owned outright. This can be compared to 64% of single occupancy for those aged 65 plus where homes were owned outright. Rates of private renting are particularly low (under 5%) in households where the occupants are 65 years or older. Nearly one in four single occupancy households where the occupant is over 65 rent their homes from social landlords.

4. Next steps

It is intended that, with greater clarity about the activities currently undertaken and some of the opportunities available to the council to promote independent living, the task group will be sufficiently informed to give a steer to the council as to how much of a priority this should be in future and whether there is a need to develop a more strategic corporate approach, with an explicit drive to promote independent living across all our areas of influence.

The task group will develop its work programme further (including meetings and evidence-gathering activities) in the new municipal year. This is likely to include inviting representatives from the warden service and older people’s groups to participate in a discussion on the current and future provision of services provided by the council to support independent living.

It would be helpful if a provisional date could be identified for the next meeting of the task group in the new municipal year.

Debbie Dawson
Scrutiny Officer
March 2015