

The Ascot Project

Improving the Quality of Life of Older People in Ascot

February 2004

Panel meeting in March: much to share

The next meeting of The Ascot Panel will take place on March 24th. This is to be held from 7-9pm at the Chandler Day Centre in Sunninghill High Street.

The main purpose of the Panel meeting is to invite feedback on some of the areas of work that are currently taking place under the umbrella of The Ascot Project.

For example, this will be an opportunity to review the information that might be provided to older people in the area. Draft copies have been prepared of a handy card with useful phone numbers and a short publication detailing local activities that may be of interest.

In addition, the steering group will invite views on

the work of its Transport Group, on the links that are being considered with Neighbourhood Watch, and on the best strategies for volunteer recruitment.

A significant part of the evening will be devoted to discussion of the method and contents of a survey of the needs of older people. This is described in more detail below.

New recruit

We are delighted that Rachel Evason has joined the steering group of The Ascot Project. Rachel is employed by Windsor and Maidenhead Voluntary Action to promote volunteering in rural communities. She is keen to discuss possible strategies with members of The Ascot Panel.

Understanding the needs of older people

At the last Panel meeting, participants felt that it was important to obtain a clear understanding of the priorities of older people.

The steering group has considered this issue at some length and has concluded that a survey could bring valuable insights.

The survey devised is a

combination of existing tools that are used to assess the needs both of individuals and communities.

A draft version has been piloted by members of the steering group and we would now like The Ascot Panel to give its views.

Ideally, older people themselves will act as interview-

ers. Full training will be provided and there is some evidence that this approach will lead to better results.

If this method is supported by the Panel, we hope that some of its members will be able to join our team of volunteer interviewers.

Listening

Local health and social services for older people are coordinated by the Older People's Partnership Board. This has responsibility for consulting on planned developments.

Although the model is still under development, there is a good chance that Forums for Older People will be set up around the Royal Borough. If so, The Ascot Panel may well become the body that is consulted on issues that affect older people in Ascot.

Retirement fair for Ascot?

Should The Ascot Project include the organisation of a retirement fair? The steering group would welcome your views on the

value of such an event. If you like the idea, how do you think that it should operate? You may have skills to offer to help with

the organisation. We look forward to considering this with you on Wednesday March 24th. See you then!